

soever, the impossibility of purchasing which does not arise from the nature of the thing itself, but from the high opinion which the possessors of these countries entertain of their value, or rather from their thinking, and justly thinking, that they are absolutely invaluable.

The value of all the land in Great Britain (I mean the imaginary value, for the real value cannot be estimated) at the rate of twenty, of thirty, of forty years purchase, or at any rate you please, may be easily computed; but should the proprietor of the mines of Chili and Peru, offer us a sum of money equal to that value, and demand, in consideration of that sum, to be put in possession of all the lands in the island, how should we receive the proposal? Why, to be sure, we should, at first, consider the man as a lunatic, and treat him accordingly; but should he still persist in his demand, we should, with-

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