

chet, had made him known and desired by all the best in France. Persons of very high rank wished to trust all the hopes of their honour to his care; but he preferred, at first, a public institution. He was a distinguished professor of the humanities and rhetoric, in two provincial colleges. A real apostle, M. de Merinville, bishop of Chartres, who was an eye witness of his zeal and of his success, but who saw his health suffering from it, offered him a canonry, on condition he would take priests orders: "My lord," replied he, "*I am too honest a man to undertake it.*" He then gave his reasons, and this virtuous prelate could not fail approving them; the fact is, he did not think himself worthy of so important an office, and he was in this like his illustrious countryman Nicole.

His health, which was daily on the decline, forced him to take private pupils, frequently more beneficial than the other mode; but this he did not calculate upon, he only thought of doing good, which he did.

As I only write the life of the Abbé Blanchet as short as I can, I speak but little of his pupils. It must be known, however, that all of them have done him great honour by their irreproachable manners. He appeared more contented with himself; but his most intimate friend, and to whom I owe all my materials, and all the vouchers of this writing, was not satisfied with him. M. de Chavannes (at present dean of the parliament of Paris), for it is of him I speak, one of the worthiest and most upright magistrates of our age, gave him an *indultum**, which he neglected to

* See the French Encyclopedia—art. *de indulte*.

179
pres
ther
dral
and
at B
main
I m
than
that
of t
was
diffe
cons
pres
had
hanc
to c
was
vaun
kept
done
of h
and
B
wha
and
one
grac
on th
much

† 8