

lay the foundation of a new Lodge to be immediately built, which accordingly was done, and the Brethren having returned to the Lodge, it was agreed to meet by 7 o'clock to spend a few hours together on the occasion in Harmony and Conviviality." At a meeting held on the 16th September, 1819, to consider the providing of money sufficient for the erection of a new Lodge, it was decided "to borrow the sum of four hundred pounds sterling from Capt. Daniel Reid, of the 'Prince Ernest Augustus' cutter, who appears disposed to accommodate the Brethren with the same."

The wood for the buildings was obtained from Mr. John McKenzie, junior, who writes the Lodge to the effect that he intends sending the schooner "Perseverance" off to the east of Norway with the least possible delay, and desires to treat with the Committee to furnish such quantity of wood and of such dimensions as may be required for them.

The contract for the mason work was secured by Bro. John Loban, whose estimate was £468 8s. sterling, but in the end stretched out to £573 5s. The joiner work was in the hands of Bro. John McKenzie, senior, joiner, who was recommended by the Committee "as being most likely to fulfil his engagements to their satisfaction," and the plaster work was carried out by Mr. Duncan Bain, also recommended by the Committee.

1820.

Fifth August, 1820, "As the sum of three hundred pounds will be required over and above the amount already borrowed and expended, the meeting request and authorize the Committee to borrow the aforesaid sum of three hundred pounds from the Friendly and Incorporated Trade Societies, or from any other person or persons." The Brethren who had subscribed sums in loan to the Building Fund were called upon to pay one moiety to the Treasurer on the 23rd of November, and the other moiety on the first Thursday of December. Intimation was also issued to all Brethren who were in arrears of their just and lawful dues that they must pay up upon the same date, otherwise prosecutions would be commenced against them.

It was found necessary to dispose of the old property to pay off debts incurred in building the new Lodge, in pursuance of which a letter was written to Mr. Adam, Factor for Stewart Mackenzie, of Seaforth, intimating their intention of disposing of "the most spacious house in the Burgh of Stornoway, with wings, that afford much accommodation, at a price of £750 sterling, which is considered very reasonable, and which the Brethren would by no means offer so low but for the present depressed state of every kind of property."

1822.

Seaforth evidently declined the offer, as upon the 15th October 1822, a letter from Bro. John Macaulay, merchant, to the following effect, was presented to the Lodge: "Sir,—I beg leave to offer you, as representing the Brethren of the Fortrose Lodge, Stornoway, the sum of seven hundred guineas for that tenement of houses, outhouses, garden and whole pertinents, commonly called the Mason Lodge of Stornoway, situated in Cromwell street, my possession and entry to commence at Martinmas first, and payment of the price to be made as follows: I shall procure the Brethren a valid discharge of the heritable debt and interest due thereon constituted by the heritable bond over the foresaid property in favour of Capt. Reid, of the 'Prince Ernest Augustus' cutter, at the said terms of Martinmas first; one moiety of the balance of the above sum of 700 guineas after paying Capt. Reid's heritable debt and interest, I shall pay at the next Saint John's Day, and the last moiety or balance I shall pay at the term of Whitsunday, eighteen hundred and twenty-three. The Brethren are, of course, to defray the whole expense of the disposition to be granted in my favour.

(Signed) "JOHN MACAULAY."

This offer was unanimously accepted by the Lodge.

1823.

The new buildings were finally completed in December, 1822, at a total cost of £1,365 13s. 2d., and in the same month the Brethren held their first meeting under the roof which still shelters them.