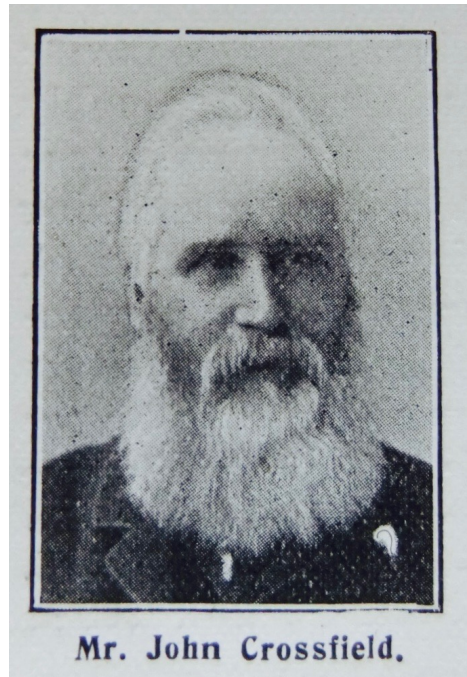


## John Crossfield

### Transcription of Obituary In the Primitive Methodist Magazine

THE Otley Circuit has been called to sustain a very severe loss in the death of Mr. John Crossfield, of Brook Lea, Otley. He was born at Armley, Leeds, in December, 1834, and was at the time of his death 66 years of age. His parents were in humble circumstances, but characterised by sterling piety. Of them, the Rev. H. Cooke (who has known the Crossfield family for 40 years) says, "His mother was the first to annex herself to our Church, and she never rested till her husband was saved. By persistent prayer and consistent and holy living she won him over to Christ, and under the influence of Christianity he became one of the most humble-minded, tender-hearted and gentle-spirited men I have known." These lives made a lasting impression for good upon their family.



In early life Mr. John Crossfield was inured to toil, and at 14 years of age apprenticed to a firm of engineers in Leeds.

While still young he went to America, where he lived five years, and learned many things which were afterwards of service to him in his successful business career as printers' engineer.

Returning from America in 1858, he married Miss Procter, of Armley, in 1859, who was a member of our Church, and who has proved herself a true helpmeet for this life and the next to our departed friend.

In 1860 they came to reside at Otley, and at the close of the following year Mr. Crossfield signed the total abstinence pledge, and soon after became a teacher in the Sunday School. In a service, conducted by a lady evangelist on the last Sunday in February, 1862, he was convinced of sin, and in his home that evening found peace with God. He joined in membership with our Church, and by a consecrated life he, in many ways, endeavoured to extend the Redeemer's kingdom.

His principal work was in the Sunday School. Here he most efficiently discharged the duties of Secretary for eleven years, Assistant Superintendent for twelve years, and Senior Superintendent for another twelve years. He loved the young, and such was their respect for him that the simple act of his rising was sufficient to secure attention.

He was also for 27 years leader of a Society class at Otley. To this Work he also gave much attention in visiting the sick and others as far as time at his disposal would allow.

For some years he was Secretary of the Trust of the old chapel off Bondgate, but when he saw the time was ripe for securing a better site and more substantial and commodious premises, he threw

his energy into the scheme which resulted in the building of the present chapel and schools in Station Road in 1874, and an additional suite of class rooms in 1897

He took a great interest in the missionary work of the Connexion. He was Vice-President of the Metropolitan Tabernacle Missionary Meeting for 1898. The Rev. A. Baldwin, of Mashukulumbweland, was one of his scholars in the Sunday School. Each year for 39 years his wife has been a valuable collector for the Mission Fund.

He has represented his circuit in District Meetings, and his district in the Conference of 1886 at Derby. At the time of his death he was President of the Wharfedale Free Church Council, and of the Otley Liberal Association.

Recognising his worth, his fellow townsmen elected him a member of the School Board, District Council, Board of Guardians, and the "Otley Charities." Into all these spheres he carried his religious convictions, and without any ostentation endeavoured to serve the people.

In November last his health failed, but all hoped that rest, careful nursing and medical advice would restore him. These hopes were doomed to disappointment. His weakness increased. For three months he suffered severe pain, but it was borne with Christian patience and fortitude. "The Lord gives me sufficient grace to bear it. I find the promise fulfilled, 'As thy day is, so shall thy strength be,' " were words that often fell from his lips. He told how, if spared, he intended to giving up his work on the District Council and devoting his life to visiting the members of the Church, but the "Lord's will is best; let that be done."

As the end drew nearer his desire was to depart to be with Jesus. He gave his blessing to old and young (and these were many) who went to bid him the last farewell. His end came on the evening of February 7th, 1901, and it was peace.

W. B.

---

#### References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* [1902/872](#)