O'Connell's Steam Engine

The Dubliners

Oh people of heart, I pray pay attention
Listen to what I'm about to relate
Concerning a couple I overheard talking
As I was returning late home from a wake
As I rode along sure I saw an old woman
Who's sat in a gap, she was milking her cows
She was jigging that tune called:
"Make haste to the wedding"
Or some other ditty I can't tell you now

Ah, the next came along, it was a bold tinker Who happened by change to be passing that way The day being fine they sat down together What news of that mam, the old woman did say There's no news at all man, replied the bold tinker But the people all wish that he never had bin He's a dammed of a rogue of a Daniel O'Connell And he's now making babies in Dublin by steam

Ah, the children are ruined replied the old woman Or has the quare fellow gone crazy at last Or is it the sign of a war or rebellion Or what is the reason he wants them so fast It's not that at all, mam, replied the bold tinker The children of Ireland are getting too small It's O'Connell's petition to the new Lord Lieutenant That he won't let us make them the old way at all

By this pipe in me mouth, replied the old woman And that's a strong oath on me soul for to say But I am an old woman and if I was near him I bet you me life that he'd rue the day For the people of Ireland they're very well known They gave them their earnings when needed them bad And now that he is recompensing them for it By taking the only diversion they have

I light to your coach mam replied the bold tinker Long may you live now with youth on your side If all the young girls in Ireland were like you O'Connell could throw his steam-engine aside If I had the young men of Ireland around me And girls making babies as fast as they can And whenever Her Majesty wanted an army We'd be able to send her as many as Dan