



Parch John Davies

1823-1874

With unfeigned regret we announce the death of the Rev. John Davies, of Hannah Street Congregational Chapel, Cardiff; locally better known as John Davies of the Docks: who expired at his house, Loudon Square, yesterday morning, at the early age of 51 years. The death of this estimable man and effective preacher will be a serious loss to the Independent denomination not merely in Cardiff and Glamorganshire, but in the whole of the southern Principality, and indeed to the cause of religion and religious freedom generally. He was one of the exceptionals few amongst Welsh ministers who combined with deep religious earnestness, large-hearted sympathies, and great power of thought, a high constructive genius, and much administrative skill.

Had he devoted his energies to business or to politics, instead of to the less obtrusive but more honourable work of the Christian ministry, he would have won eminence and position, and probably a wider known, although not a more honoured name. As a preacher Mr. Davies was thoughtful, instructive, and severely logical. He seemed intuitively to apprehend the spirit and true meaning of the subject or text which he selected as the theme of discourse, and discarding all other possible or probable meanings, would hold it with a nervous mental grasp in all its phases and power before the mind of his hearers. He seemed to place himself by a kind of mental or spiritual alchemy in immediate contact with the writer whose thoughts he was illustrating and could thus evolve the meaning of intricate and almost bidden passages by a touch of sympathetic genius and by a true spiritual insight. His sermons were thoroughly exhaustive of his subject. He left no aspect of the question untouched or unexplained. Sometimes by a few clear and telling words of exegesis sometimes by a piece of close logical reasoning' frequently by a pertinent metaphor or by an apt and expressive illustration he would bring out the whole spirit and truth of his text and make it clear and impressive to his hearers.

As a platform speaker he was telling and most effective. Making no pretensions to be a popular orator, indifferent to rhetoric, and never sacrificing sense to sound, he was nevertheless a popular speaker, was ever listened to with close and earnest attention, and generally produced, even upon indifferent or prejudiced hearers, a favourable and a genial impression. Of his administrative and executive ability, the recent history of Independent Nonconformists in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire affords ample proof. His skill in organisation was instantly recognised by all which whom he came into contact on political, social, or religious questions; while, as a friend in mourning his death last night said of him, "he was non-such as a Committee-man." His loss will be seriously and widely felt, and his death will be sincerely lamented, not only by his own denomination, but by the Welsh churches generally.

Mr. Davies was born in 1823, near to Llandovery, in Carmarthenshire. He was the subject of religious impressions from his earliest boyhood, and joined the Independent Church at Brychgoed, in Breconshire, when very-young. He commenced preaching soon after, and then went to the well-known Hanover School, Monmouthshire, preparatory to entering one of the Independent Colleges. In 1843, when he was twenty years of age, he entered the Brecon College, and, after remaining three years, left in 1846 to take the pastorate over the Independent church meeting in Siloam Chapel, Llanelly, Breconshire. While here he was most successful as a preacher, and a large congregation and a flourishing church bore testimony to his power and his usefulness. The congregation being scattered throughout a wide district, Mr. Davies resolved to give those living most remote from the chapel religious accommodation nearer their homes. With that energy which so eminently characterised his life he at once commenced to collect funds, and subsequently erected two large school-rooms. One on the hills above Llanelly, in the most thickly populated part of the works, where a British school was established, and preaching conducted on the Sundays. The other some little distance below Llanelly, where a very flourishing Sunday school was soon instituted; and preaching conducted on weeknights and the Sabbath.



Saron Chapel, Aberaman.

He was also instrumental in getting up several very influential literary meetings and Eisteddfodau, which added to his reputation and his usefulness. While at Llanelly Rev. Davies married Miss Jones, the daughter of one of his deacons: whom he has left a widow to mourn her loss: and his sudden death. Having remained at Llanelly about nine years, he was induced by the prospect of greater usefulness to take the oversight of the Independent Church at Aberaman (Saron). Before leaving Llanelly his friends and the public presented him with a handsome testimonial in commemoration of his worth and the respect in which he was so generally held. While at Aberaman the congregation so increased that he was compelled to rebuild the chapel, and twice subsequently enlarged it. He also through his energy and perseverance was successful in building another Independent Chapel at Capcoch, on the road between Aberaman and Aberdare, where a good congregation was soon gathered and another chapel at Cwmavon where, there is also a prosperous church and congregation. He was, moreover, the chief means of causing the erection of the English Independent Chapel at Aberdare. Having remained at Aberaman nine years, about the same length of time that he was at Llanelly, he received a unanimous and earnest invitation to take the oversight of Mount Stuart Independent Chapel, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff.

20/05/1863

At Saron Chapel, on Monday evening last, the Rev. J. Davies was presented with an address and testimonial on the occasion of his leaving Aberaman for Cardiff. A graceful tribute of respect was also paid to Mrs Davies, who was presented with a substantial testimonial. The chapel was crowded. The chair was ably filled by Thomas Williams, Esq., High Constable of Aberdare, who introduced the business of the evening in an appropriate speech. He said he would have been glad if some one of the noted men around him had been voted to the chair, as he felt particularly unequal to the work, He would not keep them long and considering that about thirty well known public men were to take part in the meeting, he hoped to set the example of being brief. He, like the people of Aberdare generally, regretted Rev. Davies's departure. He had hoped that he would have lived and died in their midst. They were not there that day not merely to utter words of praise and regret, but to present something that would last when the present generation had passed away.

They intended giving Rev. Davies a memento of their respect which would survive future generations. He then proceeded to enumerate Mr Davies's good qualities and said whatever he took in hand to do; he did with all his might. He was an excellent preacher, but good preachers were often anything but good pastors. He excelled as a pastor. As a public man he was known throughout Wales not merely denominational and local movements secured his co-operation, but his sympathy was with everything good. He had served with him on many committees and always with sincere pleasure. Mr. Williams then referred at some length to the part Rev. Davies took in making the arrangements connected with the reception of the autumnal meetings of the Congregational Union of England and Wales in 1859.

He then proceeded to refer to Rev. Davies's connection with the London Missionary Society, Home Missionary Society, the Society for promoting English Congregational extension in South Wales, and the Pastor's Retiring Fund, concluding a highly complementary speech by wishing Mr Davies all the prosperity he deserved. Mr John Jones, one of the deacons of Saron Chapel, then moved the following resolution:

"That the Saron Independent Church wishes to express its highest appreciation of the power, character, labours, and influence of the Rev. J. Davies, during the 9 years of his pastorate its deep regret at his departure its warmest wishes for his welfare, and that of his partner; and its earnest prayer that the Head of the Church may prosper him at Cardiff."

This was seconded by Mr. John Williams, another deacon, who spoke of Rev. Davies in very complimentary terms, and referred in a similar manner to the good deeds of Mrs Davies who, he said, if anything; excelled her husband, in pastoral labours. The resolution was, then cordially adopted by all the members of the church. The chairman next read letters from the Rev. W. Edwards, Aberdare; D. Richards, Caerphilly, and a few others, expressing regret at their unavoidable absence. A letter from Mr. C. Griffiths thanking Rev. and Mrs. Davies for their kind co-operation with him as master of the Day-school, connected with Saron Chapel. The Rev. Thomas Price then, in a speech of considerable length, moved the following resolution:

"That the various religious denominations of Aberdare, desire publicly to express their high opinion of the beneficial influence which the pure life, kind spirit, persevering character, great talents, and extraordinary exertions of the Rev John Davies, during the period of his ministry in this place, have left upon all. They also desire to express their regret at his leaving the neighbourhood and offer their heartfelt prayer that the Lord may bless him abundantly in the new sphere of his labours."

In moving the resolution, the reverend speaker eulogised Mr Davies, stating that he had taken part in all those movements which have had for their object the assertion of the rights of dissenters to equal civil privileges with churchmen. He thought if Mr Davies was a little man, he was a great workman. (Laughter). As an outsider of the Independent denomination, he begged to say that his (Mr Davies's) removal was regretted by all the members of the Baptist body and by none more than by the speaker. They had co-operated as editors of the same newspaper; they had different departments, and he always found that, when pressed for time, Mr. Davies was ready to give a helping hand. Aberdare could ill afford to lose such men, and his departure was therefore very much regretted. After expressing his great esteem for Mr Davies as an earnest Christian, the speaker sat down amidst much applause. The Rev. T. Rees, Calvinistic Methodist Minister, seconded the resolution proposed by Mr. Price, and expressed the great regard in which he held Mr Davies. The resolution, which was unanimously adopted, was supported by the Rev T. Nicholas, Baptist Minister, Rev. W. Williams, and Mr. D. Davies, Gadlys Works, each of whom spoke in terms of high praise of Mr. Davies. The next resolution, which was as follows, was then moved by the Rev. D. Rees, Llanelli:

"That this meeting desires to place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr Davies to the Welsh Press for many years his untiring activity in the promotion of public movements generally, and those of his own denomination in particular, together with his continued devotion to the interests of his country."

Mr. Rees said he had been for thirty-five years at Llanelli, and they had given him no testimonial. Rev. Davies's presentation would be a temptation to removal, for he thought it probable that if he was to remove, he also should have one. He was glad to find his neighbours and co. workers praise Mr. Davies. Many were great from home, but small men at home. It was just so into present case. Many a bubble of a man had got up to the surface for a short time, but he was soon lost again. Nothing but merit could keep a man near the top for a number of years; therefore, Rev. Davies must profess sterling qualities. Mr. Rees concluded an effective speech by stating that Rev. Davies had proved himself a patriot, a philanthropist; a Christian, a good preacher, in fact, everything desirable. He had done good service with the press, and he hoped to see the press continue to have, as it now had, the greatest influence in Wales next to the pulpit.

The Rev John Thomas, Liverpool, in seconding the resolution, said he had known Mr Davies for 22 years, and had co-operated with him in carrying on the Welsh reviews, "Yr Adolygydd" and "Y Beirniad." He could corroborate the statements of previous speakers. He could not say that he much regretted Mr Davies's departure from Aberaman, as it would be only a local loss. It would be no loss to the Welsh people, to Dissent, to religion, nor the denomination, He hoped ere long he would get another testimonial for not removing from Cardiff.

The resolution was supported by Mr. Griffiths, London Correspondent of the "Baner ac Amserau Cymru" newspaper. He said he was personally under no particular obligation to Rev. Davies but, as one who from his vocation was coming continually in contact with public men, he highly valued him, as a Welshman, as a Dissenter, and as an Independent especially. He had heard the great orators of the House of Commons often-Peel, Graham, Palmerston, Gladstone, and others, and had some chance of knowing something of tactics. He regarded Rev. Davies as a tactician of the first order and cited his speeches last year at the Neath, and Carmarthen Bicentenary Conferences as illustration. Was it not for Rev. Davies, the deputation to Earl Granville on Education in Wales would not have been so successful, and he feared Wales did not rightly value its public men? The resolution was then carried unanimously.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. David Jenkins, a deacon of Saron church, then, amid cheering, presented a purse of gold to Mr Davies, as a parting tribute of good will from the church. Mr. John Jones, another of the deacons, said his feelings would not allow him to express what he and the other members of the church felt towards Mr Davies. He had been a dear master to them.

They all knew of his goodness, laborious disposition, and careful pastoral supervision. When he came there the church only numbered 154 members. Two new churches were formed after a few years, viz., Cwmaman and Abercwmboi, and over 600 members, had been received by Mr Davies into the communion of the church. The chapel was rebuilt soon after he came there, and they had recently enlarged the schoolroom.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins, the fifth deacon who took part in the proceedings, now got up to present a handsome inkstand to Mrs Davies, given by the young women of the congregation. He said if they could not give as much as the others, their wish to honour Mrs Davies was quite as great. The Rev H. G. Parrish, B.A., then came forward and read the following address, which had, been prepared by the Committee, but more particularly by the reverend gentleman himself:

Rev. and Dear Sir,

“It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we learn of your intended departure from Aberdare. Though we would not assume the right of criticizing the decision at which you have arrived, we cannot but feel sorry that you should have felt justified in deciding to leave a neighbourhood in which you have been, and, we doubt not, would continue to be, of such essential service. The high appreciation we have of your public merit and private worth, whilst it renders the parting painful, would not permit your numerous friends to take leave of you without presenting a substantial and, we trust, welcome token of their regard. The accompanying present, however, is rather a sign than the measure of their esteem.



Bethlem Chapel, Abercwmboi.

It is not given to every man to possess a union of qualities which are severally, and unitedly, deserving of praise. To you, Sir, have been given powers of no mean order, and we are glad, at this parting moment, to call to mind how those powers have been used, as becomes an intelligent man and sincere Christian. Your loss will be readily felt but not easily repaired.

Aberdare, as a new town — the centre of commercial interests which are rapidly increasing both in extent and importance — has great need of men who are alive to the wants of the age, and have honesty sufficient to enable them to use their influence and ability in aid of any great movement likely to advance the wellbeing of society. In all such movements you have boldly, deservedly, and successfully held foremost rank. In every political agitation in which a minister can consistently take part, your presence and counsel have been weighty. As a

man who could overstep the boundaries of a sect and work for the good of humanity, you have secured many friends who, without sharing your religious views, cannot remain unconscious of the many sterling qualities which characterize you both as a man and as a Christian; and we do not hesitate to affirm that you will leave a mark behind you which will tell for good on after generations.

The local press will lose in you a ready and efficient aid. 'The Gwron' and 'Gwladgarwr' have each, from time to time, been enriched by contributions from your pen, and owe their success in no slight degree to the help which you have afforded. The members of the various religious denominations in this town and neighbourhood have learnt to esteem you as a largehearted Christian, whilst those of your own body have had in you one who, on all occasions of public interest, could represent them with effect and credit. Nor will it soon be forgotten how much of the success which attended the meetings of the Congregational Union in Aberdare was owing to your active exertions as secretary of the managing committee.

We can sympathize with the feelings expressed by those over whom, for nine years, you have exercised pastoral supervision, and are quite sure that, in your removal, your church and congregation are deprived of a strong, intelligent, and earnest minister. The sadness occasioned by your leaving must be mingled with grateful recollections of what has been accomplished since you entered upon your labours as minister of Saron. During your pastorate, the church and congregation have become one of the most numerous in South Wales.

It seems to us that Aberaman can ill afford to lose you; but we trust the step you are about to take is ordered by that Divine Wisdom which is our only sure guidance. We would pray that the change may prove an undoubted benefit to yourself, to the church, and to the public generally. It is a cause of gratulation that you are not to be removed to any great distance, and it must afford satisfaction to your countrymen to know that your labours are to be continued within the boundaries of the Principality.

Seeing that Cardiff is to be your future home, we would fain express a hope that your sympathy and help will still be forthcoming, and that, amid new duties and associations, Aberdare will not be forgotten by you, as we feel sure you will not be forgotten at Aberdare. Nor would we forget to record our grateful esteem for Mrs. Davies, whose devotion in the cause of our Divine Master has made her memory dear to all who have had the happiness of knowing her.

We cannot complete our task, at once pleasant and painful, without heartily congratulating you on the future of happy usefulness which seems opening out before you. Since you must be removed, we are glad to know that one of the principal towns in the United Kingdom is about to be the scene of your labour; and we pray the Almighty Father that your life may be prolonged, your success continued and increased, and your course of toil be followed by that honourable reward and satisfactory rest which await the faithful servants of the Most High.

Signed on behalf of the committee,

Thomas Williams, Chairman.
E. G. Price, Treasurer.
Walter Lloyd, Secretary.

In presenting it to Rev. Davies, Mr. Parish said he had great pleasure in placing it in his hands) and was very, glad that his claims had not been overlooked. The address was beautifully engrossed in Old English letters on Vellum, by Mr. Ivan Jones, and was one of the finest specimens of penmanship we have ever seen.

The chairman then called upon the Rev. R. Gwesyn Jones, Merthyr, who said he was glad that Mr Davies was going to Cardiff, for he was anxious to see their denomination take a more advanced position there than it had yet done. Who knew but that Mr. Davies's services would be very, valuable as secretary of an autumnal meeting of the Congregational Union at Cardiff! Englishmen's notions of them were, no doubt, improving, but they were not yet what they ought to be. They wanted to have thorough ought to be. They wanted to have thorough Welshmen in places where their English brethren might see them, and he thought Mr. Davies at Cardiff would do much good in that way.

Mrs. W. Edwards, Ebenezer, then presented Mr. Davies with a magnificent gold watch and a handsome massive gold chain. On the watch was engraved, "Presented, with a purse of gold, the Rev John Davies, Aberaman, by his friends, on his leaving the neighbourhood." Mr. E. G. Price, making an appropriate speech, presented the purse to Mrs Davies. It was heavy, he said, and he hoped she would never live to see the bottom of it. He complimented Mrs Davies on the estimable manner in which she had exemplified what a minister's wife should be.

Both Rev. and Mrs Davies were evidently much moved. Rev. Davies, who spoke with some difficulty, thanked the various friends who had evinced such a tender and lively interest in him. He referred in appropriate terms to his connection with the Saron church and its deacons, and shook hands with Mr. John Williams, the senior of them, wishing it to be understood that he would be triad if all the members would consider that equivalent to shaking the hands of each individual. He then referred to his connection with the chairman, the Revs. T. Price, W. Edwards, (whose absence he regretted) D Price, J. Morgan, Cwmbach W. Williams, Hirwain, and J. Rees Cwmaman; T. Rees, (and his Calvinistic Methodist friends.) T. Nicholas (and his Baptist friends), J. Thomas, Liverpool; Mr. Griffiths, the 'Banner' correspondent, and especially Mr. Stephens, Brychgoed, for he regarded him as a father. He heard him (Mr. Davies) deliver his first sermon on a three-legged stool in a thatched cottage and had at all times helped him by his counsel. He had said a great deal to the church before that evening but wished to say something of them now. He would never wish to have better deacons; in fact, they had always allowed him to have his own way. Peace and tranquillity had reigned in the church during the 9 years he had been its pastor, and he had no cause of trouble from one end of the year to the other. He then referred to the new sphere of his labours, Cardiff. He disclaimed any intention of going there with a view to raise dissent.

Dissent was well represented there by our Baptist friends and should be glad to co-operate with the noble men already in the field. What he sought was a smaller chapel and less work. He possessed but a little body and that not over strong, so he trusted the change would prove beneficial to his health. Mr. Davies resumed his seat amidst repeated applause. The Rev. J. Stephens, Brychgoed, next addressed the meeting and said he had known Mr Davies as a member, as a preacher, as a student, and a minister.

The Rev. H. Oliver, B.A., said that Aberdare had honoured itself by that meeting. Mr Davies would have been looked upon none the less outside of Aberdare if he had received no testimonial, but the men of Aberdare would have been decidedly lowered in public estimation; they would have shown that they had no eye to see true greatness. But he was glad it was otherwise. He wished the churches of the iron districts to endeavour to find out the reason that they lost their best men: Dr. Rees had left Beaufort, the Rev. O. Jones Dowlais, the Rev. D. Sanders Aberdare, the Rev. E. Jones Ynysgau, the Rev. B. Williams Dowlais, the Rev N. Stephens and the Rev. R. Ellis Sirhowy, the Rev. J.

Emlyn Jones Ebbw Vale, and lastly though not least, Mr Davies from Aberaman. Something was wrong, and the sooner it was discovered and righted the better.

The chairman, at Mrs. Davies's request then moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the committee; this was seconded by the Rev. T. Llewellyn, Mountain Ash, and carried unanimously. Mr P. John acknowledged the vote on behalf of the Committee, stating that the friends who formed the committee did not endeavour to find out whether the step Mr. Davies was taking was right or not, but as they knew Mr. Davies was deserving they resolved to show their appreciation of his most valuable services. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings, which were throughout of a most pleasant and harmonious character to a close.

Note: History of Saron Chapel by Rev. Glannant Jones.

I should also refer to the fact that Saron was incredibly supportive to starting an English cause in Aberdare and it is stated that the Rev. John Davies worked hard with the brothers there until they succeeded.

The Rev John Davies was a man of letters and was one of the editors of "Y Beirniad" (The Critic), "Y Gwron" (The Hero) and "Y Gwladgarwr" (The Patriot). He was passionate about his country's literature and established a Literary Society in Aberaman. This society held Eisteddfodau of a high standard and the young people of Saron, and the area were given the opportunity to develop their talents at a time of very few educational and cultural advantages. Among those who benefited from these meetings were Hywel Cynon (Author, Cerddi Hywel Cynon [The Poems of Hywel Cynon]), J. P. Price (America); T. Phillips, D. Harries, Gwynalaw, Gwilym Cynon and others.

In his work with literature Mr Davies endeavoured to show religious ideas, thoughts, and experiences in a glorious and exemplary light. We, who have had the honour of succeeding him in this ministry, acknowledge our debt to him for this great work. Since Davies' days, there has been in Saron a Society to ennoble the mind as well as the soul and it was, he who laid this foundation that many have built on since. As with the history of the building of Saron, the life of the church was also one of renewal and extension, but all on that same foundation. The Rev. John Davies was the first to discover the use of "workers" in the faith and it was no surprise to see some of the younger brothers entering the ministry. Their names, along with others, are elsewhere in this history.

We should have mentioned one other fact about Saron: when the chapel was built a piece of land was reserved as a cemetery. Few were buried there, because in 1858 the old burial laws were changed and, under the new law, interment in Saron cemetery was not permitted.

I would like to present more facts about the Rev. John Davies, but I must refrain, because the intention is not to talk of personalities only but of a special Movement, and Saron's place in the work of that movement is our chief aim. Following nine years of successful work he received a call from a young church in Mount Stuart, Cardiff, and the young there were utterly captivated and so he saw an opportunity to lead another young church. A Farewell Meeting was held on Monday 5th June 1863. Strangely enough, his successor as Saron's minister was at that very meeting. He received an Address referring to his excellent work, as well as a gold watch and chain and a purse with an impressive sum of gold. The chapel was heaving, and the congregation were very emotional. He enjoyed a successful ministry in Mount Stuart until his death in 1874 at the age of 51. "He staggered not but was strong in faith." His memoir was published by the Rev. John Thomas, Liverpool.

Cardiff Years.

After much thought and reflection, he resolved to accept the invitation and removed to Cardiff in the year 1864 The Church at Mount Stuart Square was small when he became its pastor, and was, moreover, struggling under a heavy debt of £650. This debt Mr. Davies succeeded in paying off

within a short time He also had a new roof placed upon the chapel and a new gallery to increase the accommodation which was much needed. These necessary alterations and improvements cost an additional £650, which Mr. Davies's energy and rare executive skill enabled him to raise almost as soon as the alterations were completed. Finding that it was impossible to extend that Welsh interest as he would, in consequence of the district being almost exclusively inhabited by English speaking people, Mr. Davies, in conjunction with a few friends, resolved to establish an English congregation and to take the oversight of it himself. With him to resolve was to fulfil; and in a short time that fine congregational chapel in Hannah Street was built under his auspices, and chiefly by energy. The chapel, including the organ, cost £4,400, but this debt has been reduced, and mainly his efforts, to about £650. Hitherto Mr. Davies had been the pastor of Welsh Churches, preaching however, occasional sermons in English-to-English congregations when invited.

It was feared, by some, anxious friends that he might not be equal to the task of preaching English constantly, but his success in his new field of labour soon showed that he had formed a proper estimate of his own powers and ability. Although never losing the Welsh accent, he proved himself to be a ready and fluent English speaker, and that he had mastered all the intricacies of the English tongue and appreciated both the beauty and force of the language. While building his own chapel in Hannah Street he undertook to assist in building 20 English Independent chapels in South Wales, in places where English speaking people abounded who were destitute of English chapel accommodation.

This effort was made to carry out the project of Mr. Samuel Morley, who subscribed the sum of £5,000 to the undertaking. Mr. Morley offered Rev Davies £200 a year to superintend the successful working of the scheme Rev. Davies refused the salary, but he nevertheless did all the work gratuitously. While carrying this project into successful operation and much engaged also in erecting and paying for the erection of his own chapel, he undertook another task on behalf of the College in which he had been educated. In conjunction with a friend, he resolved to visit England, to make collections in aid of the Brecon Memorial College and so successful was his English mission that he and his friend in six weeks brought back the noble sum of £2,800, and at the opening of the College in September 1869, Rev. Davies received the unanimous and hearty thanks of the Committee and the meeting. All this he did while he was struggling to pay-off the debt on his own chapel, and which he succeeded in paying, with the exception of £650, almost by his own unaided efforts. His other chapel at Splott-lands, Cardiff, and was mainly instrumental in erecting the Welsh Independent Chapel in Canton. During the greater part of these years, he was joint editor of the Welsh quarterly magazine 'Y Beirniad,' and also joint secretary of the Brecon Memorial College.

Rev. Davies was not only a devout man and an earnest preacher, but he was a patriot and a philanthropist in the truest sense of these often-abused words. His sympathies were not bounded by his own church, or even by his own denomination, but he extended the right hand of brotherhood and help to Christians of every name. His zeal was earnest, active, all-pervading, while it was corrected by true knowledge, and the valuable experience of a sound, practical life. He was what the Germans aptly call a many-sided man, while his highest ambition and his noblest aspirations were to preach to men "the truth as it is in Jesus." He died in harness like a good soldier of the Cross and has left a name which to thousands will be a name of loving respect and of gracious remembrance.

The late Rev John Davies of Hannah Street Chapel, Cardiff 16.05.1874.

The interment of the body of the Rev. John Davies, for many years pastor of Hannah Street Chapel, Cardiff took place at the Cardiff Now Cemetery on Monday. Few perhaps even of his most intimate friends, who mingled with him frequently and took part with him in carrying on the work, which was to him a labour of love, knew how widely, deeply, and earnestly the memory of Rev. John Davies was cherished in the breasts of those who, like him, were engaged in the work of the

ministry. Still fewer, perhaps, believed that a quiet, unassuming man, a man physically weak, but mentally strong, could draw around his grave so many sympathising friends from the whole Principality, and also from parts of England. The chapel on Monday morning was crowded not only with ministers from a distance, but a large number of the principal ministers and residents of the town, who attended to show their respect to one who had done much in his sphere of labour for the inhabitants of Cardiff. The curtain in front of the organ gallery was covered with crape; the pulpit was also hung with crape; the blinds were drawn down, and the whole assembly wearing mourning garments gave the scene a peculiarly solemn aspect. As the funeral was a public one it was intended that the friends should meet in the chapel, where a short religious service would be held. Addresses by some of his most intimate friends would be delivered, and then a procession formed to precede the funeral cortege to the Cemetery.

The whole arrangements were quietly but efficiently carried out by some of the principal members of his congregation. The Rev. Dr. Rees presided and first gave out hymn in Welsh suitable for the occasion. The Rev. Benjamin Williams, of Swansea, read a portion of the New Testament, and also offered up a prayer.

The Rev. Professor Morris, of Brecon College, then delivered a short address. After alluding to the object that brought them together, the mournful task of burying the dead, he said their deceased brother was a strong man, although small in body. His life was that of the lives of half-a-dozen men rolled into one. He was wise, and his presence was a strong power in committees and conferences. He was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Ghost, and of love for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was an eminently useful man, and Aberdare, Aberaman, Brecon, and Cardiff could bear testimony to his eminent usefulness. He had left behind him monuments on which his name was conspicuously written. But death was no respecter of persons. Death did not respect the rich man for his wealth, nor the poor man for his poverty. He did not respect the old man for his grey hairs, nor the young man for his tender years. He did not respect the obscure member of a congregation because of his insignificance, nor the eminent minister for his rich gifts and graces.

He struck with an impartial band. They must all die, all be spilt like water upon the ground, that, could not be gathered up. Death had reigned from Adam to Moses, from Moses to Christ, and from Christ down to the present day, and it will reign to the end of time. How vain is life without religion and the hopes of a promised heaven? Our life is as a vapour which appears for a little while and then vanishes away. We are here today; we are gone tomorrow. We take a few turns on the stage of existence a few times up and down, and then we droop and disappear, and are never seen again. It is so with our departed brother; we shall never see him again in this life. The sun shines today as it did yesterday, men and women go forth to their usual occupations, but he is out of it all. He has fought the good fight; he has finished his course. He has kept the faith, in spite of infidelity on the one hand, and superstition on the other. He has kept the faith in spite of difficulties and temptations to his latest breath, and now he is wearing the crown of glory, and taking part in rejoicings that will never fade away. The battle is fought, and the victory is won for ever. His spirit is now on high, and he casts his crown at the feet of Him whom he loved while on earth.

God grant that we may, follow his energetic example, and that we may live as we have never lived before, that we may preach as we have never preached before, that we may work as we have never worked before and then, when we bid good night to this world, and go away to the world of spirits, we may have, like him, abundant riches in the joy of our Lord. May His blessing rest upon us, and may this occasion be the means of pouring spiritual life and power on all of us.

The Rev. N. Thomas, of Cardiff, then delivered a short address, in reference more particularly to the great work which the deceased had carried on in Cardiff. Not only had Cardiff sustained a loss, but the whole of Wales had sustained a loss by his death, and also Nonconformity itself. They had worked together for a long time and had worked most harmoniously.

The Rev. Richards, Wesleyan minister, of Cardiff, also delivered a short, but earnest address, which was followed by an address in Welsh by the Rev. D. Saunders, Calvinistic Methodist, Swansea. The Rev. Dr. Rees, the president, also delivered a very feeling address, speaking of the deceased gentlemen in the highest terms of praise; and the proceedings were then closed with prayer.

The ministers and others who took part in the proceedings formed outside the chapel a procession, which extended for nearly half a mile. They proceeded to the residence of Mr Davies, in London-square, where, besides the hearse and several mourning carriages, about forty carriages formed a part of the funeral cortege. It was one of the longest and most numerous-attended funerals that ever took place in Cardiff. Many of the houses in the route from the Docks to North-street were partially closed as the procession passed along. On arriving at the cemetery, the funeral service was solemnly and impressively read, and several short addresses were again delivered by ministers of the town and neighbourhood.

The following is a list of some of the ministers and others who attended to show their respect to the memory of the deceased Revs. D. Jones, Merthyr; J. M. Evans, Cardiff; Isaac Morris, Pontypridd; J. Lloyd James, Dowlais; D. Thomas, Dowlais; J. Rees, Treherbert; D. Thomas, Tonypany; W. Thomas, Cwmavon; D. Richards, Caerphilly; John Jones, Maesteg; J. B. Webster, Merthyr H. C. Long, Longsight, Manchester R. Evans, Aberdare, Jonah Morgan, Cwmbach; D. Price, Siloa, Aberdare; Thomas Llewellyn, Mountain Ash; H. Wilcocks, Canton; T. Davies, Morristown; Abraham Edmunds, St. Mellons; B. P. Phillips, student, Brecon; James Davies, Brecon College Thomas Rees, Brecon College; J. Lloyd Williams, New College, Brecon; D. Davies, Treorky; D. L. Jenkins, Roath; D. R. Davies, Abercwmboy, D. Jones, Swansea, Thomas George, Dinas; D. R. Richards, student, Cardiff; T. C. Williams, Canton; J. Farr, Aberdare; W. Joseph, Cardiff; W. Edwards, Aberdare; R. T. Howell, Swansea; Samuel Jones, Bonvilstone; Lewis Probert, Pentre, near Pontypridd T. L. Davies, Maindee, Newport; Evan Williams, Ely-road, Cardiff; E. Jenkins, Brecon College; J. Johns, Brecon College; W. J. Davies, Newport; J. C. Davies, Mumbles, Swansea; D. Jones, Sirhowy; B. Williams, Swansea; J. Owen, Brecon College; W. Williams, Brecon College; L. Thomson MacLaine, Mountain Ash; Samuel Owen, Blaenavon; D. Lewis, Llanelly; J. Thomas, Grammar School, Cardiff; D. R. Morgan, Ton, Ystrad D. Williams, Blaina; Rev. Professor Morris, Brecon; Jarson Jenkins Dursley, Gloucestershire J. B. Evans, student, Francis Street, Cardiff; David Nathan, Newport; B. Rowlands, Aberaman; J. S. Edwards, Grammar School, Cardiff; Thos. Johns, Llanelly; D. Glyn Davies, Risca W. Morris Bridgend; W. Williams, Abercarne; T. Hodgson, Town Missionary, Cardiff; T. Davies, Llanelly, B. Thomas, Penarth; D. Davies, Newport; Henry Davies, Llanelly; H. T. Adams, Grammar-School, Cardiff; Morris Jones, Cheltenham; David Davies, Mount Stuart-square, Cardiff (Bethel) J. G. Owen, Salem, Splottlands, Cardiff W. Oliver, M.A., Memorial College, Brecon; Thos. Lewis, Cardiff; D. F. Roberts, Brecon College; J. D. Edwards, student, Cardiff; Thos. Thomas, Grammar School, Cardiff; L. Davies, Sketty, Swansea; Lewis Williams, Mynyddislwyn; A. Jones, Baptist Minister, Cardiff; N. Thomas, Tabernacle, Cardiff; T. L. Jones, Machen, near Newport; Ellis Hughes, Penmaen; Herbert Daniels, Cefn-y-Criby, N. Wales; W. Russell, Pentyrch W. J. Richards, Dowlais J. Jenkins, Wesleyan Minister, Cardiff; S. J. Hughes, Maesycwmmmer; S. Griffiths, Abersychan; John Davies, Aberdare; J. Beynon Davies, Mount Stuart Chapel, Cardiff; J. H. Jones, Ystalyfera; W. Nicholson, Groeswen; W. Thomas, Siloam, Docks, Cardiff Caleb Gwion, Milford Haven; W. D. Davies, Aberdare David Evans, Porthcawl; John Phillips, student, Cardiff; J. B. Jones, B.A., Bridgend; Evan Evans, Skewen J. Stephens, Brynteg; J. Roberts, Maesyrhaf, Neath; D. Saunders, Swansea; W. C. Davies, Llantrisant; J. W. Morris, Canton; D. Griffiths, Llantrisant; T. P. Williams, Baptist minister, Canton; A. Tilly, Cardiff; W. B. Morgan, Maesteg; Thomas Richards, Wesleyan minister, Loudoun-square, Cardiff W. Morgan, Carmel, Maesteg James Whitehead, Wesleyan minister, Canton; T. M. Thomas, Cardiff; W. C. Jenkins, Kidwelly; D. Rowlands, Brecon College; Joseph Morris, Brunswick Chapel, Bristol; W.H. Thomas, Cadle; J. J. Brown, Birmingham; Rev. D. Howell, Vicar of St. John's, Cardiff.

Among the laymen were Mr. J. Cory, Mr. R. Cory, jun., Mr. J. Batchelor, Mr. D. Duncan, Mr. Rees Jones, Capt. Thomas, Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. Davies (Llan Collieries), Mr. T. H. Stephens, Mr. T.

Webber, Mr. S. Marks, Mr. W. Thomas, Mr. Williams, Mr. J.T. Barry, Mr. W. Hughes. Dr. Edwards, Dr. Jones, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Newbury, Mr. J. Marychurch, Mr. Slocombe, Mr. P. Bird, &c.,