

public wealth to nothing. Public wealth, replied Boissy d'Anglas, built on private property, is a barbarous sophism, invented in the ferocious den of the Jacobins, who have offered to your creditors as a security, estates which they well knew they had no right to mortgage. At last, when one of the Deputies, alarmed at the measure, asked how they should pay the expences of the war;—We are not at present, exclaimed Charrier, to inquire how the expence of the war shall be paid, but to do justice. We are to prove to the people of other States, that the Convention does not massacre her victims for the sake of their wealth, as the governments of those States wish them to believe.

Induced by this eloquence, and by some respect for those principles of equity which it had so long trampled upon, at last, on the 20th of March, the Convention decreed a *suspension of sale*, as a preliminary step to a restitution of the property of all persons condemned by the revolutionary tribunals of Robespierre.

It was not however so much a returning sense of justice which occasioned this decree, as necessity, resulting from a multitude of irresistible causes, which continue to operate, and will, sooner or later, bring on the restitution of the property of at least one description of emigrants*. In fact, though this decree has

* If the crowd of unfortunate women, innocent victims of the French Révolution, who now drag on a miserable existence in foreign countries, and whose situation is one of the greatest scandals to the Convention, could present themselves, as the Federalists have done, at the bar of that Assembly, and say that the natural timidity of their sex made them instinctively foresee the atrocities of the Jacobins; that an Assembly which glories in having punished those atrocities, ought no longer to impute it to defenceless females as a crime; that they foresaw them sooner, and escaped from them by flight; that it ought not to retain their fortunes which have been confiscated, and from which the Deputies receive a part of their salaries:—if compassion can influence that Assembly as party prudence has done, I think so distressing

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