

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE,

No. 6, A. Y. M.

(Now No. 3 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada,) held at Kingston.

BY R. W. BLO. S. D. FOWLER.

Continued.

On the 2nd July, 1818, the first meeting after St. John's Day, on which occasion, the Lodge had as usual attended Church in procession, two guineas were voted to the Minister, and one guinea to the Clerk, with a proviso that if the Minister would not accept of the sum it should be appropriated to such use as he might designate. This practice of attending Church as a Lodge on the festivals of the Order is not at the present day so common as it ought to be, and not nearly so much so as it used to be; the amount which our ancient brethren on such occasions appropriated for the Minister and his Clerk must no doubt be looked on at least that voted to the Minister, as so much placed in his hands to be bestowed in charity.

The notices of refreshment partaken of by the Lodge were much more seldom recorded at this period than formerly, but evidently the custom had not by any means died out, for on the 1st of October, it was resolved that, "the dues for each regular night after this date be reduced to two shillings and sixpence Halifax currency, one and threepence for refreshment, and one and threepence to the funds, carried unanimously." At the same meeting the Lodge was "placed in mourning in consequence of the death of our Grand Master Elect, Roderick McKay, Esq." This brother, who appears to have been highly esteemed by the craft, was drowned near Bath; he had shortly before been chosen by the Grand Convention, as their Grand, or rather Provincial Grand Master, on the supposition that the Grand Lodge of England would confirm the choice and thus grant permission that the craft in the province should in future be allowed to elect their own provincial chief, still however acknowledging the Grand Master of England as supreme, but this order of things, neither the Grand Master nor Grand Lodge would ever sanction, although it was long striven for, both in Canada and in other dependencies of the British crown. We conceive the authorities in England were perfectly correct as well as consistent in refusing this privilege. A Provincial Grand Master is but the *deputy* of the Grand Master for the province to which he is appointed, and it does seem rather anomalous that the latter should be obliged to acknowledge any one in that capacity whom he had no voice in appointing. Of course in asserting this opinion we directly condemn the manner in which the Deputy Grand Master for Canada is chosen, and perhaps the framers of the constitution had this incongruity in their minds eye when they carefully deprived