

fian had fastened one end of a rope to the branches of a tree, under which I was placed, and his companion was adjusting the other end round my neck, which was, the next moment, to launch me into eternity.

"When, suddenly, a heaven-born thought flashed into my brain. With a violent effort I wrenched my hands loose from the fastenings which bound them—and, hardly daring to hope—I gave the secret signal well known to every Master Mason.

"The effect was instantaneous. 'Stop!' thundered the chief, 'undo him instantly!' The men stared astounded. Another word restored them to their senses. 'Do you hear,' again he spoke; and in another moment my bonds were loosed, and I was free! I fell on my knees, and thanked the Most High for my wonderful and providential preservation; for saved I knew I was.

"I rose, and approached the chief to thank him, but he waved me back. 'Thank me not,' said he, 'for I knew not what a claim you had on me. Go, leave me, I have saved your life as a Mason, tempt me not to kill you as an Englishman!' Hardly realizing my escape from an awful death, I turned and walked away, without interruption from any of the gang. I had just got clear of the wood, when a messenger overtook me, with my horse; and, as he left me, handed me a packet, on which was written, 'From a fallen brother.' On opening it, I found it to contain the money, and other valuables of which I had been deprived, and which the chief had thus restored to me.

"I made the best of my way back to Naples, and shortly after left Italy. And now, Nellie, what do you think of Masonry?"

Nellie rose, and placing one hand on her father's shoulder, and the other on that of her lover, solemnly said, with streaming eyes,—“I thank God for Masonry, and that all I hold dearest on earth belong to that noble Brotherhood.”

#### 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. BRO. S. D. FOWLER.

(Continued.)

The third volume of minutes of Lodge No. 6, A. Y. M., commences with 5th May, 1806.

On the 24th June, Bro Darley was installed W. M.; Olcott, S. W.; and Nash, J. W. This was done in the M. M. degree, after which "the Lodge called to refreshment, and then ordered to labor, when the Lodge closed on the third and opened on the second degree, when after taking a *cou*, &c." (Our readers will have learnt long before this that the members of No. 6 were pretty good hands at moistening their clay) "The W. M. then ordered that Bro. Nash should write a letter to John Kendrick, at York, respecting the business of his being long since endowed with a jewel to represent No. 6, in the Grand Lodge, and as being informed at this time that he is so far degenerated at present as to join an unwarranted and clandestine Lodge at York" We presume the above extract must mean that Bro Kendrick had joined the Rawden Lodge, which held a warrant from the "Moderns," of which the Prince of Wales was Grand Master.

From May, 1806, to Jan., 1808, the records had been kept on loose slips, and contain no matters of any importance. On the 24th June, 1806, Bro. Walker was directed "to write to Montreal for an account book for the benefit of the Lodge" And on the 1st Oct., 1807, "The Lodge received two books from Bro. Walker, price not known;" while a foot note to the proceedings of 7th Jan., 1808, informs us that "The first twenty-seven Lodge nights are copied from the original records kept on papers, filed and numbered; copied by order of Wor. Master and brethren. (Signed), Smith Bartlett, Sec'y." The Lodge thus appears to have been twenty months without a minute book.

On the 24th June, 1808, "The ballot being taken for ——— to become a member of this Lodge, was rejected by two black balls." Our brethren of sixty years since did not apparently so scrupulously keep the secret of the ballot as we now do: the simple notification of whether the candidate is accepted or rejected is quite enough for a record.

On 6th August, "Wor. Master gave his reasons for calling the Lodge of Emergency—that Bro. Darley had said that he would bring an action against the Chair, saying that Patrick was a rogue, and all these concerned with him. Bro. Darley says he was in liquor at the time, and does not remember anything about it; and if he hurt any brother's feelings he is sorry for it. Bro. Walker says that he was present with Patrick, and he said that he would get Bro. Darley to sign a note with one Cromby, for the purpose of being paid sooner. On Bro. Walker's saying to him that then Darley would have to pay it, Patrick gave answer that as a man and a mason, Darley should never be hurt for so doing. Then the Lodge closed in perfect harmony." No doubt that the brother was in liquor and did not remember anything about it.

On the 2nd March, 1809, "Bro. Darley motioned to meet on every Sunday evening, for the purpose of lecturing, seconded by Bro. Evans, unanimously agreed to; and was to meet at seven o'clock." How long this arrangement lasted, or whether it was ever carried into effect, we are not informed; the only remark we care to make on the subject is, that if we cannot find time to attend to Freemasonry during the other six days of the week, it would be preferable to leave it alone altogether. The Sabbath is given to us for other uses.

Nothing of special interest is recorded for some time after this; the brethren, however, continuing to meet regularly. On the 23rd June, 1810, the Lodge was called to carry the remains of Bro. Jermyn Patrick to their last resting place. Bro. Patrick joined the Lodge on the 4th June, 1800, as a Master Mason; was installed Master on 24th June, 1801, and was re-elected five times—the terms for holding office being but for six months. We have already had occasion to notice Bro. Patrick as an influential and intelligent Mason; he was Prov. Grand Secretary under R. Wor. Bro. Jarvis, and took a decided lead in endeavoring to reconcile the differences which took place between him and the Prov. Grand Lodge at Niagara. His grandson, R. Wor. Bro. G. M. Wilkinson, is at the present time Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 3, and Deputy Grand Master for the District.

On the 2nd August, "the Wor. Master directed Bros. Patten and Moore to investigate and settle