

for the truth of this, to the last monthly report of their expenditure which we are acquainted with, that of *Nivose*, which, though by no means a time of general military operations, cost near eighteen millions of pounds sterling, almost twice as much as the month preceding. I appeal too to the care which the Members of the Convention have taken to double their own salaries, which was done the 13th of last January. The principle on which they did it is just; and indeed, as Cambon observed at the time, the same principle might have allowed them to increase the sum almost fourfold; because, even then, the assignats were at a discount of no less than 73 per cent. No wonder then that, ten days after, the Convention found itself obliged to decree the same augmentation of pay to those in all other civil employments; it is rather surprising, that it has hitherto refrained from doubling in the same way the pay of its fourteen armies; and it would be still more surprising, if it could avoid a progressive increase of all the salaries, according to the progressive depreciation of its paper money.

The law of the *Maximum*, and its train of terrors, gave an artificial credit to the assignats; and of consequence, when the Convention was reduced to the necessity of taking away this only support of them, their fall was proportionably rapid. The people no sooner began to perceive this, than an unbounded spirit of jobbing shewed itself with respect to every sort of commodity, to every thing which could possibly be exchanged for paper; and this spirit has extended to every part of France, and to the lowest classes of society *. Good of all sorts changing their owners

* Boissy d'Anglas represents this very forcibly to the Convention, in a speech of the 3d of March. *At a time when objects of commerce fail, and when requisitions, pre-emptions, arbitrary regulations of prices, and the absurd law of the Maximum, have discouraged*

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