

year. Immediately on my arrival in a village, I am obliged to examine and decide the lawsuits, to catechise the rich and poor, to baptize the children and adults, to bless the marriages, to hear confessions and to give the holy communion to the poor neophytes, who comply with the paschal precept at Christmas or All Saints. I have also to build and repair churches ; for we are likewise master-masons : in fine, to set out again with all speed, and hasten to another village, leaving to themselves these unhappy Christians. Such is my life ; always beginning anew, without ever finding repose.

"Your friend, &c.

"CHARBONNAUX,

" *Missionary Apostolic.*"

Spiritual Maxims of St. Vincent of Paul.

NOVEMBER.

1

We should always observe the holy practice of acting with meekness and charity, both in private and public, even when we deal with the most obstinate sinners ; we should never use invectives reproaches or severe words, such means would not at all suit him who wishes to be useful to his neighbour ; instead of attracting and gaining souls to God, they only irritate them, and drive them farther away from him.

2

The salvation of christians depends on

the goodness and zeal of priests. A good priest is a great treasure.

3.

The love of a superior for those committed to his care ought to be accompanied by esteem and veneration ; he ought to reflect frequently on their virtues, and put the best possible interpretation on every thing ; he should never speak of them, except in terms indicative of his respect for them.

4

The grace of perseverance is the most important of all, it crowns all graces.

5

If we could look on tribulation with truly christian eyes, and if our understanding were cleared from certain worldly maxims, which obscure like dark clouds, the ray of faith, and prevent this heavenly light from reaching our inmost souls, we should esteem it a most happy thing to be calumniated, and treated not only as idle and useless, but also as perverse and vicious.

6

Our obedience should not be confined to the orders of those who have some authority over us ; we should also, as the apostle St. Peter invites us, subject ourselves for the love of God to all human creatures.

7

Duplicity is not pleasing to God, and to be truly simple, we should propose to ourselves no other end but to please God alone.