

PRICE, JOHN ('Old Price'; 1803 - 1887), cleric, naturalist, and eccentric

Name: John Price
Pseudonym: Old Price
Date of birth: 1803
Date of death: 1887
Parent: James Pryce
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric, naturalist, and eccentric
Area of activity: History and Culture; Nature and Agriculture; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in 1803 at Pwll-y-crochan, Colwyn Bay, of a long and long-lived line of clerics. His great-grandfather, Ellis Pryce, was rector of Ysgeifiog, Flintshire for nearly sixty years (1704-1763); his grandfather, James Pryce, was vicar of Betws-yn-Rhos from 1746 till 1758, and rector of Llansannan, Denbighshire from 1758 till 1782; his father, again James Pryce, was rector of Cerrig-y-drudion from 1784 till 1800, and then for half a century (1800-50) non-resident rector of Llanfechain, Montgomeryshire, while living at Pwll-y-crochan and Plas-yn-Llysfaden - he died at 94, 'having complained of his health all his life.' All three were buried at Ysgeifiog.

John Price went to Shrewsbury School, where he was a form-mate of B. H. Kennedy and a school-fellow of Charles Darwin - Darwin aroused his interest in nature, and became a great friend in after years. He graduated, as third classic, from S. John's College, Cambridge, in 1826. But though he became a master at Shrewsbury and at other schools, he developed an instability and an oddity in dress and behaviour which unfitted him for a normal career. He boasted of his nickname 'Old Price.' He published a number of books (now very scarce), such as *Llandudno and how to enjoy it* (1869), and *Old Price's Remains*, an extremely odd monthly periodical (April 1863-March 1864), of great interest to dwellers in the Llandrillo-yn-Rhos district. The chapter on natural history in the *History of Aberconwy* by Robert Williams (1810 - 1881) is by Price. He died at Chester, 14 October 1887, aged 84.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

T. Llechid Jones in *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, April 1927, 104-11

G. Porter, *Colwyn Bay before the houses came* (Manchester 1938), 1938, 44-54

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