

Republic, United States of Columbia, Chili, Central America, and a few others.

The Scottish Rite in its present shape of 33 degrees, was formed at Charleston, South Carolina, by Bros. Mitchell, Auld, Dalcho, and De la Motte, in 1802. A Scottish Rite of seven degrees was originated in France, in 1737, by the Chevalier Ramsay, which assumed great importance under the patronage of the Pretender, Charles Edward. It was rapidly extended by the aid of the Jesuits, and the partisans of the Stuart family, and the degrees were extended to the number of twenty-five in the year 1755. The name "Scottish" appears to have no other foundation for its assumption than the circumstance that Baron Ramsay came from Scotland, as the Rite was entirely unknown in Scotland, until it was introduced there from the United States.

There are 33 degrees. The first three are the ordinary Craft degrees, and are not worked by the Scottish Rite in countries where there is a Grand Lodge. The "Lodge of Perfection" confers the degrees from the fourth to the fourteenth. The fifteenth and sixteenth are conferred by a "Council of Princes of Jerusalem;" the seventeenth and eighteenth in a "Chapter of Rose Croix"; from the nineteenth to the thirty-second by a "Consistory of Princes of the Royal Secret"; and the thirty-third only by the Supreme Council. The last degree is administrative and executive, and it is only given to a limited number in each country.

9. RITE OF MISRAIM.—This Rite is practiced only in France. It was invented in 1806, by Bro. Lechangeur, who was refused admission to a Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, which was opened that year in Milan. He was vexed at his rejection, and fabricated this Rite to supersede, if possible, the Scottish Rite. The endeavor has proved totally unsuccessful. There are now only three Lodges

of this Rite, two of which are working in Paris and one in Tours, and it is apparently doomed to certain extinction before a great while.

It contains ninety degrees. The three first are the same as the York Rite. The others are mostly of a philosophical character, and contain a close imitation of the ancient Egyptian system of initiation into the mysteries. Its complications and diffuseness, however, will prevent this Rite from ever being of any practical usefulness.

10. RITE OF MEMPHIS.—This Rite is an extension of the Rite of Misraim to 96 degrees. It was manufactured in 1838, by Marconis de Negre, an expelled member of the Rite of Misraim. He founded Lodges in Paris and Belgium, and one in London, which are all now extinct. In 1860 he came to New York and opened a Lodge there. A few years ago, some little excitement was occasioned in the Western States, by an attempt to introduce this Rite there, but the movement carried with it its own condemnation, and the mercenary objects of its professors were too plainly visible to be successful. It may be considered as almost extinct.

Besides the above, we may mention a few other Rites or Orders of Masonry now practiced.

The *Scotch Philosophic Rite* of eighteen degrees, founded in 1776, is worked by some Lodges in Belgium.

The *Refined Scottish Rite*, or *Reformed Ancient Rite*, of five degrees, founded in 1782, as the successor of the Rite of Perfection, is also worked in Belgium.

The *Royal Order of Scotland*, of two degrees, is worked in Scotland, with Provincial Grand Lodges in several countries. Its membership is kept very select, and it claims to contain the only genuine Order of Knighthood in existence, connected with Freemasonry. It is purely Christian.

The *Prince Masons of Ireland* are also a very select and exclusive order. They have a Grand Chapter, and