

the cause of religion and morality. His confidence in the Divine goodness,—in the ever watchful Providence of God,—remained unshaken, to the latest hour of his career on earth.

Summoning all the strength that remained to him after an exhausting illness of three days, in order to impart a final benediction to his pious brethren of an institution which was destined to perpetuate the most important of his works, he gave utterance to the following sentence, which, coming from such a man, and at such a solemn hour, was nothing less than prophetic: "QUI COEPIT OPUS BONUM, IPSE PERFICIET."* With these words upon his lips, and the peace of Heaven in his soul, the holy servant of God departed to his rest and his reward. Thus did Vincent of Paul, in the eighty-fifth year of his age, on the 27th day of September 1660, resign into the hands of God, that life which he had spent in doing good,—in promoting, to the highest degree, it was in the power of any one man to promote, the improvement and happiness of mankind. It is superfluous to say that his funeral was honored by the tears of a grateful people, as well as by the unfeigned regret of the great and distinguished men of the beloved country for which he had laboured so faithfully and so long.†

Vincent de Paul was gone, and it was felt "that France and religion had lost a truly great man who was distinguished by the practice of every virtue." The monarch, (Louis XIV.,) now become so powerful, whom, when an infant, he had borne in his arms beside the death-bed of Louis "the Just," together with nine other Sovereign Princes, claimed for him the honors of canonization. The most eminent judges and statesmen declared "that his wisdom and charity were worthy of an apostle," and the first men of the age acknowledged, "that in affairs of the highest importance, he was quite their equal." Thirty-five pub-

* He who hath begun will complete the good work.

† The heart of St. Vincent was enshrined in a silver vase, and his corpse deposited in the centre of the choir of his Church of St. Lazarus. The Epitaph is as follows:

HIC JACET
VENERABILIS VIR
VINCENTIUS A PAULO
PRESBYTER, FUNDATOR SEU INSTITUTOR
ET PRIMUS SUPERIOR GENERALIS
CONGREGATIONIS MISSIONIS
NEONON
PUELLARUM CHARITATIS.
OBIIT DIE 27 SEPTEMBRIS ANNO 1660.