

## Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation



1. Fareweel to a' our Scottish fame  
Fareweel our ancient glory  
Fareweel e'en to the Scottish name  
So famed in martial story  
Now Sark runs to the Solway sands  
And Tweed runs to the ocean  
To mark where England's province stands  
Such a parcel o' rogues in a nation.
2. What force or guile could not subdue  
Through many warlike ages  
Is wrought now by a coward few  
For hireling traitor's wages  
The English steel we could disdain  
Secure in valour's station  
But English gold has been our bane  
Such a parcel o' rogues in a nation.
3. O would ere I had seen the day  
That treason thus could sell us  
My auld grey heid had lien in clay  
Wi' Bruce and loyal Wallace  
But pith and power till my last hour  
I'll mak this declaration  
We're bought and sold for English gold  
Such a parcel o' rogues in a nation.

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“Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation” was written by the famed poet Robert Burns in 1791. He decried those members of the Parliament of Scotland who signed the Act of Union with England in 1707, some of whom were said to have been bribed. Burns contrasted their supposed treachery to the country with the tradition of martial valor and resistance commonly associated with such historic figures as Robert the Bruce and William Wallace.

It was recorded by Ewan MacColl on **The Real MacColl** and, more recently, Steeleye Span on **Parcel of Rogues**. It was also recorded by The Corries, Alastair McDonald, Jean Redpath, The Dubliners, Dick Gaughan, Makem and Clancy, Hamish Imlach and Old Blind Dogs.

I learned it from the Steeleye Span recording.