

mitre to take charge of Clichy, a very poor parish. Here he laboured hard amongst the poor, intensely beloved, never sparing himself, an ideal parish priest.

II.

COUNTRY MISSIONS AND FRATERNITIES OF CHARITY.

Two years later Vincent left his country parish to become tutor to the sons of the Count of Joigny one of the greatest of the French nobles. This was a post of high importance as these lads would later fill lofty stations. No doubt Vincent's advisers considered that his immense power for good should not be limited to a little parish but should have a wider field and that it would be well for his influence to be brought to bear upon those in high places. The Count and his wife were admirable people, religious, kind, just, always anxious to do good. In their household Vincent found plenty of outlet for his missionary zeal, specially when he accompanied the family to their country estates. His influence was for peace and helpfulness and his patron were only too glad to have his help and advice in their plans for helping the poor. In the country districts he was distressed at the little provision there was for the spiritual instruction of the poor. With that ardent charity which never loses patience with dullness or ignorance he gave all his spare time to instruct them. To remedy this need the countess set aside a sum of money to found a permanent mission in whatever place Vincent might think best.

The abundant marks of affection and respect and the honor in which he was held in this household were not to his liking. He did not wish to be glorified. So, much to the distress of the Joigny family he went to Chatillon where he worked as he had at Clichy with the same results.

One day when he was going up to the pulpit to preach a lady begged him to recommend a very poor family to the charity of the congregation. He did so and spoke with the pathos of one who held the need of the poor as his own. Going to visit the same family on the following day he found that they had not only been relieved but they had more food that they knew to do with. "Why, he said, this