

FREEMASONS IN AMERICA.

The following are Bro. Josiah H. Drummond's Masonic statistics for 1884, gathered from the latest Grand Lodge Proceedings:—

GRAND LODGES.	M'b'rs.	Raised.
Alabama.....	7,378	380
Arizona.....	355	44
Arkansas.....	10,209	602
British Columbia.....	293	13
California.....	13,579	839
Canada.....	18,442	1,258
Colorado.....	2,908	276
Connecticut.....	13,942	508
Dakota.....	1,533	217
Delaware.....	1,378	52
District of Columbia.....	2,904	152
Florida.....	2,117	162
Georgia.....	10,355	504
Idaho.....	438	27
Illinois.....	44,007	2,233
Indiana.....	23,700	981
Indian Territory.....	533	73
Iowa.....	19,715	1,475
Kansas.....	11,353	864
Kentucky.....	15,565	837
Louisiana.....	4,199	153
Maine.....	19,650	772
Maine.....	1,092	176
Maryland.....	4,759	110
Massachusetts.....	26,583	1,216
Michigan.....	27,181	1,379
Minnesota.....	8,065	647
Mississippi.....	8,897	299
Missouri.....	24,594	1,122
Montana.....	939	63
Nebraska.....	4,417	464
Nevada.....	1,247	44
New Brunswick.....	1,961	104
New Hampshire.....	7,987	303
New Jersey.....	11,946	546
New Mexico.....	321	47
New York.....	70,700	8,882
North Carolina.....	8,065	310
Nova Scotia.....	2,801	192
Ohio.....	31,359	1,818
Oregon.....	2,981	162
Pennsylvania.....	35,829	1,881
P. E. Island.....	454	11
Quebec.....	2,840	200
Rhode Island.....	3,654	130
South Carolina.....	5,201	240
Tennessee.....	15,434	579
Texas.....	17,514	998
Utah.....	468	24
Vermont.....	7,739	351
Virginia.....	9,053	
Washington.....	1,390	132
West Virginia.....	3,500	226
Wisconsin.....	11,908	664
Wyoming.....	384	80
Total.....	587,321	30,620

Last year the membership was 579,826, the raised 28,374, showing an increase of 7,495, or 10½ per cent. on the membership, and 2,246, or almost 8 per cent. on the raised.

AUTHORITY OF GRAND MASTER.—
 “During the year I have had frequent applications to grant a Dispensation authorizing the conferring of two or more degrees at the same Communication, which I have invariably refused, because of the constitutional inhibition. In answer to one of my letters declining to grant the Dispensation, a brother, for whom I entertain the greatest respect, and in whose knowledge of Masonic law and usage I have much confidence, insists that the authority of the Grand Master is not limited by the provisions of the Constitution, and that he may, by Dispensation, authorize the doing of that which is expressly inhibited by the Constitution. To this assertion of the power and authority of a Grand Master I cannot give my assent. I know of no reason why constitutional limitations are not equally as binding upon the Grand Master as any Master Mason. If he can disregard one constitutional provision, he may as well disregard every other, and thus render the entire organic law inoperative at his will and pleasure. In fact, if he should see proper to do so, he could revolutionize the entire system of Masonic jurisprudence, as adopted by the Grand Lodge, and which the Masters of subordinate lodges must enforce. Possibly the authority of a Grand Master in whose jurisdiction there was no organized Grand Lodge, its organic laws, edicts, and decisions, are as binding upon him as upon the humblest member of the Fraternity—otherwise, the craft would be subject to an arbitrary and supreme,—possibly a weak, fickle, and vacillating will, whose love of authority may cause him to disregard every ancient land-mark, and leave the Fraternity ‘tossing helmless upon the weltering.