

his success; he had faith, and therefore he wrought wonders.

But if the greatness of the work he achieved, by the aid of human means apparently so inadequate, be matter of surprise to the many, to the thoughtful, perhaps, it may seem more wonderful that one who was involved in such multifarious employments, and forced into so much intercourse with the world, should still be able to maintain such close union with God, and to preserve a spirit of such perfect recollection. It was the severe discipline by which he ruled his life, which upheld him amid the distractions of his laborious career. They who saw Vincent only in the business of daily charity, hastening through the streets of Paris on some errand of mercy, or to attend some committee of his many institutions, with beaming countenance and kind word for all, little thought, perhaps, of the early rising, the long meditation, the office recited on his knees, the daily Sacrifice, the hours of silence, and the scant coarse fare. The unction of prayer was upon him, and its fragrant graces flowed over upon all who came within his influence. No wonder that men grew better in his presence, that children clung fondly to him, that sin-hardened hearts grew tender, and that the sick recovered, as he drew near. He came like Moses from the Mount; and the glory of the Divine Presence was, as it were, visible round about him.

Such a man could venture forth safely into a world which he visited only as an apostle of charity. His actions, his works, flowed not from a spirit of busy active benevolence; they were the outpourings of that love of which he had drunk deep at the foot of his crucifix: Calvary was ever before his eyes; Calvary was set up in his heart. His rule was a simple one; and in that rule he found at once both safety and success: he first gave himself wholly to God, and then to the work which God set him to do.

To estimate aright the work which Vincent de Paul accomplished, we must compare the France of his early