WILLIAMS, JOHN CEULANYDD (Ceulanydd; 1847? - 1899), Baptist minister, poet, and writer

Name: John Ceulanydd Williams
Pseudonym: Ceulanydd
Date of birth: 1847?
Date of death: 1899
Spouse: Ann Williams (née Jones)
Gender: Male
Occupation: Baptist minister, poet, and writer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Poetry; Religion
Author: Benjamin George Owens

Born at Tal-y-bont, Cardiganshire. He started life as a weaver at his home, and was subsequently employed in the lead mines of the district, but he was induced by his mother-church to preach, and early in 1868, after a course of education, first at Towyn and afterwards at the 'Graig House Academy' (Swansea); he was admitted to Llangollen Baptist College. He was ordained at Denbigh 16 January 1871, and moved to Amlwch (1875?), Tal-y-sarn, Caernarvon (1879), Tabernacle, Merthyr Tydfil (1880), and finally, in 1882, to Salem and Caersalem, Maes-teg, where he died 11 September 1899. He married, during his ministry at Denbigh, Ann Jones, daughter of David Jones, a deacon of the church; they had nine children.

Ceulanydd is remembered solely for his literary works. He published (1) biographies of Robert Foulkes, Denbigh, and John Palmer, Amlwch, under the title of *Y Ddau Foneddwr* (n.d.); (2) a critical essay on the poetry of Ceiriog, under the title *Athrylith Ceiriog Hughes* (1892?); and (3) a lecture on Welsh hymnology delivered at the annual meetings of the Welsh Baptist Union at Cardigan in 1888. But his main interest was poetry. He was a member of the Gorsedd of Bards, a frequent adjudicator at the national eisteddfod, and won several of the principal prizes of his day, e.g. in the chair competition at the Pontypridd national eisteddfod (1893) on the subject of 'Pwlpud Cymru' (later published, n.d.), and at the Llandudno eisteddfod (1888) on 'Ac yr oedd hi yn nos' (published 1888), and the Australian eisteddfod (1893) on 'C. H. Spurgeon' (published 1893).

Author

Benjamin George Owens

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