

and its use is now too firmly established to allow of change, even if it were thought that another word should be employed. The development of Masonic meaning attaching to the word Sublime may be traced through some of the degrees of the Scottish Rite. There we have the expressive, high sounding title of "Grand, Elect, Perfect and Sublime Masons."

RITUALISM.

Prior to 1717 the only ritual known to Masons was obligation, with a word of recognition. In 1729 a catechism, as a test of membership, was in vogue, of so unmeaning a character that sensible men endeavored successfully to change it to something more reasonable. Hence to the time of Preston, continual changes were made, when he revised and added to it such matters as would commend it to men of culture and education. About the middle of the last century Dermott formulated a ritual differing from that of Preston, which was adopted by the so-called "Ancient Lodges." At the union of the two English Masonic factions, early in the present century, a ritual was formulated, which is essentially the same as that practised by the Grand Lodge of England at the present time. Some of the first lodges established in this country were authorized by the Ancient or Dermott branch of the Order, notably Pennsylvania, which still holds to the old ritual, and call themselves "Ancient York Masons." The ritual in use in England at the present time is greatly different from that in use elsewhere. That generally adopted for the use of the various Grand Lodges of the United States was formulated by Webb and is used in no other country. The only landmark of Masonry in any way connected with the ritual is the naked and unadorned Hiram legend.—*The Light*.

MASONIC TERMS DEFINED.

The correct names of the meetings of the various bodies are as follows: For Lodge, Communication; for Chapter, Convocation; for Council, Assembly; for Commandery, Conclave.

The characters used to represent the bodies are: For a Lodge an oblong square; for a Chapter a triangle; for a Council a circle; for a Commandery a passion cross.

Masons of the York rite date from the creation of the world, calling it "Anno

Lucius," which they abbreviate A. L., signifying "in the Year of Light." Thus with them the present year is A. L. 5818. Masons of the York rite begin the year on the 1st of January.

Royal Arch Masons commence their era in the year which Zerubbabel began to build the second temple, which was 530 years before Christ. Their style for the year 1888 is, therefore, A. INV.—that is, Anno Inventionis, or the Year of Discovery, 2418.

Royal and Select Masters date from the year in which Solomon's temple was completed, and their style is Despositionis, or in the Year of Deposit, and they date the present year at 2888.

Knights Templar use the era of the organization of their Order in 1118. Their style for the present year is A. O.—Anno Ordinis, or, in the Year of the Order.

The following are the rules for discovering the different dates:

To find the Ancient Craft: Add 4000 to the Vulgar Era. Thus 1881 and 4000 are 5888.

To find the date of Royal Arch Masonry: Add 530 to the Vulgar Era. Thus 530 and 1888 are 2418.

To find the Royal and Select Master's date: Add 1000 to the Vulgar Era. Thus 1000 and 1888 are 2888.

To find the Knights Templar date: Subtract 1118 from the Vulgar Era. Thus 1118 from 1888 is 770.

The following table shows in one view the date of the present year in all the branches of the Order:

Year of the Lord A. D. 1888—Vulgar Era.

Year of the Light A. L. 5888—Ancient Craft Masonry.

Year of the Discovery A. L. 2418—Royal Arch Masonry.

Year of Deposit A. DEP. 2888.—Royal and Select Masters.

Year of the Order A. O. 770—Knights Templar.—*Light*.

The term Freemason was found in print in the year 1636.

The Mysteries of the Craft should be intimately known to every Master and every Warden of a Lodge. To accomplish this he must take some trouble. He must think over the work, read the best Masonic books, and carefully read his Masonic newspaper through. The leaders of the Masonic Fraternity are always expected to be bright Masons.