

latter finally repented, and making his escape with Vincent, landed near Marseilles in 1607.

After a short visit to Rome, Vincent went to Paris, and was appointed to a small parish near that city; he soon wrought such a reformation that a learned divine visiting the place during Vincent's temporary absence, testified that the people led the lives of angels, and that when preaching to them he felt he was carrying light to the sun. Soon afterward Vincent was induced to undertake the education of the sons of the Count de Joigny, general of the galleys of France. The duties of this office frequently carried the Count to Marseilles, and Vincent, who generally accompanied him, had thus opportunities of seeing the dreadful condition of the galley slaves. In those days slaves or captives were often employed to work the oars of ships, and it frequently happened that in a sea fight the natives of one country worked the ship of war of her enemy, as was the case at Lepanto, where the Turkish ships were generally worked by Christians, and the Christian ships by Turks. These ships were actually prisons; the miserable beings confined in them were chained to benches, and when not working at the oars, were perfectly idle; their treatment was brutal, their food scanty and bad, the air they breathed pestilential, and no attention was given to the sick or dying. To relieve them was a duty, but the question was how could they be relieved; generally speaking, the law which condemned them was just and its provisions humane, but its administration was most inhuman and its victims without practical means of redress. Vincent began his charitable work by announcing to them his friendly intentions; having gained their confidence he made their condition known to the higher clergy; large subscriptions were raised and their disposal entrusted to him; the king applauded the work and conferred on Vincent the title of Almoner-General of the French Galleys. The galley service was gradually abandoned, and finally commuted for labor at the national works, where prisoners were protected by the