

confiscated, and applied to the use of the Republic?—What will become of the Finances?—In what a situation will you find yourselves?—Confidence will be at an end; and where in that case will you find purchasers?—If, with respect to the property in your hands, you but once look backwards—but I check myself—I leave you to your reflections.

Surely the time when they were looking forward to these confiscations, was the time when Le Cointre should have awakened the reflections of his colleague Robespierre. It is not the decree of the 20th of March which has destroyed the assignats, by restoring possessions that the State had no right to mortgage, and which it could not possibly retain any longer: but it was Robespierre, who, acquiring those possessions by robbery, in order to have security for new assignats, and then wasting these new assignats to extend the conquests of the Republic—it was Robespierre that decreed a Counter-revolution, and assassinated the Republic: for at present I do not scruple to assert that it will perish, as the Monarchy perished, BY THE RUIN OF THE FINANCES.

It is to no purpose that the greater part of those who have succeeded Robespierre, persist in attempting to deceive their countrymen, and Europe;—to no purpose that they still talk of ten or twelve milliards (4 or 500 millions sterling) which they pretend the property of the emigrants will produce, and which, they would persuade the world, is a security enough to redeem all the assignats in existence, and all that they may have occasion to issue. They themselves well know that nothing can be more untrue; for by their own calculations it may be proved, that all the confiscations which remain unfold are really not worth a fourth part of such a sum.

Johannot, who seems to have more integrity than any other person who has had the management of the Revolutionary finances, in his report on that subject, of the 22d of December, says, *Whatever their amount*
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