

this officer of all power. There is actually neither executive nor legislative authority attached to his office, and when he does act, it is only at the command of the Grand Master. The deputies for the several districts are placed in a very different position; they have a large amount of executive functions devolving upon them, and are the true deputies of the Grand Master, being directly appointed by him, he having first ascertained the choice of the lodges as to whom they would prefer. We therefore contend that the office of Deputy Grand Master should never have been made elective, and probable would never have been so but for the reason clearly enough to be deduced from the first clause "of Deputy Grand Master" in our book of constitution.

On 3rd February, 1820, "the petition of — — having been read a second time, the committee were called upon to report as to the character which the applicant had, Brother Fearn mentioned that he understood from the neighbours that the petitioner was a quarrelsome man; the W. M. then ordered that he should be balloted for, which being done, the W. M. from the chair declared that he was rejected, the petition was then ordered to be returned." Again on the 4th May, with regard to another candidate "the unanimous opinion of the body present, appointed last regular communication to investigate the character of — —, who prayed to become a member of this lodge, having given their report, it was put to a ballot, and was unanimously rejected." From the wording of this minute, which is very loosely strung together, it is not quite plain whether the report or the candidate was rejected; we assume however that it was the candidate. Again on the 5th September, "the petition of — — was read a second time and the committee were ordered to report what information they had obtained. The committee reported that he was unworthy; the lodge proceeded to ballot when he was rejected." We conclude from these extracts, that it was customary for the committee of investigation to report verbally in open lodge, and although we can hardly recommend this course to be pursued, yet it is evident that the committee did their duty honestly.

On the 7th December, of this same year, 1820, "It was resolved that the sum of seven pounds be paid out of the funds of the lodge towards the expenses incurred at laying the foundation stone of the Presbyterian Church." This is the only record in the lodge book of that interesting ceremony and which must have taken place but a very short time previously, as Brother Sellars, who is still alive and well, and with whom the writer had a conversation but a few days since on the subject, distinctly remembers having on that occasion performed the duties of tyler during the absence from sickness of that officer, he being the youngest Master Mason present, and by the lodge register, Brother Sellars was made a Master Mason on the 2nd November, only one month