

filled with chiaroscuros. Between the plinths a feigned panelling incloses simulated bas-reliefs in monochrome, of S. Peter before the Emperor at Rome and his crucifixion, S. Augustin surrounded by various personages, the Martyrdom of S. Catherine, the accusation and decapitation of S. Paul. In the midst of once rich ornaments of foliage and children in the vaulted ceiling are the remnants of four busts of prophets and an angel playing, in rounds, almost obliterated by damp.

Whilst the failings handed down by Fiorenzo are illustrated in the feeble aspect and drooping shoulders of the Virgin at the altar, the lower attainments of a pupil are apparent in the small heads, in the thin forms and broken draperies of the angels of the Assumption. The Nativity is a composition often repeated later by Pinturicchio's disciples at Sienna. The scenes from the lives of the saints, in monochrome, are the best in the chapel as regards arrangement, action, and proportion of figures. They reveal Pinturicchio's contact with Signorelli and the temporary transmission of some of his energetic feeling into the weaker frame of his Perugian cotemporary.¹

Cardinal Costa was another dignitary, who had founded a chapel in S. M. del Popolo after he received the hat, in 1479.² For him Pinturicchio furnished half-lengths of the doctors of the church in four lunettes, and a scutcheon supported by two children in a fifth — all much abraded by the effects of time.

¹ The S. Augustin and his companion friar on the right are darkened and spotted by restorers. The Virgin of the Assumption is in an almond shaped glory of cherubs' heads, raised from below by two angels attended by four others playing instruments. Behind the tomb about which the apostles stand, is a landscape. The feeble execution of the angels might point to the name of Pinturicchio's disciple Matteo Balducci. The distance

(landscape) of the Pietà in the monument of Gio. della Rovere is much damaged and repainted. The scenes from the life of the Virgin are, besides the Nativity, the Presentation in the temple, the Marriage, the Visitation (injured by damp) and the Virgin seated amongst angels.

² The chapel was founded by him in 1479. See Plattner and Bunsen &c. *Beschreibung Rom's*. 8°. Stuttg. 1842. Vol. III. 3. Abth. p. 217.