

The age has eyes, propagating dangerous gladders of lagamy—Sir Thomas M'Ilwraith as well as Mr. Morrison; and the same opportunity is seized to read us a lecture on the wickedness of suspecting that pure-minded and patriotic Scotchman of any but the most disinterested motives in his bargain with the syndicate of English capitalists whom his name has been lately mixed up with. The terms of the bargain have become public property both here and in Queensland; indeed, they are of such an extravagant nature that the whole continent is ringing with them. For constructing a line of railway a thousand miles along a route of their own choosing, the Duke of Manchester and his friends are to receive land at present worth over £5,000,000, and to have the right to sell the line when completed to the Government for a sum equal to £12,000,000; at the same time retaining the land through which it runs for themselves. These terms are not denied by anybody that we are aware of, even by the organ which is doing Sir Thomas M'Ilwraith's work for him in Melbourne, and which presents as lofty a front of indifference to the moral and monetary effects of such a monstrous job on the future of Queensland as the tall chemist in *Pickwick* did to the fate of his customers, whom he dosed with oxalic acid in the place of salts.

The project is one that the people of Queensland ought to welcome with open mouth, we are told; and any reasoning which points to the opposite conclusion is "a farrago of nonsense" and "not merely false but positively monstrous." This is very shocking, no doubt, and is admirably calculated to turn the tables in favor of the unfortunate noblemen whose readiness to sacrifice themselves for the welfare of the Queenslanders gives a new lustre to the British Peerage. But if the reasoning is based upon facts, we are afraid that the Duke of Manchester's admirers must accept the conclusions whether they like them or not. As we have said, they have not denied the facts, and merely calling them "comical" will not make them false. The facts are that the people of Queensland are going to give a handful of foreign capitalists £18,000,000 for doing what they can do themselves for less than one-fourth of that sum. It may be a great privilege in Conservative eyes to be swindled by a lord. Sir Peter M'Sycophant would deem it an honor to be kicked by one; and Sir Thomas M'Ilwraith has therefore good precedent for the self-sacrificing policy he proposes to pursue in the interests of his noble friends. The strong sympathy which has been shown for him by his Victorian apologists proves that his policy has wider ramifications than he probably suspected himself; and it would fortify his hand immensely to know that the experiment would certainly be tried in this most enterprising colony of the group if the land sharks of the type that are about to divide such a large slice of Queensland among them had not already exhausted the supply. Nothing can be more exasperating to an honest Conservative than to see the British nobleman enjoying such splendid hospitality in another colony without heaving a morsel to tempt him with on our own account. If we can enjoy the "comicalness" of seeing him grasp in his capacious maw a territory as large as a European principality, how much fun is lost to us by the provoking circumstance that we cannot mixster to his sport. If we cannot do this, however, we can at all events write leading articles in acknowledgment of the honor he does us by dividing our lands and debauching our politicians; while poor Mr. Morrison cannot get a good word said for him.

THAT the newspaper which did not secure the privilege of giving to the world the account of Mr. Morrison's tramp across the Continent should take to disparaging Mr. Morrison and throwing discredit upon his veracity in the hope of covering its own want of enterprise, is such a very natural trick that we should not have thought of calling attention to it if a gross injustice had not been done to a young Victorian of really uncommon spirit and promise. If Mr. Morrison had not been a native of the soil, or if instead of humping his swag like a common bushman, or roughing it in a Queensland labor boat, like a still more commonsailor, he had sauntered Europe round with recommendations from Sir William Mitchell in his pocket, and had been presented at Court by that distinguished nobleman the Duke of Manchester, there would have been scarcely anything too polite to say of his prowess. But as it is, the Conservative Sir Charles Coldstream has fixed his eyeglass upon the crater, and concluded there is nothing in it. A walk of 2000 miles across an unexplored and inhospitable country is a trifle to those fine young travelled aristocrats who tempt the crowded dangers of the Block daily, while their interests and reputation are being carefully watched over by their favorite Cherub in the Upper Story. Mr. Morrison, who is only allowed the merit of being an "amateur pedestrian" at the best, is deliberately charged with "compounding and publishing horrid 'Ing-tales' about the Queensland labor traffic, and "presenting them as a series of facts which had come under his own observation." This is designed to make Mr. Morrison appear as an impostor in the eyes of the public; and the justification assigned is a very absurd one, namely, because Mr. Morrison did not cause the kidnappers whom he describes to be immediately arrested. As our readers are already aware Mr. Morrison's narrative has been confirmed by others who have gone through the same experience as himself. Our correspondent "Mallicolo," who disagrees with him in many respects, says that "he tells a plain, unvarnished tale, and a very mildly put tale;" and Mr. John Eaton, whose word is beyond impeachment, and who fully confirms "Mallicolo," adds that what Mr. Morrison saw, and so ably depicted, has been seen over and over again in the course of his missionary labors in the islands. But we need not push our vindication of his veracity any further. When his detractors accuse him of "making himself accessory to all the crimes he witnessed," because he did not instantly hand over the authors of them to justice, they only expose the exceeding pettiness of their spite against him, and may fairly be left to the judgment of a discerning and dispassionate public. They happen to hold a brief just now in favor of the Queensland Premier and his Government, and anything that reflects upon his policy or his administration must be discredited as a matter of course.