

It is indeed remarkable how young men will take advantage of circumstances. During our pleasant trip down the St. Lawrence river with four hundred Kansans, we noticed that as the boat started to shoot a rapid these young men insisted in having the young ladies stand on low stools and to guard against falling when a cruel wave would strike the boat, each young man encircled the waist of a young lady, the more cruel the wave the closer the encircling arm, and the boat often rode out on placid waters, the rapids far behind yet the arms were still doing duty and the young ladies oblivious of wave, rapids or calm. The young men and young ladies all said sweet are the rapids of the St. Lawrence.—*The Orient*.

To the fraternity of the great State of Pennsylvania belongs the credit of being the pioneer in establishing a purely Masonic home.

F. A. Reed, Past Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Virginia, and Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge, committed suicide August 23, at Alexandria by shooting himself through the head. The cause of the suicide was mental depression superinduced by ill health.

The *Boston Ideas*, in speaking of Boston Commandery, says it is the "oldest in the world," etc. This claim of antiquity is questioned by Sir E. T. Schultz, of Baltimore, in a letter to the *Kansas Freemason*, from which the following letter is taken: "Upon the evidence of the Archibald Dolbin letter which you quote in your letter, Maryland Commandery was instituted in the year 1790, and as no other commandery has produced proofs of as early a date of organization its membership boldly claim that it is the oldest existing body of Knights Templar in the world."—*Masonic Opinion, Washington*.

What is the length of the active Masonic life of the average brother? We have glanced over the subscribers' list of the *Freemason* for the past 14 years and find that the brother who aspires

to be a W. M. takes a living interest in craft work for only seven years, and that a brother who gets to be a D. D. G. M. or some minor G. L. office devotes about 10 years to Masonic matters. We find also that the average P. M. ceases to be an active worker after he has been two years out of the chair, and P. D. D. G. M.'s are only occasionally heard of after five. Of course, we are only stating what our lists prove and would like some better posted brother to take up this interesting study of Masonic statistics.—*Freemason*.

The Scottish Rite in this city and in Los Angeles is receiving large accessions this year from the more prominent and appreciative brethren. A much greater favor would result were the fees in California the same as in other States. The fees in California are \$180. Elsewhere they are \$80 to 110. Perhaps they are worth more here, but we think the era of small sales and big prices is antique.—*Trestle Board*.

The Minnesota Grand Lodge passed the following constitutional amendment: "Any Lodge which shall knowingly receive or retain any man who daily or habitually uses malt or distilled liquors or opium to excess, or who possesses any habit which has a tendency to impair one's mental or physical condition, or who has gained admittance through misrepresentation as to age or occupation, or is engaged or shall hereafter engage in the business of saloonkeeper or bartender, shall, on satisfactory proof, be deprived of its charter by the Grand Lodge, if in session, or by the Grand Master if not in session."

It is estimated that Masonry in North America receives in fees and dues about \$4,500,000 per annum.

FOREIGN.

The *Masonic Chronicle* of England names fifty members of the House of Commons who are Freemasons.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England receives a salary of \$5,000 a year.