

E5 Well met Jockie whether away

Notes. This undated verse is one of two satirical attacks on the Scots' alleged consumption of English wealth that focuses on the sartorial transformation of beggarly Scotsmen into finely dressed courtiers.

Well met Jockie¹ whether away

Shall we two have a worde or tway²

Thow was so lousie the other day

How the devill comes thow so gay

Ha ha ha by sweet St. An³

Jockie is growne a gentle man.

5

Thy shoes that thou worst when thow went'st to plow

Were made of the hyde of a Scottish cow

They are turnd into Spanish leather now

Bedeckt with roses⁴ I now not how.

Ha ha ha &c.

10

Thy stockings that were of a northerne blew

That cost not past 12d⁵ when they were new

Are turnd into a silken hew

Most gloriouslye to all mens vew

Ha ha ha &c

15

Thy belt that was made of a white leather thonge

Which thow & thy father ware so longe

Are turn'd to hangers⁶ of velvet stronge

With golde & pearle embroydred amonge

Ha ha ha

20

Thy garters that were of the Spanish say⁷

Which from the taylor thow stollst away

Are now quite turnd to silke they say
With great broad laces fayre & gay 25
Ha ha ha.

Thy doublet & breech that were so playne
On which a louse could scarce remayne
Are turnd to sattin god a mercie brayne
That thou by begging couldst this obtayne 30
Ha ha ha

Thy cloake which was made of a home spun thread
Which thou wast wonte to flinge on thy bed
Is turnd into a skarlet red
With golden laces aboute thee spread 35
Ha ha ha.

Thy bonnet of blew which thou wor'st hether
To keep thy skonce⁸ from winde & wether
Is throwne away the devill knowes whether
And turn'd to a bever hat & feather. 40
Ha ha ha.

Westminster hall was coverd with lead
And so was St. John⁹ many a day
The Scotchmen have begd it to buy them bread
The devill take all such Jockies away. 45
Ha ha ha.

Source. V&A MS D25.F.39, fols. 88v-89r

Other known sources. PRO SP 14/191/6

¹ *Jockie*: diminutive of John (Jack)—as in the 1604 libel on John Whitgift “The prelats pope”—and, in this case, an ethnic nickname for a Scotsman.

² *tway*: two.

³ *St. An*: St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland.

⁴ *roses*: a knotted, rose-shaped ribbon worn on the shoe.

⁵ *12d*: twelve pence (or one shilling).

⁶ *hangers*: loops on which a sword would hang from a belt.

⁷ *say*: a fine-textured woollen cloth.

⁸ *skonce*: head.

⁹ *Westminster hall...St. John*: these lines possibly refer to an actual case involving the selling off of lead from London buildings. The identity of St. John’s is unclear; however, it could be an allusion to the Priory Church of St. John of Jerusalem in Clerkenwell, that had been dismantled in stages since the dissolution of its monastic order in the sixteenth century.
