



### **Excerpt from "Riots on Railways," published in *The Irish American* on February 21, 1852.**

By the telegraphic reports from West, in the early part of this week, we pained to find that the faction fights between the Corkonians and Fardowns had arrived at a most formidable and alarming pitch. At Steubenville, Ohio, the combatants were in battle array and the military were all under arms. Parties of belligerent Corkonians had endeavored to leave Pittsburgh for the scene of action, but were prevented by the authorities. A great many, however, left by steamboats for Steubenville!

In the name of THE LORD, what can these unhappy men mean? In the name of poor Ireland, why do our misguided fellow countrymen behave so savagely in their adopted country? In the name of Liberty we ask why men who should prove themselves worthy of the blessings of good government and free institutions are induced to yield to brutal instincts, and, thus, disgrace their native country and their race? The *causes* of these quarrels proceed from competition among contractors; from offers to perform labor at cheaper prices; from the criminal carelessness of the Directors and officer of Railway companies in not enacting stringent bye-laws [sic] to suppress these quarrels; and in the wholesale use of poisoned liquors at the *shanties* (temporary abodes of the laborers on the works).

These are the *causes* of these disgraceful and demoralizing scenes of riot and bloodshed. It is not any purpose of ours to excuse their criminality by reminding our readers that similar riots occur in England, Scotland, and Wales, between English, Scotch, and Welch *navvies* (as the Railway workmen are called)...