

from all parts of Canada, representing one hundred and four Conferences and four thousand six hundred and seventy members, celebrated in Quebec an anniversary memorable in the annals of Canadian charity.

It was an admirable sight to witness four hundred strangers, men of the stamp of Ozanam, discussing, unostentatiously, the ways and means for advancing the interests of their Society, having no other end in view than God's glory and the welfare of His poor, nor other reward than that which is eternal.

How different are the methods of such men from those of our philanthropists who are continually flaunting their good works before the eyes of the world, and who must needs see their names graven in marble as a condition of their almsgiving. On the contrary, how imbued are their methods with the spirit of Christ who said: "When thou dost give alms let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doth; that thy alms may be in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret will repay thee." (Matt. vi).

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul carries out to the letter this salutary counsel of our Divine Lord. Humility has always been a characteristic virtue of its members. The alms doled out to the poor is done in secret; the kind word is spoken where there is no echo; it suffices for a member to know that God sees and hears.

The success of the Society has been extraordinary from the beginning. He who feeds the sparrow and clothes the lily inspires men to give of their substance to help the poor. The money collected annually by members of the Conferences throughout the world amounts to about \$2,500,000, and the number of poor succored annually goes beyond fifteen millions. In Canada, the amount fluctuates between \$60,000 and \$70,000. In 1896, the sum reached \$74,700; in 1897, \$69,200. In the city of Quebec alone, the Society gathered in and spent in works of charity, during the fifty years of its existence, the enormous sum of \$577,000.