

unremittingly active:—I mean self-interest, which has been stimulated by the invention of assignats. In them, and in them only, consists at present *all the power of the French Revolution*. It is by them that it has succeeded in bribing every personal consideration. By stipends to civil officers, who are every one preachers of the new-fashioned doctrines, it has succeeded in spreading them to every corner of France. Even its foreign conquests are merely to be attributed to the assignats, which have hitherto provided for 1,200,000 soldiers; and no doubt so extraordinary a number must necessarily have produced extraordinary effects. If the conquests of the French Republic have been three times as extensive as those of Louis XIV. it is because the assignats have enabled it to maintain armies three times as numerous*. What we have to consider is, whether the resources of France have not been wasted with infinitely greater profusion; and whether she is not, in this respect, on the eve of a catastrophe, proportionably more violent than that which she experienced in the beginning of this century; and whether she will be able much longer to delay this catastrophe,

* Of the truth of this we have the following confirmations in the Convention, by Cambon, Feb. 8, 1795.

The nation is under great obligations to the Constituent Assembly for the creation of assignats. This territorial money has very much assisted the Revolution, by bringing into circulation the value of the national domains, by enabling us to provision, equip, and maintain armies to the amount of 1,200,000 men, to create fleets, to cultivate the lands for saltpetre! to manufacture arms, &c. &c.

This same Cambon, who remarked, that a fifth part of the effective population of France had been engaged in the common defence, exclaimed on the 23d of November last, in this same Convention, Some of my colleagues have said, that the economical system of Louis XIV. should be adopted; who, when he had to contend against a coalition of Powers, spent no more than 219 millions (9 millions sterling) a year, while the expences of the present war are almost ten times as great; meaning to insinuate that the Convention squanders the wealth of the nation!

by

by
mo
pro
for
gre
ver
and
in
bri
rich
lige
pre
thin
two
it h
con
ado
wou
ing
terr
F
cre
of
ther
Req
be t
and
cou
offic
*
4th
Rob
A
milli
bus
made
mitte
fort