

Past Master, who was a member in good standing without a break, from his initiation in 1802 till failing health finally compelled him to cease his attendance in 1867. This constitutes the Lodge record for active membership.

1888.

The large painting which hangs in the Lodge room was presented to the Brethren in May, 1888, by Lady Matheson. This interesting work represents the laying of the foundation stone of Lewis Castle by the Freemasons on St. Andrew's Day, 1847, and is a perfect gallery of old Stornoway portraits, a separate sitting having been taken for nearly every head in a group numbering 84. We have been informed by the Rev. Alexander Oliver, who was present upon the occasion, that the artist, Mr. Mason, although accounted no great colourist, still was an adept at catching a likeness. Sir James Matheson wondered at first what end the good man was contemplating by so much labour, but he probably came to understand when he was asked to purchase the painting.

1891.

On the 14th August, 1891, the Secretary moved "that to conform to rule and authority of Grand Lodge, the Lodge do add to its working that of the Mark Degree, which was unanimously carried, and on 23rd October a Mark Master Lodge was constituted, and ten Brethren were admitted to the Honourable Degree," the first Mark Lodge held since 1799. In the same year we have the first mention of a visitation by a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty, which had been shortly before re-formed, under the command of Sir Hector Munro, of Foulis, R. W. Prov. G. M., and Sir Arthur McKenzie, of Coul, R. W. Prov. G. D. M.

1891.

To the decorations of the Hall were added a set of armorial bearings belonging to the Stornoway Trade Incorporations, donated to the town by Bro. J. L. Robertson, H. M. Inspector of Schools, and being in the Masonic Hall for safe keeping until such time as the Police Commissioners should be in possession of a Town Hall wherein to accommodate them. "Agreed accordingly," says the minute of 20th March, 1891, "that the required space be granted on the condition that the shields be suspended without cost to the Lodge, that they be hung as directed without damage to the building, and that no responsibility for damage or fire risk be attachable to the Lodge. Also that the Shields remain in custody of the Brotherhood until the condition specified in the Commissioner's letter warrants removal." The following is a description of these interesting "Coats of Arms of Stornoway Trade Incorporations":—

"The reviving interest in the study of heraldry, which has led to the proposal to hold an Heraldic Exhibition, finds illustration in a series of shields now on view at Messrs. Hay & Lyall's. The shields, which have been executed in carton-pleure with the well-known skill of the firm, are eleven in number, and bear the armorial ensigns of the Ten Trade Incorporations and the United or Convener Court of Stornoway.

"It is a remarkable fact, worthy to rank among the 'Curiosities of Heraldry,' that in 1772 the crafts (incorporated presumably long before) of the remote and not over opulent burgh of Stornoway should have had so much public spirit and appreciation of heraldic propriety as to apply to the Lyon Office for formal grants of arms. The Trades of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Perth, Inverness, etc., are in the habit of using emblems displayed on shields; but such have no authority. indeed, their employment is (under Acts of the Scottish Parliament of date 1592 and 1672) distinctly illegal, the Lyon being empowered to 'escheat to His Majesty all the movable goods and gear in which such fabricated bearings are represented,' and the users thereof becoming liable to be 'incarcerat in the narrest prisone thairin to remain ypon thair awin charges during the plesour of the said Lyoun.' In Aberdeen and in Stornoway alone—of all the Scottish burghs—do we find Trade Incorporations with armorial ensign duly registered in the Lyon Office. The bearings of the Seven Aberdeen Trades are described in Mr. E. Bain's 'Merchant and Craft