

Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was held in Boston on October 30, Grand Commander E. L. Freeman, presiding. Grand Recorder Chapman in his report stated that the total membership in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was 8,110, a net gain of 547 members during the past year. The average membership in each commandery is 198, a standing not equalled by any other jurisdiction; neither does any other equal this in the number created, 700, during the year. The net increase in the United States during the same time was 3,764. Sir Knight James Sword, of Boston, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight A. F. Chapman, of Boston, Grand Recorder. A resolution was introduced having as its purpose a change of the tenure of office of the Grand Commander, so as to allow his election for two successive years, instead of for one year, as at present.

Grand Master Walkem has suspended the W. M. of Patterson Lodge, Thornhill, for initiating two candidates outside the jurisdiction of his lodge. The suspension, we believe, is from the office of W. M., and will remain in force until brought before Grand Lodge at its annual meeting. Without a complete knowledge of the facts the sentence may appear severe, but when it is considered that the rights of another lodge were systematically ignored if not premeditatedly set aside, it must be admitted that the sentence was a righteous one. This subject offers room for much comment, as several lessons may be learned from it, but it would be unfair to add to the humiliation of the brother most affected. A manly obedience to the ruling of the G. M. will secure more

friends for the suspended officer when Grand Lodge meets than bluster or bravado, and we therefore hope that no effort will be made by indiscreet brethren to induce the offending brother to further commit himself.

A number of clergymen attended a meeting of the Illinois Christian Association, held in Elgin, Illinois, on November 5. In an address of welcome to the delegates Rev. George R. Milton, of Elgin, spoke very strongly against Masonry, but not against Masons. He read from what purported to be a Masonic book, telling what is required even of ministers of the Gospel, "the anointed of the Lord;" the oaths they take when in a humiliating condition as to clothing, etc., and said that no person could be a member of a secret society and be a Christian. He was applauded. Quite a number of prominent Masons were present, as were many from other organizations, but they made no interruptions to the scathing remarks. A contest for a cash prize of \$25 was the chief feature of the evening. The subject was "Pernicious Influences of Secret Societies." Addresses were delivered at subsequent sessions of the convention on the "Drudgery of Lodges." It is probable that some of the clergymen who were so loud-mouthed in condemning Freemasonry from what they had read in books on the subject were once found unsuitable material for the Masonic edifice.

The interrogation, "If Knights Templary should die to-morrow, what has it accomplished?" is taken as a text by the *Tyler*, and in answering the question some plain truths are told which