

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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QUITO.

QUITO is the highest city in the world—10 000 feet above the sea. Yet as it is just on the equator, it is, though so high, pleasantly warm. It is much subject to earthquakes. It has a population of 70 000, a fine cathedral, as will be seen from the cut,

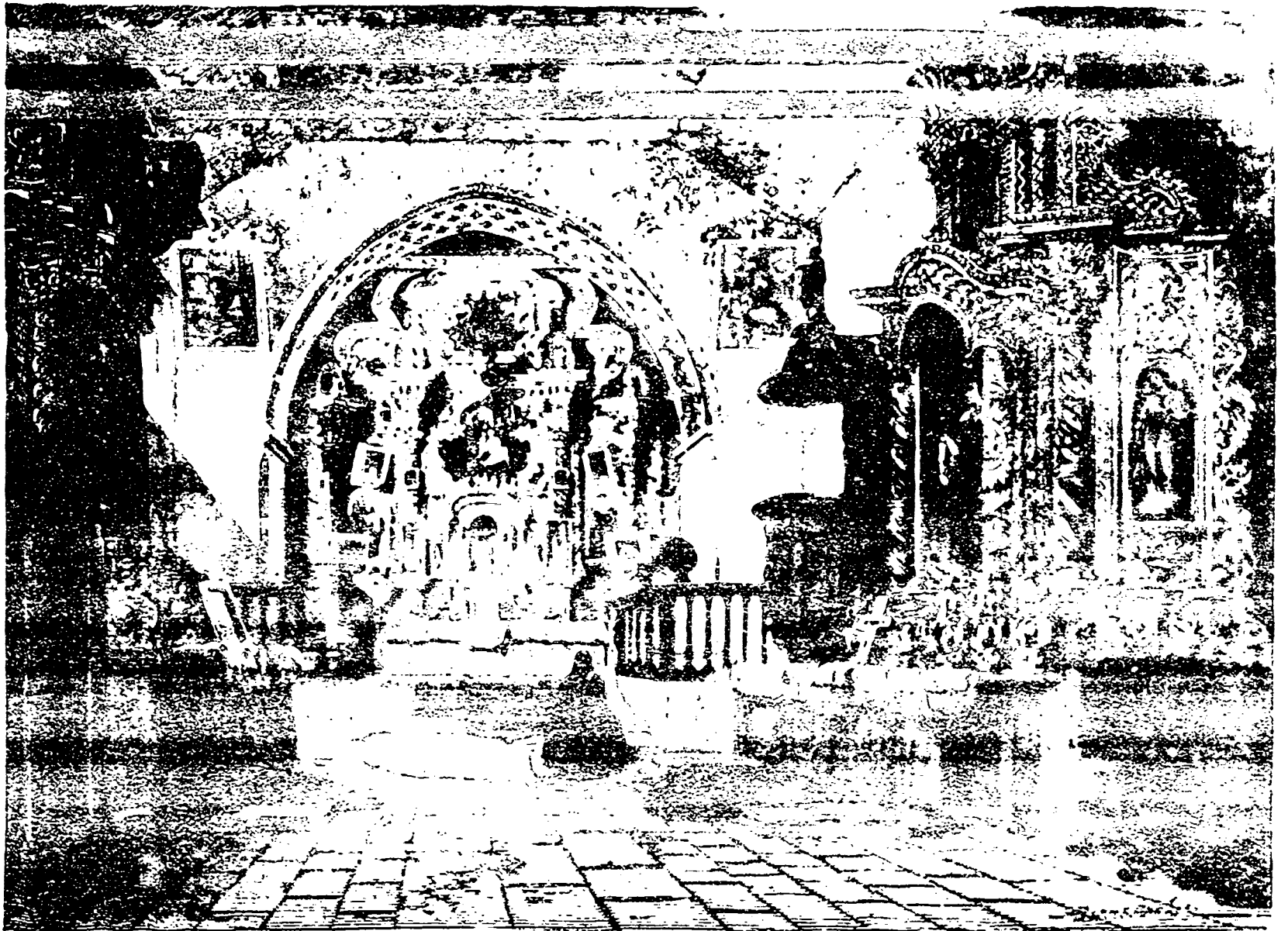
SUN-STORMS.

ALL things in the universe are comparative. Could one fancy the microscopic beings which inhabit a drop of turbid water endowed with intelligence, they might be supposed to study what they can discover of the great world with much the same sort of wonder

than are ours in comparison with those which the animalcule experience in his world.

How can we, who are bewildered and appalled by the fury of our planet's cyclones and volcanic eruptions, form a conception of the terrific energy of natural operations on the sun? Professor Newcomb suggests that if

There are such hurricanes as, coming down upon us from the North, would in thirty seconds after they had crossed the St. Lawrence, be in the Gulf of Mexico, carrying with them the whole surface of the continent in a mass, not simply as ruin, but of glowing vapor, in which the vapors arising from the dissolution of the materials composing



CATHEDRAL OF QUITO.

and a library of 20,000 volumes. If much of the splendor and wealth lavished on the adorning of the church were spent in the instruction of the people they would be more intelligent and better Christians.

CHASTENED sorrow leads us to prayer, but inordinate grief hinders devotion.

that men have in reaching after the truths of astronomy. To their brief existence the usual term of human life would be countless ages. Not to continue a very fruitful speculation, it may be said that wonderful as is the following account of the prodigious activity of the great forces at work in the sun, these storms are not more furious in comparison with our own

we call the solar chromosphere an ocean of fire, we must remember that it is an ocean hotter than the fiercest furnace, and as deep as the Atlantic is broad.

If we call its movements hurricanes, we must remember that our hurricanes blow only about a hundred miles an hour, while those of the chromosphere blow as far in a single second.

the cities of Boston, New York, and Chicago would be united in a single indistinguishable cloud.

When we speak of eruptions, we call to mind Vesuvius belching the surrounding cities in lava, but the solar eruptions, thrown fifty thousand miles high, would engulf the whole earth and dissolve every organized being on its surface in a moment.