

(Bro. McFarquhar was initiated in 1823, but never seems to have got beyond the rank of an Entered Apprentice.) The preceding homilies seem to have only had the effect of raising the ire of the Brethren, as the only comment made upon them is short and to the point: "The foregoing Brethren, together with Bro. Colin McKenzie, Joiner, who was found guilty of a breach of his obligation as a Master Mason, were expelled the Society."

The Minutes contain nothing of much interest for some years after this with the exception of candidates' names.

1834.

A petition was presented on 3rd January, 1834, from several young men in the town to the following effect: "That your petitioners in conjunction with others have it in contemplation to get up a Dramatic Entertainment for the purpose of affording some relief to the widows and orphans of the crew of the late Mary Ann, and being aware that all Masonic institutions are designed for beneficent uses, venture to request the use of your Hall gratis for the occasion."

The prayer of the petition was unanimously granted.

1842.

On 23rd July, 1842, we have a note of repairs to Hall.

1. The walls around the Lodge to be repaired at day's wages, the coping to be set in lime, and the whole to be properly repaired. The door of the garden on the south end of the Lodge to be shut up with stone and harled on both sides. The roof of the house to be repaired in such places as require it, and this to be done by James Anderson, mason.

2. The windows to be sufficiently painted by giving them two coats of good white lead paint, and the sashes and bases to be pointed about with Mastie, and to be otherwise repaired. Thirteen panes were found necessary to be repaired and painted.

3. The main doors of the Lodge to be repaired and painted with two coats of green paint, the whole of the room to be whitewashed to the higher cornice, and that by John Urquhart, painter.

The superintendence of the work was left in the hands of Bro. Lewis McIver, John McAulay, Rod. Morrison, Daniel Lewis Mackenzie and Rod. Mackenzie.

1844.

Among the petitions for admission in 1844 we find a rather unique case on the 28th of June. A petition was presented by Alexander Robertson, ship-owner, of Stornoway, "but an objection being stated to his admission in consequence of his having wanted a Limb (leg), it was moved and seconded and afterwards carried by a majority of the Brethren that the candidate be not admitted until the Grand Lodge would first be consulted relative to this matter, which the Secretary was directed to do."

The following reply was received on 15th July:

"Dear Sir and Bro.,—I am favoured with yours of the 4th inst., which I delayed in answering until I should have an opportunity of giving you the opinion of our Grand Committee regarding the matter stated in your letter. I now beg to say that the Brother applying for admission into your Lodge, but who has lost one of his limbs, is quite eligible to be received into any Lodge where Speculative Masonry is practised. I am, etc.,

"W. H. LAURIE, G. Sec."

The result of this enquiry was doubtless communicated to Mr. Robertson, but he did not join the Lodge till some years after, on 25th December, 1849.

Bro. Robertson in later years was one of the most useful and prominent members of Lodge Fortrose. He occupied the Master's Chair during the years 1867-1868 and 1870-71, and continued in active membership till his death in 1871.

Bro. Robertson's father, Alec. Robertson, was initiated on 14th December, 1797, and his son, Ossian Robertson, on 2nd February, 1877, one of the rare examples of three generations entered in the Fortrose Lodge.