

# ASSEMBLY OF NOTABLES

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

9 April 1787

De Calonne was dismissed yesterday; his malversation was so proved that the King decided upon it; I do not fear to tell you the extreme joy I feel, which is shared by everyone. He is ordered to remain at Versailles until his successor is appointed, so as to render him an account of affairs and of his projects. One of my friends said to me some time ago that I did not like him, but that I should change my opinion before long. I don't know if his dismissal will contribute to that; he would have to do a good many things before I could change in regard to him.

He must feel a little anxious about his fate. They say his friends put a good face upon it; but I believe the devil loses nothing and that they are far from being satisfied. It was de Montmorin who gave him his dismissal. I hoped the Baron de Breteuil would not take that upon himself; it does him honor not to have done so.

The Assembly continues as before and with the same plans. The Notables talk with more freedom (though they have never cramped themselves in that), and I hope good may come of it. My brother has such good intentions, he desires the right so much and to make his people happy, he has kept himself so pure that it is impossible God should not bless his good qualities with great successes.

He did his Easter duties today. God will encourage him, God will show him the right way, I hope much. The preacher in his address encouraged him immensely to take counsel of his own heart. He was right, for my brother is very good and very superior to the whole Court united.

I am at Montreuil since mid-day. I have been to vespers in the parish church. They were quite as long as they were last year, and your dear vicar sang the *O filii* in a manner quite as agreeable. Des Escars expected to burst out laughing, and I the same.

I am in despair at the sacrifice you make me of your monkey, and all the more because I cannot keep it; my Aunt Victoire has a dread of those animals and would be angry if I had one. So, my heart, in spite of all its graces and of the hand that gives it to me, I must relinquish it. If you like, I will send it back to you; if not, I will give it to Monsieur de Guéménée. I am in despair; I feel it is very churlish, that it will vex you very much, and so I am all the more sorry. What consoles me is that you would have had to get rid of it soon on account of your children, because it might become dangerous.

Your philosophy enchants me, my heart; you will be happier, and you know how I desired you to be that. I do not understand why you say that the Maréchal de Castries is a bad politician; they seem to me well-satisfied with him; he has done rather fine things, and de Ségur has just committed the most egregious blunder in accompanying the Empress Catherine on her journey to the Crimea. She is terribly restless, that good lady, which displeases me much. I am a partisan of repose.