

Brethren of the Lodge, presented the Immediate Past Master, Bro. Hector Smith, with a Past Master's massive gold jewel, suitably inscribed." Although the presentation of a jewel to the Past Master is customary in many lodges, this is the first instance we find of such presentation in the records of the Fortrose Lodge.

At a Funeral Lodge held on 26th December, 1900, "The R. W. M. made a feeling allusion to the late Brother Edward Tucker, a Past Master of Fortrose Lodge, whose sudden death occurred on Sunday last, 25th inst. The R. W. M. stated that the deceased Brother had expressed a wish to receive the last Masonic Burial Rites, and that he, with Bros. H. Smith, I. P. M., and W. A. Ross, Secretary, had called upon Brother Tucker's widow and intimated on behalf of the Brethren of Lodge Fortrose that they would pay their last tribute of respect to their lamented Brother by attending the funeral to Sandwick Cemetery on Friday, 28th inst. The following minute of condolence was sent to Mrs. Tucker and family: "The Fortrose Lodge of Freemasons desires to express the universal feeling of deep regret aroused among the Brethren by the death of Past Master Tucker, which took place with such alarming suddenness on Sunday, the 25th ult. The late Brother had occupied the Master's Chair for the longest unbroken period in the Lodge's history, and had ruled the Lodge and performed the Ceremonies with a grace, tact and impressiveness which was perfection itself. By his strict integrity of character, uprightness of life, forbearance and humility, he gave the Brethren an example of adherence to the great moral precepts he inculcated, and won the respect and affection of every member of the Order. The profound sympathy of the Lodge is with his bereaved widow and children in their affliction."

On 28th December "The Brethren assembled at the Hall at 1 o'clock p.m., and having formed into procession, proceeded to St. Peter's Church, where a short service was held. Thereafter the Brethren took possession of the remains of the late Brother Tucker and accompanied them to Sandwick Cemetery, where they were interred with Masonic Honours."

1900.

The Brethren did not have an opportunity of receiving Bro. Ross Robertson within Lodge Fortrose till August 20th, 1900, when a large meeting of the Lodge assembled to greet their distinguished visitor and welcome him to his Ancestor's Mother Lodge. The Lodge being opened, the R. W. M. introduced Bro. Ross Robertson, Past Grand Master of Canada, who thereupon gave a most interesting and educative lecture on the origin of Modern Speculative Masonry, and an account of Masonry in Canada, with particular reference to the Tramp Mason. He also intimated his desire to become an affiliated member along with his son, Bro. John Sinclair Robertson, of Ionic Lodge, No. 25, G. R. O.

These petitions were regularly submitted to the Lodge on 2nd November, and were heartily and unanimously granted.

1901.

During this year the Main Hall, the Ante Rooms and Janitor's Rooms were painted and decorated, the contracts of Bros. Samuel Ranger and Angus Macleod being accepted for the Main Hall and Janitor's Rooms respectively, with that of Brother A. Bain for renewing the gas fittings. These Brethren executed their various contracts in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, and were awarded a vote of thanks by the Lodge. Various other repairs upon the building were carried out, and additions made to the Lodge Furniture, at a total cost for the year of about £150.

1904.

On Saturday, 27th February, 1904, the Brethren met in the Lodge Room and thereafter attended the funeral of the late Brother P. S. Macleod, Substitute Master. A party of eighteen Brethren accompanied the remains to the place of interment in the Island of Little Bernera, and paid the last tribute of Masonic respect. At a meeting held on 4th March, 1904, "On the motion