

ey. This passage is admirable, and full of meaning and religion. "Now, concerning virgins, I have no precept of the Lord: but I give counsel, as having obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. I think therefore that this is good for the present necessity, that it is good for a man so to be. Art thou bound to a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But if thou take a wife, thou hast not sinned. And if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned: nevertheless, such shall have tribulation of the flesh. But I spare you. This therefore I say, brethren: the time is short: it remaineth, that they also who have wives, be as if they had none: And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as if they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as if they possessed not; and they that use the world, as if they useth it not: for the fashion of this world passeth away. But I would have you to be without solicitude. He that is without a wife, is solicitous for the things of the world, how he may please his wife: and he is divided. And the unmarried woman, and the virgin, thinketh on the things of the Lord: that she may be holy both in body and in spirit." 1 Cor. vii. It will be easy for you to apply these words to the religious profession. I shall say no more upon it. It will be for the Lord himself to explain his will, and you will be always safe under his vocation and guidance.

Spiritual Maxims of St. Vincent of Paul.

OCTOBER.

1.

Simplicity makes our words ever conformable to the sentiments of our heart; it does not, however, wish that we should disclose all our thoughts, because this virtue is not contrary to prudence, which makes us understand when we should speak, and when be silent, and which also teaches us what to say, and what to keep secret.

2.

Murmurs against the orders of superiors in a religious house, are a kind of apostacy; and as one falls into a kind of exterior apostacy, by quitting the habit and the order to which he is attached, so he is guilty of interior apostacy if he separate himself from the thoughts, or the will, or dispositions of his superior, to follow his own sentiments.—This is the greatest misfortune that can befall a community.

3.

Obedience does not consist merely in doing what we are directed, but in a continual disposition of accomplishing on every occasion, whatever we shall be commanded.

4.

God sends us trouble and affliction to exercise our patience, and to teach us sympathy for the misfortunes of others.