

ACCORDING to the latest statistics in North America the number of members of the different Orders of Masonry, from the blue lodge to commandery, is as follows:—Master Masons 594,464, Royal Arch Masons 109,960, Knights Templars 70,154.

MIDDLE-AGE GRAND LODGES.—Thirteen years after the completion of the Strassburg Minster turret, Jacob Dotzinger, as Master of Masons employed on the Cathedral, in the year 1452, succeeded in uniting the existing lodges in Germany in a general or Grand Body, and in the year 1450, at Regensburg, the statutes and general regulations of the stonecutters or Masons were reduced to writing. In this constitution the authority of four Grand Lodges is recognized, viz.:—Strassburg, Cologne, Vienna, and Zurich, under whose several jurisdictions various subordinate lodges were recognized. Twenty-two lodges were dependent on the Grand Lodge of Strassburg, and were dispersed through Swabia, Hesse, Bavaria, Franconia, Westphalia, Thuringia, the Provincial territories bordering upon the Moselle, and as far as Italy. The Grand Lodge of Cologne exercised jurisdiction over cities along the Rhine. * * * Among the Grand Lodges of this age, that of Strassburg was pre-eminent, and was recognized as having supreme authority over all Masonic bodies in the empire. Moreover, the Master Builder, then at work on the Minster at Strassburg, was declared the Grand Master of the fraternity in Germany.—*Early History and Antiquities of Freemasonry.*

STRICT LAWS.—Among the standing orders and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, we find that the Grand Secretary advertizes the meetings of the Grand Lodge in the public newspapers; that every brother elected or appointed to office in the Grand Lodge, is furnished with a certificate to that effect, over

Grand Lodge seal; that the Grand Lecturer, for each visit to a consistent lodge, is allowed the sum of twenty-five dollars; that the Grand Secretary is required to issue the Proceedings in printed form, inside of sixty days from date of closing of the session; that no brother can be installed Master of a lodge, until he produces evidence from the Grand Lecturer that he is qualified to confer the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry; that lodges are forbidden to apply to the General Assembly of the State for charters; that no lodge is permitted to solicit aid from foreign jurisdictions, without permission from the Grand Master; that no (private) Masonic information can be furnished to the public press, except such as may be authorized by the Grand Master of Grand Lodge.—*Masonic Home Journal.*

THE MASON'S AIM.—Forms of the ritual and the externals of the profession, do not fill the requirements of Masonic life. We must look higher than all our symbols for the true import of our Masonic obligation. We must search the motives. They must be laid upon the conscience, and be measured by the highest sense of duty. Any candidate for these honors, at these sacred altars, should first desire to be a better man. Better innately. Better in every high and manly resolution. Better in every relationship to the brethren of the craft. Better in every aim as a part of the moral structure to which you belong, and of which you form a part. Bound more intimately than any other human society, we must all be honored in the success of one, or pained and injured by the failures of one.—*Knightsen.*

FORMS.—Some one has said, "Of what use are forms, seeing that, at times, they are empty? Of the same use as barrels, which at times, are empty too." In Masonry there are many forms, and all are empty unless the real, essential, underlying