

records are all lost, beyond recovery, so that we have to rest satisfied to take up the chain of evidence as near its commencement as we can find it. We know however, that a Provincial Grand Lodge was established in Massachusetts in the year 1733, by virtue of a charter granted April 30, of the same year, by Anthony, Lord Viscount Montagu, Grand Master of Masons of England. The warrant appointed Henry Price Grand Master of North America, with power to constitute Provincial Grand Lodges in Massachusetts and elsewhere upon the continent of America. By virtue of this authority, St. John's Grand Lodge was established in Massachusetts, on July 30, 1733; and from this Grand Lodge the earliest lodges in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut owed their origin.

The following are the dates of the constitution of the senior Grand Lodges in the United States, in the order of their seniority: (1) Massachusetts—Provincial Grand Lodge, July 30, 1733; Independent State Grand Lodge, March 8, 1777; (2) Pennsylvania—Provincial Grand Lodge, June 20, 1764; Independent State Grand Lodge, December 20, 1779; (3) Virginia—May 6, 1777; (4) Maryland—April 17, 1783; (5) New Jersey—December 18, 1786; (6) North Carolina—January 14, 1787; (7) South Carolina—March 24, 1787; (8) New York—September 5, 1787; (9) Rhode Island—June 25, 1791; and so on.

The first historical lodge in the State of Pennsylvania, was opened in 1734, under a warrant from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts—the eminent philosopher, Dr. Benjamin Franklin being its Worshipful Master.

In less than a century and a half, the Craft in the States has increased from one Provincial Grand Lodge to 48 Independent Grand Lodges (not including Canada), exercising jurisdiction over 600,000 affiliated Masons. This is the remarkable growth to which I adverted. I will now endeavor to show when and where this growth has been attained.

Mention should be made of the sources of information, so that the reader may judge of its trustworthiness, and also be led to consult them for himself. Of course the Annual Proceedings of the various Grand Lodges were consulted, as the highest official authorities. In addition to these—Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Maine; Bro. Stephen J. Young, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Maine; and others, have prepared tabular statements, which have been annexed to their reports, and are valuable and reliable, because derived from official sources—these have been consulted; and also, Bro. Mitchell's Digest of Masonry; Bro. Leon Hyneman's World's Masonic Register; and Catalogue of the Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, 1873, prepared by Bro. Theodore S. Parvin, Grand Secretary, and containing in the way of addenda many interesting facts and figures. These afford sufficiently comprehensive and satisfactory data from which to derive a just idea of the progress of Freemasonry in America.

The oldest Grand Lodge in the United States is that of Massachusetts, established in 1733; the youngest Grand Lodge is that of Utah, established January 16, 1872.

In the year 1860 there were in the United States 38 Grand Lodges, 5,147 subordinate lodges, and 228,279 members. These ranked, according to numbers, as follows: (1) New York—26,977 members; (2) Ohio—14,150 members; (3) Illinois—12,725; (4) Georgia—12,310; (5) Pennsylvania—11,983; (6) Kentucky—11,665; (7) Tennessee—11,102. The smallest (because then the youngest) Grand Lodge, was that of the territory of Washington, which numbered 9 lodges and 217 members.

Note, now, the wonderful progress in one decade of years. The number of Freemasons in the United States was doubled in ten years, from 1860 to 1870. The tabulated results of the reports in the proceedings of various Grand Lodges, give 556,295 Masons as the actual number of active members at the close of 1871; 38,438 members having been initiated in the year then last past. The different States stood in rank, according to numbers, then as follows: (1) New York—78,946 members; (2) Illinois—36,775; (3) Pennsylvania—34,772; (4) Michigan—24,662; (5) Indiana—24,324; (6) Massachusetts—23,217; (7) Missouri—23,118; and, last of all, Utah, 165 members. Of the 38,438 members initiated during the last year, New York furnished the most—5,690 initiates; Illinois stood second, 2,605; Pennsylvania third, 2,577; and Utah last, 28. During this same period of one year, when 38,438 were initiated, 9,580 applications for initiation were rejected, forming one-fourth of the whole number of applicants.

On the first day of January, 1873, there were in the state of Pennsylvania, under the jurisdiction of its Grand Lodge, 345 subordinate lodges, having 36,185 members; and of the whole number of lodges, 57 were in the city of Philadelphia. The recent completion and dedication of the magnificent new Masonic Temple in this city, will doubtless draw increased attention to the Craft, and cause increasing numbers of the