

...and active life of Augustin, Augustin who was bishop of one of the leading towns in North Africa, and North Africa was at that time a very highly-developed region. From it came the greater parts of the crops that were eaten in Italy. It was a place which had one or two cities like Carthage, which were ~~the~~ centers of Roman life and culture, but the great mass of the country was made up of ~~the~~ villages and small towns in which life was fairly easy, due to the general fertility of the land. The people included some who were highly educated, but the great mass of them were not particularly well-educated, and Augustin was dealing day after day with the mass of the people, who, as far as education ~~was~~ ^{was} concerned, were very humble people, people who didn't have an understanding at all for many of the things ^{or problems} which were vexing him. At the same time, he had to deal with their civil suits as bishop. The Roman authority had given the bishops the right to settle any civil dispute, and day after day, not only Christians but non-Christians, feeling that they would get a more decent treatment in the bishop's court than they would in the civil courts, would come before him for a judication of disputes, and he would always try to do the best that he could in the cases. It took a tremendous ~~amount~~ amount of his time in dealing with matters which were not of particular concern to him. If a person had been a member of the church, or even if he hadn't, if he was a criminal and escaped from arrest, he would flee to the church, and so that in the church he should be safe and should be protected, so that the law couldn't touch him in the church, and Augustin would then have to come and talk with the officers of the law, and in such cases he always felt like giving the man the benefit of every doubt, but sometimes a man would be accused of having stolen money, and Augustin would ~~say~~ say, "Here, I'll replace it if you'll let the man go." And ~~in~~ in some cases it got to a point where ~~he~~ ^{they} would have to take up a collection in the church in order to try to reimburse the money that he spent which had reduced him to the point where there was