

MASONIC CHIT-CHAT.

AT the organization of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, in 1840, but thirteen Masons were present, representing six Lodges; now there are in that jurisdiction over 700 Lodges and 35,000 Masons. But one brother of those who organized the Grand Lodge in 1840 remains alive—M. W. Bro. Dills.

THE little company of fifty Masons who ninety years ago, in the year 1786, composed the body of the Craft in New Jersey, with Chief Justice Brearley at their head as Grand Master, has now increased to 143 Lodges and over 12,000 Masons. So great has been the growth of the Brotherhood there, as throughout America.

MORTON COMMANDERY, No. 4 Knights Templar of this city, at the Conclave held on Monday evening in the Masonic Temple, resolved to attend the Centennial parade at Philadelphia, in a body, providing that at least two hundred swords can be mustered under the banner at Morton. A committee was appointed to ascertain the best means for transportation to Philadelphia, and it is believed that a steamer will be chartered so as to provide private hotel accommodations for the Knights and their ladies during the week that the Commandery is expected to employ in the excursion. With this action it is expected, that, outside of Pennsylvania, the New York Knights will have the largest representation in the Templar parade of June.—*New York Courier*.

"THE oldest Mason," Brother Peter Hammond, of Genesee, Illinois, is now one hundred years old. He was made a Mason in 1799, and was Master of a Lodge at Wardboro', Massachusetts, at the time of the Morgan excitement.

JUST one hundred years ago the first Masonic periodical appeared in England, "*Bode's Pocket Book for the Freemasons of the United Lodges*." It was annually issued for four years, 1776 to 1779. The first Masonic periodical in Germany, the *Freimaurer Bibliothek*, was published in 1787 to 1803.

IT has been just one hundred years since the first Masonic Hall in England was dedicated, on May 23, 1776, at London. The first Masonic Hall in the world was dedicated in 1754 at Philadelphia.

GOETHE, the great German poet and Freemason, at the age of seventy-five, touchingly and truthfully said: "I am so fully convinced that the soul is indestructible, and that its activity will continue through eternity, that the thought of death does not give me the least uneasiness. The soul is like the sun, which seems to our earthly eyes to set in night, but is in reality gone to diffuse its light elsewhere."

THE Grand Master of Illinois receives a salary of \$1500, and the Grand Secretary, \$2500. Illinois has 735 Lodges and 40,468 Masons.

MARIE THERESA, in 1764, strictly forbade Freemasonry in Austria, because the Grand Master declined to initiate her, or communicate to her the secrets of the Craft.

A LODGE in South Carolina suspended a member indefinitely for having unlawfully sold liquor on Sunday. On appeal to the Grand Lodge the suspension was made for four years.

THE Rev. Mr. Kerr, the late pastor of the North United Presbyterian Church of this city (which Church is now rending itself in a futile attempt to worst Freemasonry and other secret societies), is now pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of New York city, having left the United Presbyterian on account of their illiberal and suicidal policy of Anti-Masonry. The utter absurdity of the charge that these Anti's bring against Freemasonry, that it is a Christ-less institution, is best replied to by the fact that their own Psalmody, adopted some ten years ago, had not the name of Christ in it at all, and their present Psalmody contains it only once. Consistency, thou art a jewel! It should be stated, however, that all United Presbyterians are not bigotted, for it numbers in its membership many noble men, who are vigorously striving to keep their Church true to its constitution, and at peace with all good men of other creeds and societies, including the ancient Craft of Freemasons.—*Keystone*.

DOM PEDRO, Emperor of Brazil, who has "done" New York, has gone to California, and will report in due time for the Centennial, it seems is Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Brazil, A. and A. Rite. Some of the New York Masons propose to give him a right royal reception in the New York Masonic Temple.

A BROTHER in Illinois recently appealed from the action of his Lodge in not punishing a Brother who stated that he was a "liar." The Grand Lodge said that the evidence was plain that the Brother told the truth on appellant, and the case was dismissed. Another case where two Brothers were charged with calling each other "liars," both were found guilty, and but one was punished. The Grand Lodge suspended both.