

## E6 When Scotland was Scotland and England it selfe

*Notes.* This is one of two satirical attacks on the Scots that focuses on the sartorial transformation of coarsely dressed Scotsmen into silken-backed courtiers. Although the poem is undated, two allusions help to narrow down, at least provisionally, the earliest date of composition to c.1613-14. Lines 23-24, for instance, closely echo the opening two lines of the summer 1612 libel, “They beg our goods, our lands, and our lives”. There is, however, one significant difference. Here the Scots “begin to get our fair wives”, rather than merely “lie” with Englishmen’s wives. This may allude to the December 1613 marriage of the Scot Robert Carr with Frances Howard who, before her September 1613 annulment, had been married to the English noble Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex. In addition, stanza three of this poem has “Jocky...caper as high as an Earle”, which may allude to the first elevations of Scotsmen to English earldoms late in 1613, when Lodowick Stuart became Earl of Richmond, and Robert Carr Earl of Somerset. Using the poem as a frame through which to explore English attitudes to Carr, Bellany (Politics 70) places the libel’s sartorial politics in the context of fears of status transgression and ambition at the Jacobean court.

### “On the Scots”

When Scotland was Scotland and England it selfe  
Then England was troubled wth no Scottish elfe  
But since bonny jocky<sup>1</sup> in England bare sway  
The English are vanquisht the Scots goe their way  
with begging with begging &c

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For now every Scotshman, that was lately wont  
To weare the cow hide of an old Scottish runt  
His bonny blew bonnet,<sup>2</sup> is now layd aside  
In velvet and scarlet proud Jocky must ride  
A begging a begging &c

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His py’de motly jerkin<sup>3</sup> al threadbare and old  
Is now turnd to scarlet and ore lac’t with gold  
His straw hat to bever, his hat band to perle  
And Jocky can caper as high as an Earle.

A begging. &c 15

You quarreling gallants looke wel to your hands  
Least by fighting and brawling you forfeit your lands<sup>4</sup>  
For then be assured as soone as 'tis spied  
To get them, a begging proud Jocky wil ride  
A gallop a gallop &c 20

I think if the diuel of hel could be got  
That Jocky would beg him or some other Scot,  
They beg al our money lands livings & lives  
Nay more they beginne to get our fayre wives  
With begging &c 25

Our beggers on ten toes do trot up and downe  
From doore to doore begging, in every towne  
But jocky wel mounted on horseback on pride  
To Court like a courtier a begging must ride  
A gallop &c 30

Theres n'ere an English begger that carryes a scrip<sup>5</sup>  
But often for begging tasts wel of the whip<sup>6</sup>  
But Jocky for whoring and playing the knave  
Nay almost for treason his pardon can have<sup>7</sup>  
with begging &c 35

God save our king James and keep him from evil  
And send al such Scotch men away to the devil  
Or els into Scotland there stil to remaine  
send home with a vengeance these scots men agane  
A gallop a gallop a gallop a gallop 40

Source. Folger MS V.a.345, pp. 287-88

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<sup>1</sup> *jocky*: 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.

<sup>2</sup> *blew bonnet*: the blue bonnet or cap was a distinctive sartorial marker of Scottishness.

<sup>3</sup> *jerkin*: jacket.

<sup>4</sup> *forfet your lands*: lose your lands to the Crown as a penalty, and have those lands then given by the Crown to a Scots courtier. The most famous Englishman to forfeit his lands to the Crown, and subsequently to a Scot, was Walter Raleigh, whose Sherborne estate was granted to Robert Carr late in 1608.

<sup>5</sup> *scrip*: small bag carried by beggars.

<sup>6</sup> *whip*: beggars and vagrants were routinely whipped as punishment.

<sup>7</sup> *his pardon can have*: this may refer to specific cases of Scots pardoned for punishable offences. According to Osborne (82-83), the Scotsman Murray who killed a London sergeant (see “They beg our goods, our lands, and our lives”) was pardoned while his servant accomplices were hanged.

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