

send the name to the "general committee" (composed of representatives of all the town lodges) for investigation. If the candidate's name has already been before that committee the secretary announces the opinion of the committee and a ballot is taken (possibly for the second time) and if "clear" the candidate is frequently introduced and initiated, probably along with others. One degree a night is an evening misspent; the Lodge is "changed" and other candidates are "passed"; and there are numerous instances of all three degrees being "worked" on the same evening.

For example, on Feb. 7th, 1797 the Lodge opened on the First degree, and conferred the E. A. on a candidate, closed and opened on the Second degree, conferring the F. C. degree on another candidate, and then (evidently because it was too soon to go home!) closed and opened on the third degree conferring the M. M. degree on still another member. The same sort of evening was spent on June 17th of the same year when three candidates received the first degree; two, the second; and three, the third. Again and again the ceremonies of two degrees were gone through. Evidently the members were bachelors, or were not afraid of "curtain lectures."

Candidates not infrequently received two degrees the same evening, "being about to leave the Province" and there were several cases where all three degrees were conferred on the candidate on the same night. It need hardly be said that there was nothing irregular in this practice, which was universal in Halifax and throughout the Province.

As an example, we may refer to the records of Dec., 1791, on which day Noble Barron received the three degrees, and on Dec. 10th of the same year John Bridges Upton received his second and third both on the same day.

Neither of these gentlemen were leaving the Province, but were probably hurrying matters so as to be able to participate in the St. John's day dinner.

Now and then we find a petitioner recommended by a member of another Lodge. For example, in 1795, ——— Bates or Betts, was recommended by Bro. McHerrin, of Lodge No. 9, Chester.

The minutes occasionally record that some brother was "granted a certificate to enable him to pass the Royal Arch" for that degree was under the system of the "Ancients" under the Blue Lodge jurisdiction.