

even when reduced to the extremity of weakness, would instruct them with a force, order and eloquence which excited the admiration of all who heard him. At length, on the 27th September, 1660, this illustrious man, worn out by age, labor and infirmities, passed to his reward; he was beatified in 1729, by Benedict XIII., and canonized in 1737, by Clement XII. During the process of the inquiries which are always made in cases of canonization, commissioners visited Chatillon, and then signified their intention to go elsewhere for further information; "that," said the people of Chatillon, "is unnecessary. Vincent did good enough among us to canonize any one man."

The society now known as that of St. Vincent de Paul is quite a modern affair; it was founded in Paris in 1833 by some young students, who, desirous of doing all the good in their power, took for Patron the great Apostle of Charity whose career we have ventured to sketch. The society celebrates this year its semi-centennial. Notwithstanding its recent origin, it is widely diffused; in fact, wherever the Church has a foothold, the society is not far distant. A special feature is the visitation of the poor at their own homes; no work of charity is foreign to its spirit. Funds are derived chiefly from the contributions of members; the returns for 1881 show a total of receipts throughout the world of nearly 10,000,000 francs; expenditure nearly as much. This may be the money value of the works of society, but we may be pardoned for hoping that it represents a portion only of their intrinsic worth. The society does not seek publicity, but at the same time has nothing to conceal. It is not unlike an underground stream, which may be traced rather by the freshness and life it produces than by the noise it makes.

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