

# ASSEMBLY OF NOTABLES

Princess Élisabeth-Phippine-Marie-Hélène (1764–1794), Sister of Louis XVI  
to the Marquise de Bombelles

15 March 1787

You ask me, my friend, how I pass my time; I shall answer: Rather sadly, because I see many things that grieve me. The famous Assembly of Notables has met. What will it do? Nothing, except make known to the people the critical situation in which we are. The King is sincere in asking their advice. Will they be the same in giving it? I think not. I have little experience, and the tender interest I take in my brother alone induces me to concern myself with these subjects, much too serious for my nature. I do not know, but it seems to me they are taking a course directly the opposite of that they ought to take. I have a presentiment that all will turn out ill. As for me, if it were not for my attachment to the King, I would retire to Saint-Cyr. Intrigues fatigue me; they are not in accordance with my nature. I like peace and repose; but it is not at the moment when my brother is unfortunate that I will separate from him.

The Queen is very pensive. Sometimes we are hours together alone without her saying a word. She seems to fear me. Ah! Who can take a keener interest than I in my brother's happiness?

Katharine Prescott Wormeley, *The Life and Letters of Madame Elizabeth de France* (1902):33–34.