

high title of the "Mother City of Freemasonry in America," the Order having been established there in the year 1730 under a charter from the Grand Lodge of England. Since then the Craft there had its ups and downs, but at present the Masonic Temple there exceeded in size that of King Solomon, and almost equalled it in grandeur of appointment. In the State of Pennsylvania alone there were no fewer than 376 lodges, with an aggregate membership of 32,232.

"The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" were next given by the croupier, and ably replied to by Bro. Robert Donaldson.

The toast of the evening then followed. "Our Mother Lodge." In commending this to the acceptance of the meeting, the chairman said that, not having been present at any of the former of these re-unions, he was of course ignorant of the ground travelled over by his predecessors, and therefore felt somewhat at a loss what to select as the subject of his remarks. However, as he took it, the object of their meeting was as much social as intellectual, and therefore he would offer them a few remarks, confident in that charitable judgement which ever looked kindly upon a brother's weakness. To trace the rise and progress of Freemasonry would occupy too much of their time, and would at best be but a reflex of historical facts. He might observe, however, that those who constructed its framework of brotherly love must not only have been imbued with sentiments of the noblest kind, but must have been cunning in devising the best means of the amelioration and elevation of the condition of the human race. In days when might was right, when the petty chief was lord of his people and acknowledged no superior save the stronger sword of his neighbor, when each great man held the issues of life and death in his hand and administered justice in the most rough and ready way, it must have been a far seeing intellect that devised a scheme which would soften and tame the savage instincts of man, and lead him to look upon his fellow man as something more than an instrument with which to work his pleasure. Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that no other influence, save that of pure religion only, has had so much effect as Freemasonry in subduing and preparing man for the gradual development of civilization. For centuries the Church partook as much of the character of a political as a religious institution; and while it exerted a powerful influence over the nobles, wherever its better part was recognized, it seems to have been but a subordinate part of its mission to inculcate brotherly love towards the poor down-trodden serfs whose hard fate it was to slave for Church and master alike. In Freemasonry there are no serfs. (Hear hear.) We treat noble and peasant, rich and poor, alike. With the spread of the Roman Catholic religion, Freemasonry found a footing in our own much-loved land. As the skillful hands of foreign craftsmen raised the noble piles that yet remain enduring monuments of their proficiency in architectural science, they spread around them an influence more enduring still than aught of stone and lime. Our Mother Lodge is, we believe, coeval with the building of Kilwinning Abbey, which dates from A. D. 1149. It is a proud thing assuredly to be the son of so venerable a mother—a mother, too, who through all these centuries has continued to exert a powerful influence for good throughout the length and breadth of the country. (Hear hear.) In many of the colonies, likewise, her devoted sons had raised her standard, and had fought the battle of "peace and good will" under her time-honoured banners. In concluding, the chairman referred to the condition of the lodge room of the Mother at Kilwinning, which was not altogether what it might or ought to be. He did not say it was a disgrace to them to have their Mother so housed, but he did say that it would be a great credit to them were they to erect a lodge room worthy of their cause, and of the venerable traditions attaching to the position of the Mother Lodge. (Hear hear.) A movement in this direction, however, could emanate only from Glasgow brethren, with whom were the sinews of war. For himself, he was willing to bear his share, and do all in his power to further so worthy an object. —*North British Mail*, December 11th.

TEMPLARISM IN WISCONSIN.

We take the following wise and eloquent words from the recent annual address of Grand Commander Sir R. E. Carlos P. Whitford of Wisconsin.

"Twenty-six years ago, the 12th of last June, the erection of our 'Temple' commenced with but ten workmen. To-day, we number nine hundred and ten, and peace, health, strength, and harmony prevail among all the Knights. The reason for this state of things is, that those valiant ones who marked out the designs upon our trestle-