

of the Committee, made a most interesting statement on the subject of the Committee's inquiry, and gave copious extracts from the Lodge's records, which showed that Mother Kilwinning possessed privileges of which a great portion of the brethren of Ayrshire—and even many of her own sons—were in total ignorance. Among other things, the Secretary referred to the agreement entered into between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Mother Lodge of Scotland, by which the high office of Provincial Grand Master for Ayrshire was rendered hereditary in the person of the M. W. M. of Mother Kilwinning, with power to appoint his own Grand Wardens, &c. From a very early period of our country's history, up till 1807, Mother Lodge retained the right of erecting daughter lodges, and exercised the functions of a grand body;—but the existence of two grand bodies in Scotland having led to misunderstandings and unseemly collisions, the good of Masonry rendered it necessary that there should be concessions on both sides. For this purpose committees were appointed by the Grand Lodge of Edinburgh and the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, which met at Glasgow, 14th October, 1807, vested with full power for the adjustment of their Masonic differences, and which, for the "honor, interest, and advantage" of both Lodges, were happily settled. The Secretary produced the original document, signed on behalf of Mother Kilwinning, by the then Grand Master—"William Blair, of Blair; Robert Davidson, of Drumley, D. M.; Alexander McGown, of Smithstone, S. W.; Alexander Hamilton, of Grange; Robert Montgomerie, of Craighouse; James Crichton, Collector of His Majesty's Customs, Irvine." It might also be interesting to know that the articles of agreement had been published in the *Ayr Advertiser* of January 7, 1808, and from the file of that paper the following is extracted:—

"We understand the misunder-

standing so long subsisting between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Mother Lodge of Kilwinning is now fully and honorably accommodated. In consequence of a representation from the Grand Lodge, stating how much it would be for the interest and respectability of the Craft if Masonry were only practiced in Scotland under the protection of the Grand Lodge and the meetings held under her charters, a committee of five from each body, vested with full power by their constituents, met at Glasgow on the 14th of last October, and after discussing at great length the matters in dispute, agreed as follows:—

"1st. That the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, shall renounce all right of granting charters, and come in, along with all the Lodges holding under her, to the bosom of the Grand Lodge.

"2dly. That all the Lodges holding of the Mother Kilwinning shall be obliged to obtain from the Grand Lodge confirmations of their respective charters, for which a fee of three guineas only shall be exigible.

"3dly. That the Mother Kilwinning Lodge shall be placed at the head of the Roll of the Grand Lodge, under the denomination of Mother Kilwinning; and her Daughter Lodges shall, in the meantime, be placed at the end of the said Roll, and as they shall apply for confirmation; but under this express declaration that so soon as the roll shall be arranged and corrected, which is in present contemplation, the Lodges holding of Mother Kilwinning shall be entitled to be ranked according to the dates of their original charters, and of those granted by the Grand Lodge.

"4thly. That Mother Kilwinning and her daughter Lodges shall have the same interest in the management of the funds of the Grand Lodge, as the other Lodges now holding of her; the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, contributing annually to the said funds a sum not less than two shillings and sixpence for each intransit, and her Daughter Lodges contributing in the