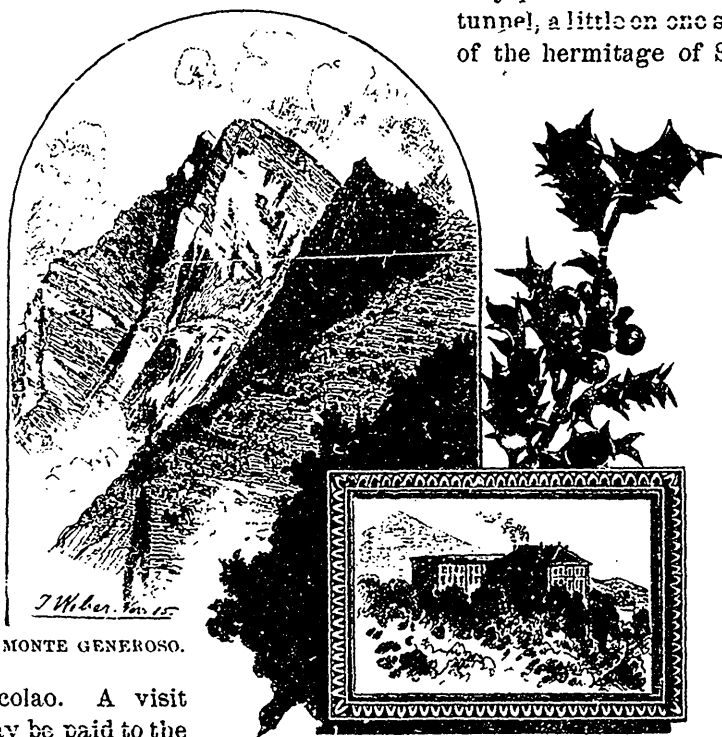


without fatigue, the tourist may be conveyed to the summit of Monte Generoso.

"The mountain-railway leaps pertly over its older sister—the St. Gothard line—and begins its climb. The cog-wheels work evenly and steadily, and soon lift us above the houses, above the church steeple, higher and ever higher. At our feet spreads, like a vast garden, the southernmost territory of the Swiss Confederacy. The railway is cut in the rocky slope, the strata of which are obliquely bedded, and below it the mountain falls off steeply to the valley. On arriving at a perpendicular precipice, the rail-

way pierces it in a loop-tunnel, a little on one side of the hermitage of San



Nicolao. A visit may be paid to the neighbouring hermitage and pilgr-

HOTEL AT SUMMIT.

grimage chapel of San Nicolao. A path leads down through thick bushes, past the ruins of an old tower, which formed one of the series of mediæval watch-towers. Beacon fires kindled upon them proclaimed the approach of the dreaded hosts of warriors descending from the Alps, and called together the peasantry to fight for the defence of their homesteads.

"We resume our journey; the train climbs quietly but steadily upwards. Towards the south-east we can see, beyond the lower