discover, when it is too late, that Jacobinism was organized and hired by assignats; that they *corrupt morals, and cheat the probity which is faithful to the laws*; that they destroy public wealth, and private property; that they are a perpetual cause of trick, and of disputes in all dealings; that by engaging in this new sort of domestic warfare, elder sons contrive to retain the fortunes of their younger brothers, with impunity; the husband also, without fear of punishment, robs his wife of her portion, and *passes, with the plunder, to the arms of another*. In a word, that the assignats, as was truly said by one of the deputies, *have wrapped all France in the garment of Nessus**. She will have found that *they detach the inhabitants of the country from the public interest; accustom them to neglect paying the sacred debt of taxes; ruin industry, destroy commerce, cut up by the roots the tree of reproduction*; and lastly, that the substitution of this artificial and illusive resource, has, in the short space of a few years, annihilated her real resources in a degree which ages of industry and peace will hardly be able to retrieve.

Then, and not till then, all her inhabitants will partake of the general astonishment of Europe, on finding that they have been so blind and stupid as to indulge, for five years together, the idea that it is possible to multiply real wealth, by only multiplying the signs which represent it; and that they could grow rich, by robbing themselves.

Then all France will bitterly regret the not having listened to Mr. Pitt, when he prophetically warned them, that they would gain nothing by this sem-

* The deputy *La Rivière*, who sketched with this single stroke so striking a portrait of the horrible effects of the assignats, four days after exclaimed with great agitation:—*The public morals are corrupted! Ah! Wretches! of all the wounds you have inflicted, this is the most cruel, as well as the most difficult to heal.*