

deadness to the true spirits of religion as I witnessed there. Many there are, believe, who can look back to the days when in Scotland, their fatherland, they witnessed, it may be, a good profession, but who are now gone back, having sunk into cold formality, or even worse—immorality itself; for there is the sin of drunkenness which prevails to a most deplorable extent. And here I would notice what I feel certain of, namely, that the drinking customs form the great curse of the place. This is what has so demoralised the people, and until an effective check is put upon the evil habit of low tipping, and drinking to excess, which is carried on, we cannot hope to see a reformation take place. I am, indeed, happy to mention that a Total Abstinence Society was organised shortly before I left, and I understand, it promises to work well. It numbers between forty to fifty, not a few of whom are intelligent, well-doing young men. They made application to me, requesting that I should deliver a lecture on the subject of Total Abstinence. Their request I complied with a few days before leaving the mission field, and I am glad to say we had a large meeting, although many of the miners could not be present on account of being employed on what is called the "night shift."

There are evidently some reasons which may be assigned for the low state of religion and morals at the Bruce mines—one is the isolated character of this part of part of the Province. It is removed from all the restraints of society, so that vice has crept in, and as it were, leavened the mass. There are, however, exceptions to this general description which I give, some men who shine as lights in a dark world. They are few, however, as far as my observation has gone. Another reason we would notice, for the irreligion that prevails, is the want of Presbyterian services in the place for so many years. The Methodists have been labouring there for some time, but they have been little countenanced by the Presbyterians, and consequently the latter have been little influenced by their efforts.

As to the prospects of missionary operations in the future, I would say that they are such as would warrant the church to direct her efforts to the forming of a regular mission station at the Bruce mines. There is material enough in the Presbyterian population now there. It is, however, of an uncertain, fluctuating character, and it is this in particular that places a great obstacle in the way of establishing a station at the present time. If the mines, however, prosper as it is expected they will, the number of miners will increase, so that in a year or two there will be, I have no doubt, a standing population sufficiently numerous to form a self-supporting station.

With this in view, then, I think it advisable that the place should be attended to for a year or so, by a missionary laboring amongst the people. The need for such a thing is great, as may be seen from what I have said. It is also the desire of many, who long for better things, to have preaching kept up amongst them. Could this be done I have little doubt but in a year or two things would wear a different aspect. We know that it is the Gospel, and the Gospel alone, that will raise the fallen or bring them back from error's way. All other agencies are good enough in their own place, but the true reformation of man is effected only by the truth taking a saving hold of his heart. Thus it is that we look to even the Gospel of Christ for lighting up many a dark spot in this and in other lands. Let it be our prayer that its blessed light may be more and more diffused throughout the world, that by its benign influence the wilderness and the solitary place may be glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

I am, yours, &c.,

E. BAULD.

OBITUARY NOTICE—JOHN LAWRIE, SEN'R.

John Lawrie, senior, Elder of our Church at St. Catharines, was born in the Parish of Oldhamstocks, County of Haddington, Scotland, on the 26th Sept.,