

During the last year, in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Encampment, there were Knighted 397, the total number of members being 2,226.

Seventeen new Lodges were organized in South Carolina last year—a larger number than in any previous year since the Grand Lodge was organized.

A man has been arrested at Richmond, Va., on suspicion of being concerned in the mysterious disappearance of Sir Knight James Welsh, of Washington.

Several Lodges have prepared a present of jewels and collars, Holy Bible, Square and Compass, to be presented to Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, Va. This is the lodge in which Geo. Washington was initiated.

The Mount Vernon Encampment, State of Ohio, of Knights Templar, has appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the celebration of its semi-centennial anniversary on the 15th March, 1868. The coming celebration is anticipated as an occasion of deep and lively interest to true and courteous knights, not merely of Ohio, but of the adjoining states.

The Legislature of Indiana has incorporated a company to erect a new and magnificent Masonic Hall in Indianapolis. We understand the stock is already taken, and a splendid Temple, costing two or three hundred thousand dollars, will be erected without delay. No efforts will be spared to make it such as will meet the needs of the Craft in the central and largest city of that State, and such as will not only be an ornament to the city, but an honor to Masonry, and a monument of the enterprise and public spirit of Indianapolis Craftsmen.

Comp. Fuller, of the Grand Chapter of the State of Tennessee, in his report on correspondence, says:—It is a matter of gratification, however, to know that during the continuance of the late horrible strife, Masonry sustained its character as an institution of mercy, of "peace and good-will," even in the midst of contending armies, and in spite of difficulties and dangers, pouring oil upon gaping wounds and relieving those in sore distress. Many well attested facts of the benefits bestowed upon suffering brethren, regardless whether they were friends or foeman, have come to the ears of your committee, and would form an interesting chapter in the history of our institution.

Some thirty or more of the most prominent members of the Order in Illinois have issued a Circular, under the above caption, warning the Craft against "certain parties from New York," who are "pretending to confer the degree of the Scotch Rite" in that jurisdiction. They "caution all good Masons, who desire their Masonic relations to be legitimate, and who wish to frown down unauthorized and illegitimate action, not to be drawn into a movement so calculated to separate them from their present associations, and mar the peace and harmony of Masonry in this State." The Circular is signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, G. H. Priest, and many of the leading Masons of the State. The same CAUTION is also issued in a Circular to the Craft in Michigan, fully endorsing the former, and applying the same to that State. It is signed by the Grand Master, and Secretary, and a large number of the most prominent Craftsmen of Michigan.

FOREIGN MASONIC ITEMS.

The subscription of the Grand Orient of France up to December 31, in favor of the sufferers by inundation, produced 16,000 francs.

The Lodge of *La Parfaite Sincerite* celebrated, December 16, its centenary. Bro. Bremond pronounced the discourse.

The Lodge *Reunion des Arts*, of St. Pierre, Martinique, is supporting a physician who devotes his time to attending to the indigent sick.

Two new Lodges have been chartered in the Island of Sardinia. One of the old Lodges has subscribed a thousand francs to aid in founding a House of Succor for the poor.

The King of Denmark, a royal Mason, and other brethren are becoming interested in the publication of old Icelandic MSS. and of other old Northern literary remains.

Our German brethren are much exercised about the question whether King George can continue to preside as Grand Master, he ceasing, as a result of the late war, to be King of Hanover; also, whether the Deputy Grand Masters appointed by him can continue to exercise their functions.

To brethren visiting Paris it may be worth remembering that there are forty-six Lodges meeting at 16 Rue Cadet, and twenty-five bodies of the Supreme Council meeting at 35 Rue de Grenelle, St. Honore.

Bro. Dr. Zschokke, of Switzerland, the learned professor at Aaran, the old Master of Lodge Zur Brudertruce, has died lately, aged 61 years. Bro. Zschokke is well known in Switzerland and Germany, and throughout the world, for his literary and Masonic sentiments and labors.

Gen. Garibaldi, as the G. M. G. C. of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of Italy, sitting at Palermo, sends forth his decree, urging energy in its propagation. It looks forward to the time when the rite shall commence its labors at the capital.

At a meeting of Lodge *La Cesaree*, at Jersey, on the 28th June, Bro. Brice entered, who, being nearly eight feet in height, is no doubt the tallest Mason in Europe. Naturally, a little sensation was excited among the brethren as he stalked up the room and took his seat with the visitors.

The Gallican Masonic journals, *Le Monde* especially, declaim against the great facility with which the profane are admitted into Lodges in England, America, and also France. It suggests that the two indispensable conditions be insisted upon, that of morality first, and that of instruction sadly neglected. The future prosperity of Masonry depends upon the careful study of our mysteries.

Bro. Lenoir, neither a native nor naturalized Frenchman, was elected Master of the Lodge *L'Union Parfaite de la Perseverance*. Six of the brethren protested that Bro. Lenoir was a foreigner, and could not preside over a French body. The last Constituent Assembly abolished, as entirely contrary to the spirit of Freemasonry, the regulation obliging a Master to be a Frenchman, either by birth or naturalization.

A Commandery of Knight's Templars was instituted at Cedar Falls, Iowa, on April 3rd. At the head of the body is Mr. G. A. Graves, the distinguished principal of the large graded school of Cedar Falls.