

JAMES, JOHN (Ioan Meirion; 1815 - 1851), writer

Name: John James
Pseudonym: Ioan Meirion
Date of birth: 1815
Date of death: 1851
Parent: Sarah James
Parent: John James
Gender: Male
Occupation: writer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Ty-gwyn, Llan-ym-Mawddwy, Meirionnydd, younger son of John James (who survived him) and his wife Sarah; the father was a deacon in the Independent church at Dinas Mawddwy, and the elder son, Hugh James (1809 - 1875), became Independent minister of Brithdir (near Dolgelley) and of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Montgomeryshire. John James went up to London at an early age; his occupation there is not known, but he married a rich wife, and at the close of his life was living at 4 Tysoe Street, Wilmington Square. He wrote a good deal, in Welsh and in English, and on [Talhaiarn](#)'s testimony was a leading member of the Cymreigyddion Society. Unfortunately for his fame, he was appointed in 1846 one of the twelve assistant-commissioners in the inquiry into education in Wales - probably because of his Nonconformist background, though he was no longer a Nonconformist. His reports (included in the Commission's printed Report) were furiously attacked; he was severely handled by [Lewis Edwards](#) (; and see [Edwards](#)'s *Traethodau Llenyddol*, 374-421); lesser critics than [Edwards](#) spoke of him as a Judas. In July 1847 he became secretary to the trustees of the ' Welsh Charity School ' in London; and when the Anglican newspaper *Y Cymro* was removed from Bangor to London in 1830, James became its editor. He died 24 April 1851 (from a kick by his horse on Blackheath), and was buried in the churchyard at Llan-ym-Mawddwy; according to his tombstone he was then 36.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Gwaith Talhaiarn (London 1855), i, 435

Y Dysgedydd, 1851, 192

Y Brython, v, 451-2

Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties, 1894, 427

Rachel Leighton, *Rise and progress the story of the Welsh Girls' School and of the Honourable and Loyal Society of Ancient Britons* (1950), 102

Published date: 1959

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