

151 West Nile Street
Glasgow July 27/68

Dear Sir & Brother

Our esteemed Friend & Brother
James Stevenson having mentioned to me
in one of his letters that you took a deep in-
terest in all Archaeological Matters and
especially that you were greatly interested in
the matter of the Priory of St. John's or Kilwinning
I have felt bold to address you, knowing of
your historic knowledge, believing that as
Members of the Great Brotherhood, we might
perhaps exchange ideas, and even considering
that you might perhaps condescend to give me
a hint, or even - if not too much to ask - some
remarks or information of your own - which I
believe you well qualified to give, and if there
was anything I could tell you I should be most
happy.

I would like to know

what you think of the idea that our first Scotch
Freemasons came from England - ?

It is generally supposed that the Crypt of
our Glasgow Cathedral, was built by Joceline and con-
secrated in 1197. but Architects and Antiquarians
with whom I am acquainted say that it is too Florid
an example of First Pointe to be so early, and was built
by Bondington about 1240. There is a Norman
Pillar and small portion of Masonic work in South
West corner of present Crypt, which they say, the
remains of Jocelines 1197 work.

In the present dispute with Kilwinning I
have been anxious to clear away the rubbish so that
we might get at a proper foundation on which to
build, and some time (until the end thereof) I have
been considering that many, even almost all, of our
12th Century Monasteries were of wood, Scotland
was then characterized as "Woody Scotland" and there
are good reasons for considering that then we had
good wood craftsmen amongst us. but after
the irrad of the 1190 Fraternities then up went, in
Stone - Kelso, Jedburgh, Glasgow &c &c.

Although many settlements of Monks and establishment
of monasteries took place in David the first's time
1124 - 1153 - yet it would take the new Monks some

time to settle down, and gather funds. besides they
— as astute men — would feel their ^{way} a little before
they came out, all at once, with such magnificent
specimens of Architecture as were afterwards
built. besides the Biographer of David the first
makes no mention of the Church Building in
the following remark. " He (David the first) it was
who adorned the O Scotland with Castles
and Cities "

However trusting that you will accept
my remarks in a Masonic spirit, and
trusting to your generosity to give me a
word or two

I am
Sincerely & fraternally Yours

W. P. Buchanan

R. Woolf Esq. T. S. A. & Co. }
Guildhall }
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