

may bring the Ministers of the Dominion to a sense of their wider and higher duties. It is not too much to say that if Canada refuses to behave with common honesty in carrying out a clear contract, she will be guilty of disloyalty to the Empire, as well as of the more vulgar offence:

THE LONDON "STANDARD" ON BRITISH COLUMBIA AFFAIRS.

Mr. Mackenzie's Government, says the *Standard*, must be by this time convinced that the public opinion of the Mother Country, expressed with a decision and a unanimity most uncommon upon colonial questions is opposed to the vacillating and tortuous policy which has been pursued towards British Columbia. It is now more than two years since we first called attention to the course which the so-called "Liberal" or "Grit" Ministry were pursuing in regard to the project of the Canadian Pacific Railway—to the shuffling and time-serving devices which were being resorted to in order to evade the fulfilment of a bargain to which the honor of England was pledged, and to delay the execution of a work absolutely necessary in order to secure the integrity and the independence of the Dominion. We charged the Mackenzie Ministry with studying rather their own political convenience in the manner they make use of Canadian capital and Canadian credit than the welfare of the Confederation and the Imperial interests. We spoke of their policy as "a challenge to secession," as calculated to "loosen the newly-formed bonds of Canadian unity, and to injure the Dominion in its relations to the Empire." In return we received a great deal of bad language, and were told that we were actuated by "Tory prejudices" against the best of Ministries. We were informed that the Pacific Railway was being pushed forward as fast as was consistent with political purity in the Dominion, and that if the bargain with British Columbia could not be literally fulfilled it was because of its "physical impracticability." Since then the terms of that bargain have been greatly modified. A compromise was agreed to in 1874, at the instance of Lord Carnarvon, by which British Columbia agreed to waive its demand for a strict performance of the contract of 1871—the contract on the strength of which she was induced to enter the Dominion—in consideration of a certain new undertaking on the part of Canada. The terms of this new compact, as arranged by Lord Carnarvon and accepted by Canada, were five. The first