

Philadelphia Encampment, No. 1, of Philadelphia, chartered February 14th, 1794.

The first Masonic periodical published in America was the *Freemasons' Magazine*, issued in Philadelphia, commencing in 1811.

The first American reprint of Dormott's "Ahiman Rezon," was that revised by Bro. William Smith, D. D., Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania, issued by authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, in 1782-3, and dedicated to Bro. George Washington.

In addition to this, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania chartered lodges in the territory of the following States of the American Union, before independent Grand Lodges were organized therein:—New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana and the Northwest Territory.

Who will venture to deny, after reading the foregoing record of facts, that Philadelphia is richly entitled to be styled the "Mother-city of Masonry in America?"

### WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

Freemasonry is a system of morality veiled in allegory. It is a society of men bound together by the strongest human ties. It is a benevolent institution to aid and assist each other through the journey of life, and to pay the last tribute of respect to a brother's memory at his departure from this to the other world, and it should protect and care for his family.

It teaches us to speak well, and not ill, of our brethren. It teaches Christianity, morality, honesty and virtue.

Its lessons teaches us how to be good loyal citizens, true friends, good fathers and faithful husbands. It teaches temperance in all things. It teaches us to have faith in God, hope in mortality and charity to all man-

kind. It teaches industry, economy and liberality. It teaches science, art and literature; it teaches all the sciences and recommends all the virtues; opposes all evils and embraces all that is good. It protects the youth and honors old age, and shields the innocent. It gives to the poor and comforts the distressed and lifts up the fallen.

It is a friend to the friendless; a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. It gives food to the hungry; clothing to the naked and medicine to the sick. It helps the traveller on his journey; it makes friends out of enemies; it has a language of its own that can be understood by all nations of the earth.

Such is Freemasonry. But all men who have taken the degrees do not live up to its teachings. We all admit neither are all men who belong to the church Christians. We have no more right to judge the Institution by the acts of its members than we have to judge a tree by the fruit it bears. The tree may be all right but the frost comes and destroys the blossoms or the worm may come and destroy the fruit before it is ripe. It's not the fault of the tree.

So with Freemasonry, the tree is sound but the branches wither and die or fail to bear fruit. Such a tree needs pruning, so it is with Freemasonry. The dead branches should be cut off and then the tree would bear good fruit.—*Detroit Freemason.*

THE Roman Catholic Bishop of Lima has sent an address to Monsignor Tovar, the minister of justice, protesting against the proposed Masonic Temple to be erected in Lima. The minister has replied in strong terms, deprecating the publicity given to this protest by the Bishop, but assuring him that in virtue of the constitution the government has not permitted, and never will permit, the erection of a Masonic Temple in Lima.