

## AN UNDERGROUND CITY.

Catacombs are found near Naples, Paris, Alexandria and Rome; but those near Rome are the most important. No one knows exactly how long they have existed. The soft *tufa* or volcanic rock, was first excavated for the sake of getting building sand for cement. The guides say that the original extent of these catacombs was twenty miles across, but only six miles can now be ascertained to exist. They consist of long, narrow galleries, much resembling those in mines, usually about eight feet high and five wide, which twist and turn in all directions. At regular intervals these galleries extend into wide spaces and vaulted chambers. Sometimes there are distinct stories, representing flights of stairs. The full extent of these galleries is estimated at seven or eight hundred miles and they are from fifty to seventy-five feet below the surface of the earth.

In these dreary places the early Christians often retired, in times of persecution, to celebrate their new worship, and in them were buried millions of saints and martyrs of the primitive church. On either side of the passage-ways are tiers of niches in the wall, where the bodies of the faithful were laid. The stones which close these niches are called *tabula*. The names of the dead were placed upon these stones, and frequently with a brief inscription, or some Christian symbols.—*Com. People*.

**TREMENDOUS.**—Grand Master Buck, of Kansas, reported to his Grand Lodge at its last meeting of having granted Dispensations for twenty-three new lodges during the past year.

**FULL OF CHARITY.**—One hundred and twelve Kansas lodges report contributing \$5,755.16 for charitable purposes during the year, of which sum St. Bernard Lodge, No. 222, at Dodge City, contributed \$815.50.

**HONESTY AND DISHONESTY.**—If a Mason is honest, he is just as good as any other man who is honest; if he is dishonest, he is just as bad as any other man who is dishonest.—*Bro. A. V. H. Carpenter*.

Bro. Geo. S. White, Superintendent of our Home, is an English Mason, and he assures us that public installations (what our excellent Brother *Keystone* would call "shows for vanity's sake") are practiced in that country.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

ONE of the standing difficulties of Bible chronology has been cleared up in a very remarkable manner. Amid the ruins of the Chaldean *Record* Office, which formed part of the Temple, a number of tablets were found. On examination it was discovered that they were the contracts of a mercantile firm extending over generations. It was found that every document was dated and bore the month, year and day of the reigning sovereign. By this strange order of destiny a complete chronology has been formulated of the Kings from Nebuchadnezzar to Darius Hydaspes, hitherto a most perplexing period to Biblical critics.—*Ex*.

The Supreme Council of the A. A. Scottish Rite, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, at its last annual session, determined to raise \$10,000 a year for five years, for the purpose of establishing a home for the widows and orphans of members of that jurisdiction. Through this and other sources it is proposed to raise \$500,000, when the buildings will be erected and furnished for the purposes intended, and the interest on the principal used in providing for the needy. Gen. Gilmour Meredith, of Baltimore, Md., was elected treasurer, and has already received one donation of \$500, and a paid life policy for \$2,000. This is the kind of Masonry that has the ring of charity in it.—*Masonic Advocate*.