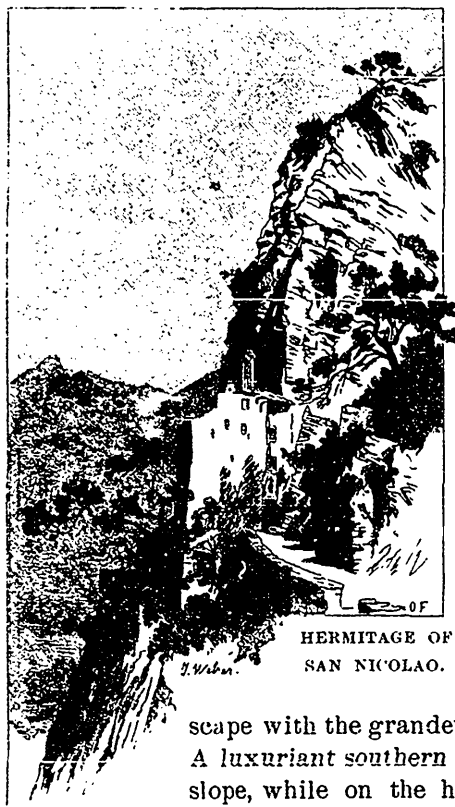


placid waters laving the vine-clad hills, crowned on their apparently inaccessible heights with churches, each with its square campanile. It is apparently a point of religion to make access to the churches as difficult as possible, that there may be the more merit in attendance at the sacred functions. Elegant villas, gaily frescoed, arcaded and embowered amid terraced gardens, gave a rare charm to the scene. The handsome Italian customs officer in the steamer, brilliant with gold lace and epaulettes, quite won the hearts of the ladies by declining to inspect their

luggage, which was piled up on deck for that purpose. If he could have understood all the complimentary things they said about him, it would have quite turned his head.

We here give Mr. Hardmeyer's sketch of climbing Monte Generoso:

"Soaring abruptly from the shores of Lake Lugano rises a steep and rugged mountain, known as Monte Generoso. This eminence, which is a spur thrown out by the Alps towards the plain of Lombardy, is often called the Rigi of Italian Switzerland. This mountain region combines in a wonderful manner all the charms of an Italian land-



scape with the grandeur and sublimity of the Alps. A luxuriant southern vegetation adorns the lower slope, while on the heights a magnificent Alpine flora delights the eye. An azure sky overarches

the lovely landscape, and is reflected with remarkable intensity in the waters of the lake that lends so much animation to the scenery; and especially at sunrise and sunset colours of magic beauty are poured over hill and dale.

"But the paths are long and steep, the Italian sun darts fiery beams from the cloudless sky—and, in short, travellers have become accustomed to railways and shun the fatigue of mountain-climbing. So a cog-wheel railway has been constructed, whereby,