

CHAPTER XVIII.

"Relics and Records."

St. Andrew's is the proud owner of many interesting and valuable records and relics, accumulated during its long history. The minute books are full of references to presentations made to the Lodge, but unfortunately there has not always been the care and attention bestowed on their safe keeping that there has been in recent years and some have disappeared. The loss of several minute books has been the cause of our losing the record of the presentation of several articles still in our possession, concerning which we have only unreliable tradition.

The most famous of these relics of antiquity presented to the Lodge is a Punch Bowl inscribed with the arms of the "Ancients," and the "No. 155." It was originally presented to the Lodge about 1800 by H. R. H. Edward Duke of Kent, probably as a mark of esteem for the Craft in the Province, St. Andrew's being made its trustee because of its seniority. Why or how it came to leave the Lodge is not clear, but presumably it was thought better because of its value, to place it in the safekeeping of others, and it was lost sight of. In 1873, Bro. William A. Hesson presented it to the Lodge again, stating that it had been placed in his hands twenty-five years previously by an aged P. M. who had cautioned him to preserve it with care.

Another relic of the past is a pair of decanters bearing the number 188. A. H. Crowe in an address before G. L. in 1872 (Proc. p. 44) refers to these decanters as follows:—"A number of the Brethren having been digging in the rubbish, presented the result of their labors, consisting of several relics of antiquity; amongst others, a pair of decanters marked with the square and compasses and the number of the Lodge; which from their history, presented by some of the older members, had been in former days regular monthly contributors; even the Grand Master himself had to acknowledge the soft impeachment of having frequently drawn upon their resources. They having very generously served the Lodge for a number of years at last fell into disrepute and were expelled for unmasonic conduct.(1832). They are