

THE CHARTER OF LODGE FORTROSE.

The following is a verbatim copy of the Charter of Lodge Fortrose, No. 108, Stormoway, Scotland, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Scotland:—

To all and sundry to whose knowledge these presents shall come, greeting in God everlasting, whereas upon application to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Kingdom of Scotland, by Doctor John M. Caskill, Archibald Smith, John Maciver, John Reid, John Wylie, Murdoch McKenzie, senior, Normand MacLeod, Colin Mackenzie and Neil MacLeod, of Stormoway, in the Island of Lewis. Setting forth that they had been entered Free and Accepted Masons in different regular Lodges in Scotland, and that they were now by course of their business confined within the Island of Lewis, where there is no regular Lodge, for which reason they were prevented from meeting in a body and using the other privileges of Freemasons, and therefore praying it might please the Grand Lodge to Constitute and Erect them into a Regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, by the Name and Designation of Fortrose Lodge, Stormoway, and grant them a Charter of Erection to the above effect, with the usual powers, which Petition having been considered by the Grand Lodge, and they being satisfied that three of the Petitioners are Master Masons, do authorize the underwritten patent of Constitution to be Expedite in favour of the above-named Brethren.

Know ye, therefore, that the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master of Scotland, and the Grand Lodge thereof aforesaid, have constituted, erected and appointed and hereby constitute, erect and appoint the Worshipful Brethren above named and their successors full power and authority to meet, assemble and convene as a Regular Lodge, and to admit and receive Apprentices, Pass Fellow Crafts and Raise Master Masons upon payment of such composition for support of their Lodge as they shall see convenient, and to elect and choose Masters, Wardens and other officers annually or otherways as they shall have occasion. Recommending to the Brethren aforesaid and their successors to Reverence and Obey their Superiors in all things lawful and honest as becomes the honour and harmony of Masonry. The said Brethren, by accepting of this present Charter, becoming faithfully bound and engaged not to desert their said Lodge so constituted, nor upon any pretext whatever to make any separate or schismatical meetings without consent of their Master and Wardens for the time, nor to collect money or other funds separate from the common stock of their Lodge to the prejudice of the poor thereof. They and their successors in all time coming being obliged to Obey, and pay all due regard to the Acts, Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Lodge already made or hereafter to be made for the Utility, Welfare and Prosperity of Masonry in general, and to pay and perform whatever is stipulated or commanded of them for the support of the Dignity of the Grand Lodge. And to record in their Books, which they are hereby appointed to keep, this present Charter of Constitution and Erection with their own Regulations and By-laws and their whole procedure from time to time as they shall occur. To the end the same may be more easily seen and observed by their Brethren, subject always to the Review of the Grand Lodge. And also the Brethren aforesaid and their successors are hereby required punctually to attend the whole general meetings and quarterly communications of the Grand Lodge by their representatives being the Master and Wardens for the time, or by lawful proxies in their name provided such proxies be Master Masons or Fellow Crafts of some established Lodge holding of the Grand Lodge, to the end they may Act and Vote in the Grand Lodge, and be duly Certiorate of the proceedings thereby, declaring their precedence in the Grand Lodge to commence from the date hereof, and to the end