

LEVI, THOMAS (1825 - 1916), Calvinistic Methodist minister, editor of *Trysorfa y Plant*, and author

**Name:** Thomas Levi  
**Date of birth:** 1825  
**Date of death:** 1916  
**Spouse:** Margaret Levi (née Jones)  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Levi (née Daniel)  
**Child:** Thomas Arthur Levi  
**Parent:** Prudence Levi  
**Parent:** John Levi  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Calvinistic Methodist minister, editor of *Trysorfa y Plant*, and author  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Thomas Arthur Levi

Born 12 October 1825 at Penrhos near Ystradgynlais, son of John and Prudence Levi. He received his early education at a school kept by an old soldier at Ystradgynlais, and later, while still a boy, worked at Ynyscedwyn iron works. About 1846 he began to preach at Cwmgiedd chapel, Ystradgynlais. He was minister of Capel yr Ynys, Ystradgynlais, about 1855-60, of Philadelphia, Morriston, 1860-76, and of Tabernacle, Aberystwyth, 1876-1901. He married (1), Elizabeth Daniel of Cwmgiedd (died 1871), and (2), 1873, Margaret, youngest daughter of Hugh and Catherine Jones of Coedmadoc, Tal-y-sarn, Caernarfonshire. He began his literary labours in 1853 and wrote thirty books. Today, the best known are: *Hanes Prydain Fawr*, 1862; *Bywyd a Theithiau Livingstone*, 1857; *Gweddiau Teuluaid*, 1863; *Hanesion y Beibl*, 1870; *Casgliad o Hen Farwnadau*, 1872; *Hanes y Beibl Cymraeg*, 1876; *Traethodau Bywgraffyddol*, 1882 and after, published in a single volume entitled *Cedryn Cymru; Canmlwyddiant yr Ysgol Sabbothol*, 1885. He also translated sixty books from English into Welsh, including *Yr Anianydd Cristionogol*, 1859; *Crist a Gwroniaid y Byd Paganaid*, 1887. He co-operated with [Dr. Joseph Parry](#) in the production of 'Cantata yr Adar,' 1873; 'Cantata Joseph,' 1885; *Hymnau a Thonau yr Ysgol Sabbothol*, 1887, etc. But his chief literary achievement was the starting of *Trysorfa y Plant*, and its regular production every month for half a century-1862-1911. Although this periodical was produced under the patronage of the Calvinistic Methodists, it was popular with every denomination. The circulation of *Trysorfa y Plant*, which ultimately reached 44,000 a month, was greater than had ever been known in Wales before. Its income was so great that it paid the entire cost of production of *Y Drysorfa* and *Y Traethodydd*. It was read by Welshmen all over the world and in it were published some of the earliest poems of [Islwyn Ceiriog](#), and others. Levi was moderator of the C.M. General Assembly in 1883 and of the South Wales Association in 1887. He played a prominent part in the setting up of monuments to [Daniel Rowland](#), [Thomas Charles Williams](#) of Pantycelyn, and [bishop Morgan](#). He continued to preach until 1910 and to edit *Trysorfa y Plant* until 1911. He was nearly 91 when he died 16 June 1916. A list of his original works and of his translations of hymns was prepared at the request of the N.L.W., and this list will be found in that Library.

## Author

Thomas Arthur Levi, (1875 - 1954)

## Sources

Personal knowledge

## Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Thomas Levi](#)

## Images

H. H. Davies, [Kate Watkins \(née Levi\)](#)

## Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q18535765](#)

Published date: 1959

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