

army and navy on this station who were made Masons in St. John's Lodge, some of whom, no doubt, distinguished themselves in the Peninsular battles; but as the records have been lost, we have no means of tracing even their names. The minutes and proceedings of the Lodge from 1815 to 1820, from the years 1830, '34, '35, '48, '49, '51 and '52, are also missing, and it does not reflect much credit upon the honesty of those who, having obtained possession of them for some purpose, have failed to restore them to their rightful owners.

Notwithstanding these breaks in the roll of her members, the books of St. John contain the names of men celebrated in their day and generation, of whom any people and any country may well be proud. Illustrious soldiers, sailors, lawyers, doctors, statesmen, merchants, orators and Divines, men whose names are written high up in the scroll of fame, who first saw the lights of Masonry under the banner of St. John; of these foremost in point of time, as he was afterwards foremost in gallant deeds of arms on the battle field, comes Captain John Moore, of H. M. 82nd Regiment—afterwards Sir John Moore of Corunna—who was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry at an emergent meeting of St. John's Lodge, held at the Golden Ball on the 12th March, 1781. On the subsequent brilliant career of this brave soldier, during the Peninsular War, until, at the fatal battle of Corunna, he "foremost fighting fell," it is unnecessary to enlarge. It is recorded in the page of history, and his deeds are familiar to us as household words. We all recollect the circumstances of his funeral—at the dead hour of night, on the battle field, with the foe before him and behind, his own little army silently and sullenly retreating to their ships. The incidents connected with his tragic death have been immortalized in verse, of which a few stanzas are here given:—

"Not a sound was heard, not a funeral note,
As his corpse to the ramparts we hurried,
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot
O'er the grave of the hero we buried.

We buried him darkly, at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning,
By the straggling moonbeams misty light,
And the lanterns dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his head,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we bound him,
But he like a warrior taking his rest,
With his martial cloak around him.

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Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory,
We carved not a line, we raised not a stone,
But we left him alone in his glory.

In connection with these interesting reminiscences, we have great pleasure in stating that Bro. John McGregor, barrister, of this city, himself a Royal Arch Mason,

and an old member of the Virgin Lodge, has kindly presented St. John's Lodge with a fine portrait of Sir John Moore, which you now see before you, and which will be kept in the Lodge room as a valued memento of our distinguished brother.

The early record of St. John's contain the names of many other prominent men, who were identified with the early history of Halifax, and who, having in the various stations of life faithfully performed their duty to God and their country, have gone down to honored graves, and who, though long since dead, have left behind them their "footprints on the sands of time."

Space will only allow a few of those to be enumerated; some of whom have their descendants still living amongst us. Such men as Richard John Uniacke (the elder and founder of the family) then Attorney General, 1785; Rear Admiral Provost Wallis (1785); John Haliburton, M. D., father of the late Chief Justice Sir Brenton (1786); John Creighton, Joseph Prescott, Matthew Richardson (1790); Thomas Akins, Hon. Enos Collins, Croften Uniacke, Thomas L. DeWolf (1810.) Of Divines there were, Rev. J. Wingate Weeks (1781), who preached the first Masonic sermon in old St. Paul's Church on St. John the Baptist day, 1782; Rev. Thomas Shreve (1784); Rev. B. G. Gray, D. D., (1813); Rev. Isaac Temple, R. S. V., (1820); Rev. John T. Twining, D. D., Garrison Chaplain; Rev. Ambrose Owen, M. A., (1839); and others of later date.

Of lawyers and doctors there were plenty. Dr. Unum, R. N., (1783); Dr. Geddes (1784); John Stanser, Barrister, (1785); Edward Irish, Barrister, (1786); William Q. Sawers, Judge Inferior Court, (1814); Charles Twining, Barrister, (1820); and a host of others. St. John's was the Lodge which was favored by the military and navy in these days, and there are many names of both branches of the service on the books. Amongst others in 1841, Captain Parker, 64th Regt., a native of Lawrencetown, N. S., who gloriously fell at the attack on the Redan, having for his companion in death, as he had been in arms, our gallant Welsford, who, though not under the banner of St. John's, was still a member of the craft. In 1845 we find the name of Lieut. F. A. Thesiger, Rifle Brigade, who as Lord Chelmsford, the commander of our forces in South Africa, won for himself a name in history, and had the honor of bringing the Zulu war to a successful conclusion. Of the Navy, we have on the books besides Admiral Provost Wallis, Vice-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K. C. B., Sir John Dalrymple Hay, and many others equally worthy of note.

The pages of the old minute books contain much of interest to the lovers of antiquity, and although the language used is