

a policy similar to that of Glasgow was pursued in Airdrie, the Licensing Court reducing the licences by 12, yielding a net reduction of 10 when the Appeal Court had given its decisions. Thereupon the Magistrates, or certain of them, received summonses, and reduction was sought of their judgments on the ground that alike by their public utterances and their temperance principles, they had proved themselves biased and incapable of taking an impartial view, whether as members of the Licensing Bench or of the Appeal Court. The issue was similar to that of the case against the Glasgow Magistrates, Lord Skerrington's judgment being again upheld in the Inner House, the Lord President declaring that while any person having an interest in the Liquor Trade was disqualified from sitting on the Licensing Bench, there was in the Act of Parliament no such disqualification attached to those who had merely committed themselves to a certain set of opinions.

It is generally felt that the liquor men by these multiplied and sweeping cases have at length over-reached themselves and brought their whole position to a *reductio ad absurdum*. At any rate they have given an enormous impetus to the movement to place the whole question of licensing direct in the hands of the people themselves.

(Part IV. "Legislation" Will Appear Later)

[VISION]

He was a lonely cobbler, and he wrought
 Within a tiny room one summer day,
 When a kind warder of the soul did say;
 "Do you not feel, good sir, betimes distraught
 For this dim place?" Thereat the cobbler brought
 Him to a window that o'erlooked the sea;
 "When I am weary, that doth comfort me—
 Those boundless spaces, aye, with wonder fraught!"

Ah! like that kindly man we oft have sighed
 For human lives that mean and meaner grow,
 And fain would ope for them a window wide
 Through which across the dust a breeze might blow
 From fields of asphodel—yea longer that they
 Might see what past earth's low horizons lay.

—Alexander Louis Fraser.

St. James Manse,
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