

Marks then in use do not fulfil the modern conditions. They consist of letters—generally two—which may be formed of either curved or straight lines, and do not necessarily have any connection with the initials of the owner. e.g., Alex. (Z.Y.) Maciver, Angus (A.C.) McKay, H. G. Brougham (C.D.). After 1798 all traces of Mark working disappear, till revived some fourteen years ago, in 1891.

After the resuscitation of the Lodge in 1797 the Brethren again changed their domicile, as the following extract testifies: "Mr. William Morison, proprietor of the Mason Lodge Room at Stornoway, agrees to lett the said Room to the Society of Freemasons at Stornoway for one year full and complete from the date hereof, there to hold all meetings and to transact all their business, with the further privilege of holding any other publick meeting that may be deemed necessary, and that shall be sanctioned by the consent or concurrence of the said Society." Then follows a proviso that the Room is not to be let to teachers of dancing, that the "Rabble" and all disorderly persons may be excluded.

"The Committee of Freemasons appointed for that purpose, having approved and agreed to the conditions above specified, and become bound to pay to the above said Mr. Wm. Morison the sum of nine pounds sterling of yearly rent, the above minute is duly subscribed place and date as above.

"WILLIAM MORISON.

"MALCOLM McNEILL, D. M.

1801.

At a meeting held on March 2nd, 1801, "The Right Worshipful Deputy Master submitted to the consideration of the Brethren a proposal made by Mr. William Morison, proprietor of the house occupied by them as a Lodge, and the same having undergone a full and elaborate discussion as well on this as previous meetings, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Morison's proposal be immediately accepted, to contribute to which the Brethren present paid up the sums voluntarily subscribed by them, and as it appeared that the funds of the Lodge were not adequate to the sum immediately demanded by Mr. Morison it was agreed that the deficiency should be borrowed, and the Office Bearers were accordingly empowered to do so."

The exact details of the proposal made by Mr. Morison do not appear from the Minutes. From the Cash Book, however, we can gather that he offered the building to the Lodge for a sum of £600, £300 to be immediately paid, which offer was accepted. The cash at the disposal of the Lodge at this time amounted to £234, so that the required sum had to be raised by borrowing from the Bank of Scotland and from the Friendly and Incorporated Trades Societies. The last instalment was paid to Mr. Morison on 27th December, 1805, when the building finally became the property of the Lodge.

The Freemasons' Hall, as it was called, was situated in Cromwell street, upon the site of the present British Linen Bank, and being at that time the only Public Hall in Stornoway, was consequently in great request for dances and assemblies, which were of frequent occurrence, as Stornoway seems to have been a rather gay little town in these days. In this connection the following letter may be quoted. It was presented to the Lodge by Mr. John Ross, who styles himself "Town Musician":

"Unto the R.W.M. of the Fortrose Lodge, Stornoway. My acting as musician for the town, to whose patronage I am indebted for my support, induces me to apply to you for a reduction of the charge exacted by the members of the Mason Lodge for the use of their Room (being 25 shillings per night), which sum, deducted from the proceeds of a Benefit Ball, would leave a very small reversion in my hands. As I intend having a few Benefit Balls during the season, would consider myself highly obliged by their attention to the above.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant.

"JOHN ROSS, Town Musician."

The first record of an affiliation which we have in detail is dated 6th February, 1798: "Bro. Donald Fraser appeared at the door, and craved to be ad-