

6th December, 1867, gave notice of a motion for next monthly meeting to appoint a Committee "to prepare and submit to the Lodge" a Ritual for the proper regular and harmonious working of it, with the ultimate purpose of forming Lodges of instruction. The office bearers, Bro. A. Robertson, Master; Capt. D. Mackenzie, P. M.; Colin Morison, D. M.; Norman MacIver, S. M.; Malcolm Macdonald, S. W.; Hector M. L. Ross, J. W.; John Anderson, Secretary, and John Chisholm, Treasurer, were, along with Bro. Craig, appointed a Committee for this purpose.

Bro. Craig, who was a most enthusiastic member of the Lodge, and was deeply versed in Freemasonry, gave during the following year a series of five lectures on Masonic subjects: 1. An Introductory Lecture on the Nature of Freemasonry. 2. On the Apprentice Degree. 3. On the Fellow Craft Degree. 4. On the Master Mason Degree. The subject of the fifth lecture does not appear. "A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Bro. Craig for his able and interesting lectures, and for the trouble he has taken in getting up the subjects of the course. On a suggestion from one of the members, Bro. Craig kindly agreed to permit the Course of Lectures to be sent to the Freemasons' magazine for publication." Bro. Craig became Master of the Lodge in 1871, and occupied the chair for three years. He held during his term of office regular instruction Lodges, alternating Lodge working with readings from Masonic publications, and by his efforts raised the ceremonial to a high standard of excellence.

On 5th June, 1868, "The R. W. M. proposed the memory of the late Bro. Lord H. P. Brougham, who died at Cannes on the 14th of May last, in the ninetyeth year of his age, and who was initiated in this Lodge on 20th August, 1799; and in eloquent terms alluded to His Lordship's abilities as a lawyer, a statesman and an author, also to his laudable efforts to better the condition of his less fortunate fellow men.

For St. John's Day of the same year Bro. Robert Wilson, Gas Manager, composed a song, which was set to music, and sung with much taste and feeling by Bro. William Macleod, and the appreciation of the Brethren was so great that, on motion of Bro. Wm. Craig, Bro. Wilson was unanimously appointed "Poet Laureate to the Lodge." About this time various paintings and portraits were presented to the Lodge by several generous Brethren. One of these paintings represents the great capture of whales in Stornoway Harbour in the year 1859, and was handed over to the Lodge by Bro. Donald Munro, Chamberlain of the Lews. Several portraits were also donated by Bro. Malcolm Macdonald, among them a full-sized portrait of the late Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Bro. John Whyte Melville.

1869.

A communication was received upon 7th May, 1869, from Bro. Geo. Mackenzie, Antigonish, Nova Scotia (who left the island of Lews in 1811), making enquiries as to the date of his own initiation, and those of Lord Brougham and others. The Secretary was instructed to reply to Bro. Mackenzie's enquiries. A reply from this Brother was read before the Lodge on the 3rd September, and is certainly very remarkable. Bro. Mackenzie thanks the Lodge for its communication to him informing him of the date of his initiation in Fortrose Lodge, 26th February, 1798, seventy-one years before. In this year, 1869, the Brethren celebrated the Centenary of Lodge Fortrose with a procession, followed by a supper.

1871.

At a meeting held on 3rd February, 1871, a communication from Mr. D. Munro, Chamberlain, was read, suggesting "that the appearance, accommodation and locality of the Masonic Hall of Stornoway, compared with the Town Halls in places of less note, was not worthy of the age, and that a more central position would be the Fen between Mr. John McKenzie's and Mr. James McKenzie's premises on Cromwell street, otherwise better known as "Crichton's Fen," in the event of an Architect whom he expected by the first steamer from the South, fixing upon the Masonic Buildings as a suitable site for the "Nicholson's Institution," and should the members of the Lodge and those interested in "Crichton's Fen" be disposed to sell and purchase. On