

The form of Lorenzo's altarpieces is that of the fourteenth century, and that of the abbey or Badia of Ceretto, which is fifteen feet high, without the three pinnacles, and twelve feet long, is a triple gable on pilasters resting on a pediment. In the latter portion of the piece the adoration of the Magi and the adoration of the shepherds are side by side in the centre with two scenes from the life of S. Bernard on each hand. The pilasters, in three courses, are decorated with six prophets; the three pinnacles, with the Eternal in the centre, the angel; and the Virgin annunciate; the great central panel with the coronation of the Virgin. Sixteen angels form a choir round the throne, which rests on a starred rainbow. In front, three angels wave censers; and at each side are the apostles and prophets amongst whom are S.S. Benedict, Peter and John the Baptist on the left and S. Romoaldo on the right.

Without genius for composition Lorenzo had many other faults. His long and slender figures with their affectedly bowing form tread the ground without firmness; but his drawing is careful and minute, his general tone is the gay, soft, and transparent one of a miniature, and his flesh tints are carefully fused. Draperies of breadth and mass have peculiar loops at the eye of the fold. His technical method of working is in fact less Giottesque than his forms or feeling. The keys of harmony in his altarpiece at Ceretto, and indeed in all those which he produced, is that of a miniaturist of the fifteenth century. In the small compositions of the pediment he seems at his ease, and reveals something of the religious feeling of Traini, a peculiarity fitting him at a later period to assist Angelico.¹

MCCCCVIII, and falsely assigned to Gentile da Fabriano. It is an exquisite work of Don Lorenzo Monaco, of his finest time.

¹ The altarpiece of Ceretto is inscribed as follows:

"Hæc tabula facta est pro anima Zenobii Cecchi, frascæ et suorum in recompensatione unius alterius tabule per eum in hoc.... (L.^a.^u)rentii Johannis et suorum, monaci hujus ordinis qui eam de-

pinxit anno domini MCCCCXIII mense Februarii, tempore domini Mathei prioris hujus monasterii."

Of the three angels in front of the throne the central one is repainted. The saints at each side of the coronation are ten in number, in all 20. The saint's head nearest the Virgin on the right is repainted. A choir of red seraphs surrounds the Eternal in the pinnacle. The pediment panels are partly damaged.