

Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation.

Scotland was bought and sold for English Gold (£20,000 sterling), below is a list of the payment received by key sections of the noble-dominated Scottish Parliament. Although not all of the bribes were effective, the Duke of Atholl raised an army and marched on Stirling while of the two Provosts receiving payment, Ayr was the only Burgh in Scotland to produce a petition in favour of the Union, even then the people of Ayr obtained more signatures on a anti Treaty petition.

NAME	PRESENT DAY VALUE
Duke of Atholl	£139,328
Duke of Montroses	£41,798
Duke of Queensberry	£1,717,220
Duke of Roxburgh	£69,664
Marquis of Tweeddale	£139,328
Earl of Balcarres	£69,664
Earl of Cromarty	£41,798
Earl of Dunmore	£27,865
Earl of Eglinton	£27,865
Earl of Forfar	£13,932
Earl of Glencairn	£13,932
Earl of Kintore	£27,865
Earl of Marchmont	£153,957
Earl of Seafield	£82,203
Lorde Anstruther	£41,798
Lord Banff	£1,532
Lord Elibank	£6,966
Lord Forbes	£6,966
Lord Fraser	£13,932
Lord Ormiston	£27,865
Lord Polwarth	£6,966
Lord Prestonhall	£27,865
Sir William Sharp	£41,798
Stuart of Castle Stuart	£41,798
Provost of Ayr	£13,932
Provost of Wigtown	£3483

Bought and Sold for English Gold

When the story of this wholesale bribery became partly known the people were furious, and when the money was taken to Edinburgh to be divided, the citizens could only be kept from destroying it by sheer force of arms. They regarded the gold, in the closely guarded wagons, as being the price paid in exchange for the delivery of the liberty of the kingdom into the hands of the English. Possibly had they realised that the money was to be repaid by Scotland into the British treasury (the English national debt was £18million, Scotland's was £160,000), even the protection of the military would have been insufficient to prevent the coffers and their contents being thrown into the Nor' Loch.

In addition the Lords Ordinary were to receive £500 (£69,663) a year instead of £100 (£13,932) and all the law servants of the crown received gratuities or increased salaries. A further £15,500 sterling was made available from London for "arrears of pension".

Parliament out of Step with the People

In the end the treaty was passed in the Scottish Parliament by a narrow majority. Although it was less than popular in the country. Crowds in the streets outside the Parliament building burnt copies of the treaty.

Petitions from the Scottish burghs against the Union failed, the mob rioted in Glasgow Edinburgh and Dumfries but again to no avail. Contemporaries estimated that 9 out of 10 Scots opposed the Union. The Chancellor of Scotland, the Earl of Seafield, signed away Scotland's sovereign independence saying "there's ane end of ane auld sang". On the first of May 1707 the Union came into effect and the bells of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh rang out to the tune "why am I so sad on this my wedding day?"