

**ROBERT BURNS, POET-
LAUREATE
OF LODGE CANONGATE
KILWINNING**

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Robert Burns, poet-laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning by Wallace Bruce

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WALLACE BRUCE

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OF LODGE CANONGATE
KILWINNING**

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Poet-Laureate
of
Lodge Canongate Kilwinning

BY
WALLACE BRUCE

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*"Within this dear mansion may wayward con-
tention*

Or withered Envy ne'er enter ;

May secrecy round be the mystical bound,

And brotherly Love be the centre."

—ROBERT BURNS.

EDINBURGH, 5th April 1893.

BROTHER WALLACE BRUCE,
Poet-Laureate,
Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

The office-bearers and members of the Lodge would esteem it a great favour if you would kindly consent to the publication of your eloquent address on *Robert Burns as Poet-Laureate* of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, delivered in the historic Lodge-room on January 31st, 1893, not only in the volume which I understand you are now publishing, but also in a separate cover, as a special souvenir of the occasion.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

A. MACKENZIE,
P.M., Can. Kil., No. 2.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, April 7, 1893.

BROTHER ALLAN MACKENZIE,
Past Master,
Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,

I am honoured by your request, and take great pleasure in complying therewith.—I am, Worshipful Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

WALLACE BRUCE.

FROM "LAUREATE ODE"

(*IN CLOVER AND HEATHER*),

BY WALLACE BRUCE.

Again Kilwinning's hearth grows wide,
The tessellated floor is bright ;
A mother's heart with loving pride
Salutes her honoured Sons of Light.


.
They come—a galaxy of cheer
In answer to the festal call,—
Loved Willie Hay to memory dear,
And Lockhart of the Minstrel Hall ;

Aytoun and Stewart, Boswell, Blair,
Kit North—the master of the feast,
The Shepherd and the Lad from Ayr
Whose songs unite the west and east ;

And girdle all the world to-night
With chords that make the nations one,—
A mystic grip of matchless might,—
A cable-tow by genius spun.

TO
BROTHERS OF THE MYSTIC TYE

The hailing of Robert Burns as Caledonia's Bard in St Andrew's Lodge was not recorded; the making him burghess of Linlithgow was not registered; his appointment as Poet-Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning was not minuted—but all established by conclusive and substantial proof. The last half of this Address deals with him as Poet-Laureate: his affiliation, Feb. 1, 1787; the gift of twenty guineas by the Lodge in 1815 for the Dumfries Mausoleum, because he was Poet-Laureate; the appointment of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, in 1835, as successor of Robert Burns, Poet-Laureate; with concluding reference to living links in the chain of evidence: Henry Erskine, Dugald Stewart, Henry Mackenzie, Robert Ainslie, Nasmyth the artist, and other personal friends of the poet.

OUR years have gone by pleasantly since I have been a resident in this fair city, and for four years I have come up with you in this room, hallowed by so many associations, to unite with friends and brethren in worship of the great poet of Scotland and the great poet of humanity—Robert Burns. Most auspiciously the Atlantic winds and the steam-power of the nineteenth century — which some say Robert Burns saw inaugurated in Scotland by Miller on Dalswinton Loch —