

sons taught by Blue Masonry as follows:

Blue symbolizes fidelity—that lofty principle which actuates every true Freemason in his conduct towards his fellows and the Craft. It symbolizes also friendship and brotherly love, the Mystic Tie which unites Masons wherever dispersed into one family, with God as their father, and all the initiated as their Brethren. It symbolizes, further the immortality of the Soul, and hence faith in the regeneration of the lower nature, the resurrection of the body, and the eternity of the immortal spirit in its reorganized form in the world beyond the grave. It typifies also truth—the truth of God, the truth set forth in the first Great Light in Masonry, the eternal principles of justice, mercy and love, faith, hope and charity. All this is inseparably connected with the Blue Lodge and Blue Masonry; all this is ours to know, to possess, and to enjoy.

—*Keystone.*

### THE ROYAL ARCH.

We quote the following valuable "Historical Data," from Comp. Chas. E. Meyer's paper on this topic:

The Royal Arch degree was first introduced (as far as is at present known) in the United States, in Royal Arch Lodge, No. 3, meeting under authority from the Grand Lodge of England according to the old institution, better known as the Ancients, also as the Grand Lodge of Four Degrees. Tradition asserts the time as 1758, but the minutes still extant begin in 1767, and speak of the minutes of the preceeding meeting being read and adopted.

This Royal Arch Lodge became, in course of time, Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, and the minutes are complete from 1767 to the present time, making Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, the oldest Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the world.

The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania was organized under authority from the R. W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, in November, 1795, and its minutes are complete and dis-

tinct from that time, thus making the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania the oldest Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in America.

The degree of a Past Master, or, as is known in Pennsylvania, "the passing to the chair," was always a prerequisite to advancement to the Royal Arch degree; a Brother having passed the chair, became a "Geometric Master Mason," and was entitled to advancement in Freemasonry. It has always been, in Pennsylvania, conferred under authority of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The degree of a Mark Master Mason was conferred at an early date in the present century by unauthorized parties. Attempts were made on several occasions by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, organized two years later than this Grand Chapter, by Thomas Smith Webb, who received the Royal Arch degree in Harmony chapter, No. 52, in Philadelphia, towards the later part of the last century; but the Grand Lodge, exercising its undoubted right to the control of the higher degrees, placed its disapproval on the same, and they were abandoned.

In 1824 the Grand Chapter became independent of the Grand Lodge, and, as a sovereign body, issued warrants, (former meetings of the Chapter being held under the Blue Lodge warrant) to the Chapters than in existence, with authority to confer the degrees of a Mark Master Mason, a Most Excellent Master Mason, and a Royal Arch Mason. The Grand Chapter also authorized the opening of Lodges of Mark Master Masons, a number being so organized, but three are now at work—Columbia, No. 91; Girard, No. 214; Excelsior, No. 216—a warrant was also issued for a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters, but it was never organized.

The Order of High Priesthood is conferred in subordinate Chapters on the High Priest-elect, and without the order being conferred at the time he cannot be installed as High Priest;

The Grand Chapter is composed of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes of