

best citizens to be among those petitioning for Masonic light. The highest numbered lodge in Pennsylvania is Gothic Lodge, No. 519, in the city of Philadelphia.

CAPITULAR MASONRY in the United States has had an analagous growth and prosperity. In the year 1860 there were 32 Grand chapters, 1008 subordinate chapters, and 37,294 companions; now there are 112,000 companions. Royal Arch Masons number proportionally about one to every six Master Masons. The earliest Grand Chapter organized was that of Pennsylvania, on November 23, 1795, followed by those of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, in 1798. The following are the present statistics of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States—39 Grand chapters, 1880 subordinate chapters and 117,971 companions. According to numbers the leading Grand Chapters rank as follows: (1) New York—17,656 companions; (2) Indiana—9,378; (3) Pennsylvania—8,409; (4) Ohio—9,674; (5) Massachusetts—7,468; (6) Michigan—6,280; (7) Tennessee—4,211 companions.

The chapter degrees were at first worked under warrants from Blue lodges. It was customary for a number of Royal Arch Masons to ask permission of a lodge of Master Masons for the use of its warrant, which being granted, a chapter was opened under its authority, and the Royal Arch degree was conferred upon those who had passed the chair. In Pennsylvania, Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, worked under the warrant of lodge No. 3; Harmony Chapter, No. 52 under that of Harmony Lodge, No. 52; and Columbia Chapter No. 19, under that of Columbia Lodge, No. 19, and no one of them was ever either constituted or consecrated.

A M.E. Comp. Charles Eugene Meyer, Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania, remarked in one of his published, valuable historical sketches, the history of the Royal Arch in this country is peculiar, and especially in Pennsylvania. At first working in Blue Masonry, under a warrant of the so-called "Moderns," with Benjamin Franklin as Provincial Grand Master, her system of work became soon merged into that of the so-called "Ancients," and under its fostering care Royal Arch Masonry was first introduced into the United States some time prior to the year 1758. The date we have only from tradition. We have written testimony, however, dating as far back as 1767, in lodge minutes, which refer to prior minutes, now lost. The first Grand chapter was organized in 1795, under the immediate sanction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania—the Grand Master and other officers of the Grand Lodge (who were Royal Arch Masons) being the Grand High Priest and other officers of the Grand Chapters. The Grand Lodge then acknowledged only four degrees in Masonry, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason and Royal Arch Masons. As late as the year 1817 a number of Royal Arch Masons applied to Concordia Lodge, No. 67, Philadelphia, for the use of its warrant to open a chapter, which request was granted.

TEMPLAR MASONRY in the United States, especially during the past two years (concerning which statistics cannot yet to any large extent be gathered) has met with large favor. The first Grand Commandery of Knights Templar organized was that of Pennsylvania, on May 12, 1791; (2) Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, May 6, 1806; (3) New York, June 18, 1814; (4) Virginia, November 27, 1823; (5) Vermont, January 17, 1824; and last of all, the Grand Commandery of Arkansas, March 23, 1872. In the year 1860 there were 22 Grand Commandries, 179 subordinate Commandries, and 7,808 Sir Knights. In the year 1872, there were 29 Grand Commandries, 464 subordinate Commandries, and 36,536 Sir Knights. This shows a rapid growth in twelve years. 4,405 members were knighted in a single year, 1871. All of these Grand Commandries are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States, R.E. Sir J. Q. A. Fellows, Grand Master. This grand body holds triennial conclaves—the next one will take place at New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 1, 1874.

To recapitulate: according to the latest published proceedings there are in the United States 556,295 Master Masons, 117,981 Royal Arch Masons, and 36,536 Knights Templar—a splendid Masonic array, but only an empty pageant, unless these large bodies are actuated by genuine Masonic charity. The writer may, in a further article, describe the nature and number of the Masonic Charities of America.

A JOCLAR friend being told that an anti-Masonic journal is published somewhere out West, called the *Cynosure*, says the name is fitly chosen, because it is a *sign o' sure* insanity for a man to publish such a paper.

A FREEMASON should be a man of honor and conscience, preferring his duty to everything besides, even to his life; independent in his opinions, and of good morals; submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, to his country and to his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren; the friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all the means in his power.