

derision they called the "Moderns." The "Ancients" existed without a Grand Master until 1772, when they chose the Duke of Athole to that office, he being at that time Grand Master elect of Scotland; he was succeeded in 1813 by the Duke of Kent, while his brother, the Duke of Sussex, was Grand Master of the "Moderns." Under the two royal brothers the Lodge of Reconciliation was held in London, and on the 27th December, 1813, the two bodies were consolidated into the "United Grand Lodge of England."

We have been thus explicit in respect to the different Grand Lodges, because very many in this province suppose that the Ancient York, or Athole Grand Lodge, was that which met at York from time immemorial. This is a mistake; but no doubt the name was adopted for the purpose of misleading. The Athole Grand Lodge never met except in London: while the York Assembly was never held out of York, and never claimed nor exercised the functions of a Grand Lodge, as now understood.

Returning to the minutes from this long digression. We notice under date 16th June, 1796, "A request made by Bro. Dawson to have certificate from the Lodge; the reason why demanded, is that he cannot live in peace with his wife if he attend the Craft, which the Lodge is to take into consideration."

On the 24th "The Lodge opened in first degree at half-past ten o'clock, and was called off to the third degree. Joined by Bros. Coffin and Brass of St John, then proceeded in procession to church in due form, and received the benefit of an excellent sermon from the Rev. M. Stuart. Returned from church, and it was resolved that the thanks of this body be wrote by the Secretary for his most excellent discourse." On the 4th Aug., "Bro. Darley informs the body that Bro. — has violated his obligation as a Master Mason." The brother was summoned to attend next meeting, he does not appear to have obeyed the summons, and no further mention is found in the minutes of the matter; but a foot note informs us that the brother referred to has "committed a robbery on Nathan Curtis." From the minutes of Prov. G. Lodge, it would seem that the offending brother was expelled from the Craft. On the 3rd Nov., "Received two lectures from the W. M. (Sparham) on the first degree." Frequent notices appear on the minutes of lectures having been given in the different degrees by the Master or some other brother. This is a custom much neglected in the present day. We well remember in our earlier days of Masonry, now a quarter of a century since, when the Master would commence with the Secretary, and go round the Lodge, asking questions at each brother in succession. Nothing conduces more to the prosperity of the Lodge than a good lecture; it need not be a long one, but should always be to the point. And the old method of question and answer in open lodge, was perhaps the best method possible of attaining to a correct knowledge of the ritual. How many members of our Lodges know next to nothing of our sublime symbology? And how many Masters are there who are content if they can get through the ritual by rote, and who never see or understand anything beyond the allegory or symbol?

It is amusing to witness in these minutes the

singular mixture of laxity, and strictness of discipline which prevailed among our predecessors. On the 1st Dec., "Move made by Bro. McLeod to call Bro. Smith to make an apology to the Lodge for leaving so abruptly. Bro. Gates declared that Bro. Smith had informed him he was going away; and Bro. Smith further says that he had wrote two letters to Bro. Fitch during the time he was absent, which Bro. Fitch says he never received. The body in consideration of this assertion admits him as a member once more." The very next sentence is, "Bro. George passed a move made by Bro. McLeod, that the officers now in office remain six months longer—carried by a shew of hands." This was in direct opposition both to the constitution and their own by-laws, which direct that they shall be chosen by ballot.

On the 4th Feb., 1797, "Bro. McLeod presented a petition from Bro. Robert Brown, who craves the Lodge to lend him twelve dollars, as a Mr. Mozier's oxen eat his wheat, he being an old residenter of the place, and did not make himself known to the Lodge or any member that he was a brother till he craved their assistance." To this modest request of Mr. Brown, who, like many of the drones of the present day, keeps himself aloof from his duties until he wants assistance, the Lodge very properly, but sarcastically, replied "that Bro. Darley should acquaint Bro. Brown that we cannot comply with his request, being an old residenter, and never informed the body he was a brother." At the next regular meeting, (March) "A few of the brothers met; but the key of the box not being brought, and no particular business to do, the Worshipful thought that it might be dispensed with till the next night." On the 6th May, "Bro. Darley proposed Charles McDonald, a candidate, and to be entered to-night, it being so high St. John's Day, which was confirmed by a shew of hands, was accordingly done and entered." "A motion made by Bro. McKay that Bro. Darley takes the chair for the ensuing six months." No less than two unconstitutional acts in one night. Such laxity of proceedings is always sure to lead to evil consequences; and as we proceed we will find this to be so. Bro. Darley was installed as Master on the 24th June; Sparham, G. S.; Fitch, S. D.; and Plummer, J. D. "The Senior and Junior Wardens to remain as they were for the next six months." On the 5th Oct., "Bro. Simpson repeats his charge, and the W. M. thanks Bro. J. McDonald for his attention to Bro. Simpson, who was passed to the second degree." Shewing that care was taken that a candidate should be properly instructed before advancement. "A motion made by Bro. McKay that a bolt should be put on the outside of the door, seconded by the W. M." The record does not shew in what relation the Master would stand to the bolt; nor why it was on the outside instead of the inside of the door. Could it be that it was to keep the brethren from coming out without the consent of the Tyler, instead of that of the Master?—The Lodge was then "closed till the ensuing night." On the ensuing night, 6th Oct., "Bro. Clark made an acknowledgment in behalf of Lodge No. 7, for Bro. Dowzenburgh, for his irregularity the last night in abusing Bro. McLeod, and using very approbrious language, calling him rascal, and threatening to kick him. After discussing their affairs, closed till the first Thursday in the ensuing month." Perhaps