

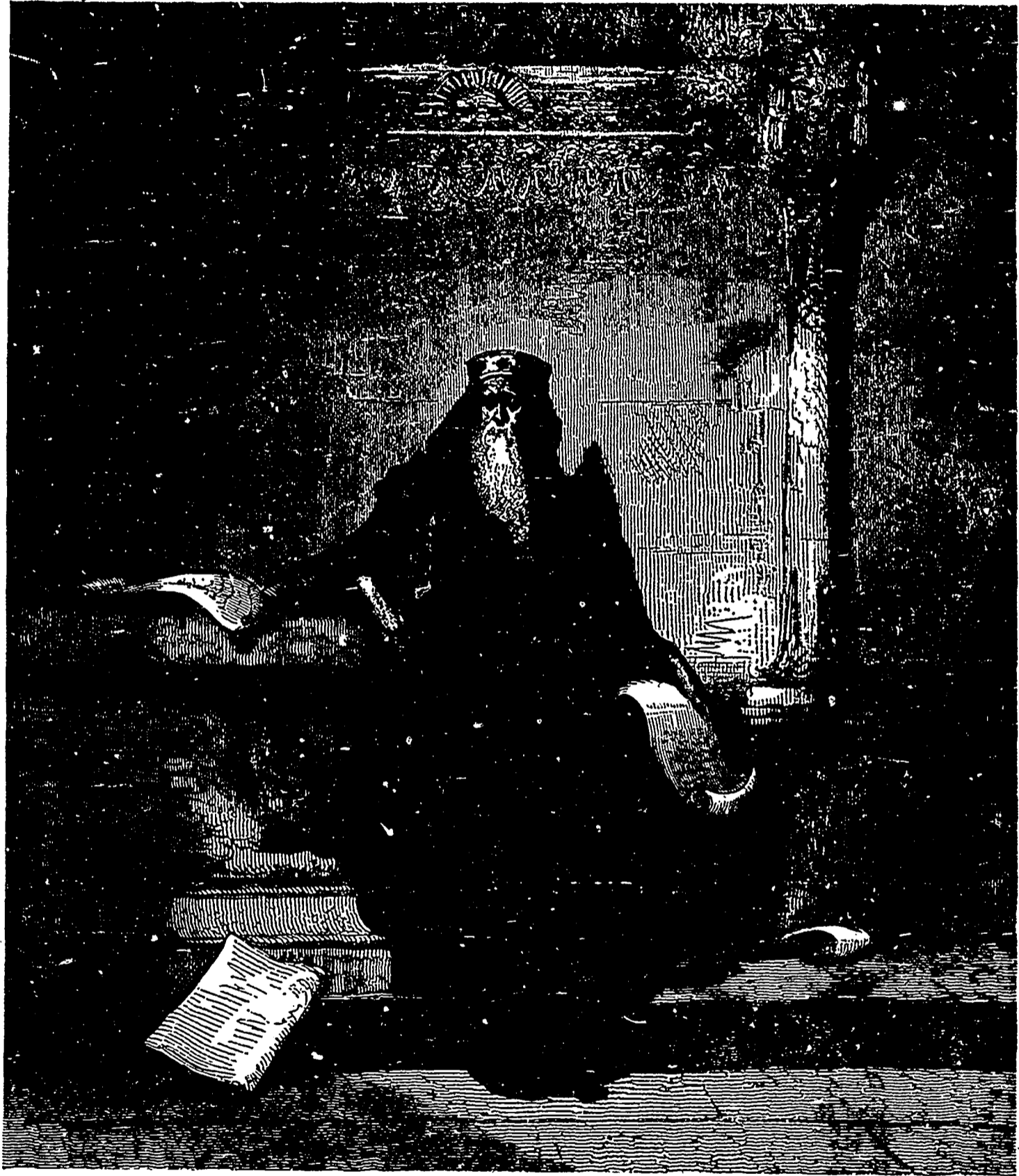
PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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No. 3.



SOLOMON. (After Dore's Picture.)

SOLOMON.

We have just completed a study of the character of Solomon. The picture on this page gives us Dore's conception of the wisest of men, seated on the throne of his stately palace, writing some of his proverbs, or wise sayings. We think the artist has made him too old—he was only about sixty when he died. It is, however, a majestic figure, and the drawing of the head and drapery is very fine.

THE SUN'S DISTANCE.

"The sun is about ninety-three millions of miles distant from the earth," writes Alden W. Quimby, in June Ladies' Home Journal. "It varies through the year because the earth's orbit is elliptical, and the sun is at one focus of the ellipse. The earth is more than three

millions of miles nearer the sun in December than in June, at which time the latitudes south of the equator receive his direct rays and experience the great heat of their summer.

"Let us try to comprehend the figures stated. The other day two racers of the sea proudly lowered the record of trans-Atlantic passage. Could they turn their prows to the sun, and drive their great engines day and night in the crossing of the ether main, it would be five hundred years before they could reach harbour.

"Most persons have noticed the appreciable interval of time between the stroke of an axe at a distance and the resultant sound; could we hear the sound of a solar explosion we would know that the explosion had occurred fourteen years before. Perhaps the most striking illustration is that which imagines a little child to have an arm long enough to reach the sun. The

child might thrust its fingers into the seething fires but it would grow up to maturity, and calmly descend into the valley of extreme old age, blissfully unconscious of any pain from the burning; in fact, it would require another such a lifetime to bring the news to the brain."

GOG AND MAGOG.

Who were Gog and Magog? English tradition says that they were the last of a race of giants who infested England until they were destroyed by some of the Trojans who went to the British Isles after the destruction of Troy. Gog and Magog, it is said, were taken captive to London, where they were chained at the door of the palace of the king. When they died, wooden images of the two giants were put in their places. In the course of time a great fire destroyed these, but now, if you go to London, you

will see in the Great Hall of one of the famous buildings—the Guildhall—two immense wooden emblems of men, called Gog and Magog.

But there are other traditions of the two giants. One is to the effect that when Alexander the Great overran Asia, he chased into the mountains of the North an impure, wicked, and man-eating people who were twenty-two nations in number, and who were shut up with a rampart in which were gates of brass. One of these nations was Goth and another Magoth, from which we readily get the names of the mythical giants. It is supposed, however, that the Turks were meant by Gog, and the Mongols were the children of Magog. We shall find mention made of Gog and Magog in many books, including the Bible; but there is the Great Wall and the Rampart of Gog and Magog, whatever may have been the fact that gave the names of the two giants to that portion of the structure.