

Jerusalem. Ancient ruins are observed there, and it lies close to an old Roman road. Another disputed site is that of Ramathaim Zophim, the birthplace of Samuel. Lieutenant Conder suggests a place for which he argues on the three grounds for identifications which he has observed, viz., the preservation of the ancient name, the nature of the surrounding country, and the order observed in the enumeration of Biblical names. He thinks he has found the three sites of Ebenezer, the "Stone of Help," and the Mizpah of Samuel.

YESTERDAY morning August 14th, Oriental Consistory, thirty-second degree, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, arrived from Chicago in this city, *en route* for Philadelphia. They number ninety-five members, under command of the following officers:—A Russell, Grand Minister of State; G. W. Bernard, Commander-in-chief; H. H. Bond, First Lieutenant; John O'Neil, Second Lieutenant; and E. P. Toby, Grand Chancellor. They left Chicago on Saturday evening, stopping one hour at Niagara Falls, and reaching Jersey City via Erie Railway, at seven o'clock yesterday morning. There they were met by a committee of about twenty members from the New Jersey Consistory, under command of D. B. Wyman. John H. Perry made them a welcoming address, which was briefly responded to by Mr. Gilbert W. Barnard. Then, escorted by the New Jersey Consistory representatives, they crossed to New York. At the twenty-third street depot they were received by committees from the Aurora Grata and Cosmopolitan Consistories of this city. Charles T. McClenachan, commander-in-chief of the Aurora Grata, gave the address of welcome, which was replied to by Mr. Barnard. A procession was formed, and the entire party, accompanied by an excellent band of music, marched to the Grand Central Hotel. The Oriental Consistory is the only one in the United States that is fully equipped, and they made a fine appearance in the line. Their uniform consisted of a military black suit, the coats being the same as those worn by Knights Templars; black hat, with red and white plume, and velvet baldric, handsomely trimmed with gold and silver braid.—*New York Herald*.

## MASONIC CHIT-CHAT.

MASONRY in America was first established in Philadelphia in 1730.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, was Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania in 1734 and 1749.

GRAND MASTER LAURIE, of Nova Scotia, has denied initiation to a candidate who could neither read nor write.

OMAHA is to have a new Masonic Temple. The total cost of the building will be in the neighborhood of \$15,000.

GRAND MASTER BARKLEY, of Mississippi, has decided that "a motion to lay on the table is unmasonic, and out of order."

THE Grand Master of Masons of Texas, ordered that charges be preferred against a brother who spoke in derision of the Bible and called it a book of lies. The brother was tried and expelled.

BRO. DANIEL COXE, was the first Grand Master of Masons in America, made so in 1730. He was Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey in 1734. His death occurred in 1739.

BRO. ROP MORRIS was born Aug. 31, 1818, and was initiated at Oxford, Miss., March 5, 1846. He was passed and raised on the same day, July 13, 1846. He has devoted more time to Masonry, and written more on that subject than any Mason living.

STEPHEN GIRARD at his decease bequeathed \$20,000 to the Masonic Fraternity for relief or charity, with instructions to let it lie at interest until it amounted to \$30,000, and after that use only the interest. The \$30,000 has been "in tact" for many years, and its interest is conscientiously applied to charity as directed.

SINCE 1913 the United Grand Lodge of England has had but four Grand Masters: the Duke of Sussex, Earl of Zetland, Marquis of Ripon, and Prince of Wales. The Duke of Sussex was Grand Master for 29 years; the Earl of Zetland, 26 years; the Marquis of Ripon, 4 years; and the Prince of Wales, up to the present time, 2 years.

BRO. ELLWOOD E. THORNE, P. G. M. of New York, has just been presented with an elegant service of silver, enclosed in a handsome rosewood case. Upon each piece is engraved: "M. W. Ellwood E. Thorne, from the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, October 2nd, 1876." The presentation was made by Bro. James E. Morrison, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, and was responded to by Bro. P. G. M. Thorne in cordial and feeling terms.