

somewhat quaint, and sounds oddly to modern ears, yet it is evident that our brethren of those days were well up in Masonic lore, and strictly enforced the rules and regulations of the craft. There are several instances recorded where brethren had been suspended for months for un-Masonic conduct, the most of whom, however, were glad to come back again into the Masonic fold.

This is the ancient way of entering the fact that a Brother had been passed to the degree of Fellowcraft:—"Bro. —, being desirous of *having his wages raised*, was examined, found worthy, and crafted in due form." Perhaps amongst our ancestors this was the origin of the "strikes" for wages which, among modern working Masons, are now so frequent and so disastrous.

As has already been remarked the utmost good feeling prevailed between the civilian members of our Lodge and our military and naval brethren. Of this the minutes furnish many instances, of which the following letter written to the Lodge, December 12, 1819, by Lieut. Hamilton, H. M. S. *Active*, and will prove interesting, addressed to the Master of St. John's Lodge:—

"Will you have the kindness to convey to the members of the Lodge, to which I have the honor to belong, my sincerest regards for their welfare. * * * I conclude with the words of my gallant captain 'that although glad to go home I feel sorry at leaving,' so my kind friends, who for years have paid me that attention, which not even time can blot from my memory. May God bless you all and prosper all your zealous endeavors in protecting so glorious a cause as Masonry, is the earnest prayer of your sincere friend and brother,

"J. HAMILTON."

The meeting at which this letter was read seems to have been unusually well attended, the sum of £40 9s. 8½d. having been received for dues. We may here mention that the dues for members were 3s. each night and 5s. for each quarterly communication.

In these days there seemed to be the same objection to *third term* officials as has been against General Grant, for we find from the minutes of that meeting that Bro. Wood, who had occupied the Senior Warden's chair for the past two years, expressed a wish for a third term, but it was decided that no Brother could be a Warden for more than two years.

There is abundant material in the minutes of the old Lodge to write a book, and the difficulty is to condense within the limits of an ordinary paper. The transactions of succeeding years must therefore be generalized.

In 1820 a rather notable event occurred in the history of St. John's. In that year

the Lodge was suspended by the Provincial Grand Lodge, in consequence of a difficulty about the election of a Grand Master. The rival candidates were John Albro, and the Hon. Richard John Uniacke. Brother Albro was elected, and the St. John's Lodge protested, on various grounds, as to the illegality of the election, and refused to take part in the installation of officers. The Grand Lodge, which sustained Bro. Albro, suspended the Lodge, which appealed to the Grand Lodge of England. St. John's Lodge continued to hold its regular meetings, but did no work until the matter was finally amicably arranged, and the Lodge resumed harmonious relations with the Grand Lodge. An amusing feature connected with this transaction was the election of Sir James Kempt (who had just been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia) to be Grand Master. This was proposed by Bro. McSwiney, W.M. of St. John's Lodge, by way of solving the difficulty. He was solemnly and duly elected, and a committee of the Grand Lodges appointed to wait on him on his arrival in Nova Scotia. His Excellency received them very graciously, and thanked them for the honor conferred upon him, which, however, he was obliged to decline for the simple reason that *he had never been initiated into the mysteries of Masonry!*

In the year 1869, an event of great importance to Masonry occurred in Nova Scotia, and that was the union of all the Lodges holding under English and Scottish jurisdiction, under the one Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, a consummation which has resulted in great benefits to Masonry generally throughout the Province. The most important event, which has occurred of later years, was the amalgamation of Scotia Lodge, No. 22, with St. John's.

This forms one of the most interesting periods in the history of St. John's Lodge. Since the union in 1869, many prominent and enthusiastic Masons have felt that the objects of Masonry would be carried out better, and the welfare of the craft more surely promoted, were the number of Lodges in Halifax reduced by amalgamation.

To Scotia Lodge, No. 22, belongs the honor of inaugurating the movement, and the credit of disinterestedness in being willing to merge its identity in that of another Lodge for the benefit of the craft.

In the beginning of 1873, Bro. Lorenzo A. Barnaby, then a member of the Scotia, introduced to the brethren of his own Lodge the subject of amalgamation, which resulted in a resolution, at the regular Communication in April of that year, to the effect that it was desirable that the Scotia Lodge, No. 22, do amalgamate with the St. John's Lodge, No. 2, being carried unanimously. A copy of this resolution