

### The Philadelphia Riots of 1844: Reporting Ethnic Violence

### Primary Reading

**Excerpts from *Six Months Ago, or the Eventful Friday, and Its Consequences. An Epic Poem.* by R\*\*\*. Philadelphia: J.F.M. McElroy, 1844.**

The slot-hounds of the Pope rush on their prey, [4]  
Scatter the advocates of Native Rights,  
And tearing from its staff our blood-bought flag,  
Trample and rend each brilliant star and stripe,  
And mar its texture with their rabid slime.

And these were they, who, leaving their own land,  
Made desolate by their intolerance,  
And anarchy, and tiger-thirst for blood  
And deeds of rapine; on our shores had sought  
Protection—some from transportation, some [5]  
From the base halter, but the major part  
From fell starvation—and forgetting, as  
All ingrates will, the friends that shielded them,  
And soothed them in their hours of want and woe,  
And gave them bread, and welcomed them to all  
The cheering comforts of our own bright home,  
Turned on their benefactors, adder-like,  
And stung them, even to their deepest soul.  
The god of day had thrice around the world  
His golden ringlets shook, when, once again,  
Unconquered and unconquerable, all,  
The lovers of their country, to discuss  
The point at issue, gathered near the spot  
Whence, erst, the foes of order and of peace  
Had driven them.