

Testimonial to Alexander Bremner, Esq., Surgeon, Keith

The Aberdeen Journal 9th September 1846 Issue 5148

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On the evening of Thursday last, some of **Dr. Bremner's** friends presented him with a Gig, Horse, and Harness, as a testimony of their respect for him. The Doctor having been invited to supper at the Gordon Arms Inn, a large party of Subscribers assembled and sat down to an excellent supper—**Mr. Green** in the chair, and **Mr. Longmore** croupier and after the cloth was withdrawn, and the usual loyal toasts given and responded to.

The Chairman requested a bumper and said that before proposing the toast he had in view he begged to acquaint the Doctor that his friends around him and the others whose names were contained in the Subscription List in his hand, had been desirous to testify their respect for him a medical practitioner and gentleman—a gentleman whose services in the way of his profession many of the Subscribers, from experience, highly and deservedly appreciated, but whose services to many of the poor and needy amongst them during a long professional practice, and at times when the district poor were not as at present provided with the excellent attendance at the expense of the parish, the Subscribers all acknowledged with gratitude. To mark their respect as already mentioned they anxiously embraced a proposition to contribute for a Testimonial; and considering what the Testimonial should be, the Subscribers observing that with extreme regret, that he, the Doctor, was not now so active in prosecuting his arduous profession as many of them had seen him, lest as they all would wish to see him, decided on a Gig, Horse, and Harness, thinking that such a conveyance, while it testified their esteem, might tend to be his comfort in pursuing his usual avocation. In hopes, therefore, that he would be pleased to accept of such a token, they had provided a Gig, Horse, and Harness to be presented to him, of which, it desire, and in name of the Subscribers, he, the Chairman now requested his acceptance, and handed him as an appendage in name of the Subscribers also, a Gig Whip bearing an inscription applicable to the Testimonial. It was the sincere desire of the Subscribers, which he we requested to communicate, that the gift, might, as intended, add to his comfort, and be in some respect useful, and that, while it lasts an long afterwards he might be among them in the enjoyment of health and vigour. He concluded by proposing, as a toast: "Health and happiness to the Doctor, " which was received and drunk with much applause,

Dr. Bremner, rose and said, that he could not find words adequate to express his feelings on the present occasion. It was indeed a source of the greatest gratification to him, that after practising amongst them for a period of twenty-five years, his neighbours should now think him worthy of this public an valuable mark of respect, which he accepted with much pride and pleasure. It had to be sure, been his utmost wish to be of service in the way of his profession, and he hoped he had never overlooked in that way the wants of the poor, but he was unconscious of meriting such a kind and flattering token of esteem. He was now, however, encouraged since his past conduct had met with so much approbation, to pursue his usual avocation as heretofore, and now that his health had greatly improved, and with the assistance of the comfortable conveyance now presented to him, he hoped to be able to do so. He begged to conclude by drinking to "the health of all present."

Thereafter the following toasts—"Mrs. Bremner;" "The Doctor's Family on both sides of the Atlantic;" "The Keith Medical Faculty;" and various other toasts, were given, and in the course of the evening the company were favoured and much delighted with several songs from **Mr. Rennie**, Teacher of Music, and others.

The party, after a happy meeting, broke at an early hour of the morning, and having conducted the Doctor to his new carriage, accompanied him home, where, after three hearty cheers for him, they departed.

Alexander Bremner was the son of **Alexander Bremner** and **Elspet Turner**. Married in 1823 to **Eliza Grant**, the couple had at least four children. Youngest son **James John Lachlan Bremner** was Inspector of Customs in Halifax, and it is likely that branch of the family alluded to in the toast to family on both sides of the Atlantic.

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