

## OWEN, JOHN (1833 - 1896), cleric and author

**Name:** John Owen  
**Date of birth:** 1833  
**Date of death:** 1896  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** cleric and author  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Pembroke in 1833. He was educated at S. David's College, Lampeter, and in the years 1858-9 assisted [Rowland Williams](#) (1817 - 1870) in the Hebrew classes there. He was curate of Alvedistone, Wiltshire, 1859-60, and at Bowerchalke, Wiltshire, 1860-9, but in 1869 became rector of East Anstey, Dulverton (Devon), where he spent the rest of his life. In this seclusion, he read widely and collected a fine library. He was especially interested in free thought, or 'skepticism' as he called it, and published a series of books. In 1885 he produced an edition of Glanvill's *Scepsis Scientifica*. He published in 1881 *Evenings with the Sceptics*, in 1892 *The Sceptics of the Italian Renaissance*, in 1893 *The Sceptics of the French Renaissance*, and in 1896 *The Five Great Skeptical Dramas of History*. He was a frequent contributor to the *Edinburgh Review* and the *Academy*. He died at East Anstey 6 February 1896.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Crockford's Clerical Directory*

*Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties*, 1896, 291

*The Academy A Monthly Record of Literature, Learning, Science and Art* (1869-1916), 15 February 1896

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