

NUNZIO Sulpizio; OR, THE YOUNG APPRENTICE.

(*Concluded.*)

NUNZIO continued to suffer the most excruciating pains till the 25th of March, 1836, when a change took place for the worse. It was now evident to all that the Angel of Death was hovering nigh. A priest having been called to administer the last rites of the Church, at the sound of the bell which announced his approach, he seemed to gain supernatural strength. Despite his weakness, he drew himself on his knees, and at the sight of the Adorable Sacrament he cried out in transports of joy—“Behold the Pledge of eternal life! Behold the King of Heaven comes! Welcome, my Love, my Lord, and my God!”

This act of faith pronounced with beaming countenance and burning fervor made a profound impression on all who were present. “Till my dying hour,” said one, “the sound of the words and the expression of his face will be indelibly impressed on my mind.”

He received the last sacraments with every outward mark of piety, and then fell back into the state of prostration from which he had been aroused by his Saviour’s visit. Just before breathing his last, the crucifix was placed to his lips; a heavenly smile came over his face; one word of prayer inaudible to those around, and his pure soul passed peacefully to God.

In the process that took place at Rome, evidence was given of the almost miraculous change that occurred after death. His eyes remained open, but lost none of their lustre; his countenance was illuminated with a heavenly smile; his flesh had the appearance of one in perfect health; the swelling which deformed his body disappeared; the foot so terribly decayed, and which an instant