

ed under the invocation of the mother of God, not to survive each other.

From this day, Renzo, whose imagination had reached its height of exaltation did not cease to press his mistress to quit this life of tribulations to launch into eternal life where happiness awaited them; Tonia resisted, alledging the duties she had to fulfil towards her mother; but her lover answered reasonably enough that it was precisely old Peppa who was the first cause of their misfortune. At length the young girl had but one objection to bring forward: she had many times heard it preached that God had placed us in this world and that we were not permitted to leave it without his permission.

— Well then let us consult the will of the holy mother of God,

To this effect they carried a wax taper to the Madonna which they caused to be blessed, and burned it before her revered image, while they were devoutly praying. In a few minutes the flame seemed about to be extinguished and the wick presented to view two luminous excrescences, red and gold, a double crown of martyrdom, an evident manifestation of the divine will, as these good people said. Tonia left the chapel confused and trembling, she had nothing more to say, she however obtained another short delay.

On Friday, the 29th of December 18., at six o'clock in the evening, the young people were on the plat-form where we found old Peppa; they were saying their rosary. Renzo was to act first to encourage Tonia, and she vowed on the sacred image of the Virgin to follow his example. The young girl was much agitated, but the countenance of her lover shone with joy: Paradise was about to open to him, and he was going to wait for her he loved so well! After commending his soul to God and the Virgin, he rose courageously, gave his trembling companion one kiss, the last terrestrial kiss..... darted forward, and disappeared in the abyss. Tonia, at that moment could not restrain a piercing cry; she felt her courage faint within her. Twice she dared to look into the depth of that precipice,