

taken place in Canada in the last 100 years :

January 8, 1802.—“That as Brother Rosseaux is going to Niagara the first *staving*, he shall be authorized to purchase one piece of blue ribbon and $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of broad cloth for the use of Lodge No. 10.

Niagara, now a sleepy old town, was a long way off then, and an immensely important trading point. In those days the brethren were very fond of assessing fines. They passed and enforced a law for collecting fines from brethren who appeared without clothing—that is, aprons. They fined a brother Aikman one shilling for not putting a handle to the seal of the Lodge; and the treasurer, at the meeting in July, 1803, was assessed “4s, New York currency,” because he failed to show up with keys, and the brethren had to commit the grave irregularity of going into the lodge room “unclothed.” Then on January 14th, 1803, there is this minute :

That Brother J. T. Rosseaux be fined 1s. if he does not bring a *bibel* to the lodge next night.

Whether the *bibel* was or was not brought, at a subsequent meeting, the treasurer is ordered to buy “one small copy of the Scriptures.” On December 12th, 1800, the lodge was officially informed of the death of ex-President Washington, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and went into mourning for six months as a consequence. These U. E. loyalists did not like Washington’s political principles; but they honored him for his Masonic career. As he died on December 14th, 1799, it took just a year all but two days to convey the official information to the pioneer Canadian Lodge. When bad news travelled so slowly, at what a snail’s gallop must good news have reached those sturdy early settlers!

We have room but for a few more extracts, and they relate to the liquor question. They were given by Mr Charlton, the well-known railway manager, in an admirable address on the early history of Barton Lodge, delivered in Hamilton in April, 1869. One

hundred years ago the consumption of alcoholic liquors was universal. Teetotalism was then virtually an unknown principle, and at all festive gatherings whiskey, brandy and rum flowed as freely as water. Indeed, from the supplies shown to have been laid in by this ancient and honorable organization it is made pretty clear that *aqua pura* was pretty generally tabooed. We find in the same records that on November 14th, 1800, “Bro. Aikman was fined 4s. for not furnishing the lodge with liquo. agreeable to the meetings of last lodge night.”

Citizen Aikman seems to have been the first liquid agent for the Craft, for three years previously there is this entry :

That the liquors for the use of the Lodge shall be furnished with the money belonging to the lodge, by the barrel or cask, and that said liquor be deposited with Bro. S. W. Aikman.

On July 7th, 1798, there is this tell-tale resolution :

That four gallons of rum be provided for the use of the lodge; Bro. W. M. to furnish the same and the keg to contain it. That Bro. Rosseaux furnish the lodge with one barrel of spirits and one of wine at prime cost.

February 8th, 1805 :

That Brother Showers furnish the lodge with ten gallons of whiskey against the lodge next night.

March 11th, 1808 :

Bro. Abel Land agrees to furnish the lodge with whiskey at 5s. per gallon.

The price here given demonstrates the cause for the popularity of whiskey as a liquid. It cost less for a gallon in those days than has to be paid for a bottle now, and if traditions are to be credited, the liquid of our grandfathers was infinitely superior to the whiskey put upon the market in this age of adulteration. In the midst of this “great sea of liquor” the investigation of the minutes of Barton Lodge meets with this solitary island of solids :

That Bro. G. King furnish the lodge with bread and cheese.

A fact which has caused historian Charlton to exclaim with Falstaff’s Prince Hal :

O, monstrous! but one half-penny worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack!