

existence some sixty thousand were lodged there. The government of the place was vested in twenty six gentlemen of experience and probity.

XII.

LAST DAYS.

In his extreme old age Vincent suffered terribly from swelling and open wounds in his legs. But until it was impossible for him to walk he refused a carriage. One of his last charities was especially appropriate.

A citizen gave him a sum of money to be used as he thought fit on condition that he would never tell the name of the donor. After reflection Vincent decided on a home for aged poor to be called the Hospital of the Name of Jesus and Mary'. It was under the care of the Sisters of Charity. There was a man's wing and a woman's wing, and a chapel. Good food and light employment were given and the priests of the Mission gave instruction. Vincent was often with them devising fresh rules to beautify their life.

Vincent's long life was now drawing to a close. His infirmities increased. His legs, injured by the irons of the galley slaves were now painful with swelling and open wounds and quite powerless. He was carried from his room to the chapel and back again. His mind remained clear and collected: he was always patient and good-humoured. He dictated letters to correspondents in every part of Europe almost to the time of his death and these epistles are as vigorous and clear in direction as those of his middle age or youth.

He became very weak early in 1660, having been much saddened by the death of Madame le Gras and of Father Portail, one of his first mission priests. Violent pain was added to his weakness but the only relief he allowed himself was to have a cord fastened to a beam in the ceiling that he might turn round in bed.

A few weeks before he died he appointed Father Almeras as his successor and a sister of Charity named Marguerite Chetif to succeed Madame le Gras as head of the Daughters of Charity. This great saint and devoted lover of the poor died suddenly and without pain on September 27th., 1660, his last word being 'confido', I confide.