

the subject being freely and deliberately discussed, the Brethren found that it would be premature to make any definite proposals to Mr. Munro at present, and appointed a Committee to confer with him at an early date and report.

On the 25th April, 1871, we have a note of the decease of the R. W. M. Bro. Alex. Robertson, shipowner, who joined the Lodge in 1849, was Master for four years, and had been a regular attendant in the Lodge up to a few weeks before his death. "At a special meeting on the 25th April, after a fitting eulogium being passed upon the deceased by Bro. D. M. Craig, it was unanimously agreed that the Brethren of the Lodge Fortrose should attend at the funeral of the late R. W. M. as a Lodge of Masons in due form, and a Committee was appointed to ascertain the will of the deceased's relatives thereto." On 28th April "the committee reported that the widow and relatives were quite agreeable and grateful for any mark of respect and honour which the members of the Fortrose Lodge might be inclined to make in conveying his remains to their final resting place in Sandwick Cemetery. The Brethren then marched out of the Hall in Masonic Order, and proceeded to the house of the deceased, from thence, after receiving the body of the R. W. M., to the Cemetery, returning to the Hall at 3.45 p.m."

1875.

The shortest period of Mastership we have on record is that of Bro. Napier Campbell, who was elected to the Chair on 27th December, 1875, and on account of some fancied hostility on the part of his office bearers, resigned on the 15th of February, 1876. Bro. J. N. Anderson was appointed to fill the vacancy upon 3rd March, and retained the office for four years.

1877.

Bro. Angus G. Nicholson stated at a meeting held on 6th July, 1877, "that a number of natives of the Highlands resident in Glasgow, members of our Order, were desirous of having a Free Mason Lodge instituted there, principally for the benefit of Brethren connected with the Highlands, and in which as far as practicable the Gaelic language should be used in the Ceremonies and at the meetings," and he produced a Petition intended to be presented to Grand Lodge to this effect. The Lodge cordially concurred in the objects of the Petition.

A proof of the carefulness of the office bearers and the strictness of the testing of the visitors is afforded by a letter read about this time from the Secretary of the Greenock St. John's Lodge, No. 175, to the R. W. M. It states that "Bro. John Buchanan, who lately failed to be admitted as a Visiting Member in the Fortrose Lodge, is a full degree member of the Greenock St. John's, and that he is now receiving instruction with a view that he will be able next time he is in Stornoway to give good evidence of his Craft."

Among other Presentations made to the Lodge during this period was one from Bro. Dennis Murray, of Londonderry, "who presented this, his Mother Lodge, in person with a handsome metal casting of the National Coat of Arms, painted and gilded in chaste colours, remarking that it was made on board Her Majesty's Turret Ship Temeraire, in the Sea of Marmora. The thanks of the Lodge were heartily accorded to Bro. Murray."

For many years after this the Lodge pursued the even tenor of its way without passing through any great crisis or undergoing any noteworthy experiences. It had, of course, its ups and downs, its years of prosperity and its periods of decline. In 1885, for example, the number of entrants was only 4, while the following year the figures jumped up to 33.

1887.

On 11th November, 1887, there is minuted the funeral of an old office bearer of the Lodge. "The Brethren buried with Masonic honours the mortal remains of Bro. Roderick Adam, mason, who joined the Lodge on the 6th April, 1826, and died on 9th Nov., 1887, aged 89. The remains of the Bro. Tyler were interred with every mark of respect, as became a faithful, true and worthy Brother." Bro. Adam occupied the post of Tyler for the last eighteen years of his life, and had a longer connection with Lodge Fortrose than any other Brother mentioned in the records, with the exception of Bro. John Macaulay.