

## EDWARDS, ELLIS (1844 - 1915), Calvinistic Methodist minister and principal of Bala Theological College

**Name:** Ellis Edwards  
**Date of birth:** 1844  
**Date of death:** 1915  
**Parent:** Eleanor Edwards (née Williams)  
**Parent:** Roger Edwards  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Calvinistic Methodist minister and principal of Bala Theological College  
**Area of activity:** Education; Religion  
**Author:** Gwilym Arthur Edwards

Born at Mold 9 June 1844, son of **Roger Edwards**. He was educated at Edinburgh University (M.A., and later D.D. honoris causa), was ordained in 1872, and was minister of Albert Road, Oswestry, 1872-4. Before the end of 1873 he had been appointed tutor at Bala, where he remained until the end of his life, becoming vice-principal in 1889 and principal in 1907. He lectured there on different subjects: ethics, apologetics, comparative religion, and afterwards divinity. Before the college was converted into a purely theological institution (1891) he devoted himself largely to Latin, Greek, and English literature. He delivered the Davies lecture ('The Being of God') in 1903. He fell far short of **Lewis Edwards** in theology and of **Thomas Charles Edwards** in exegesis, but in all subjects which lay on the border line between theology, philosophy, and literature, his knowledge was profound. He composed some hymn-tunes, lectured frequently outside the college ('Lady Macbeth' and 'Some Sounds in Nature' were two very popular lectures), spoke on political questions, and was regarded as a most attractive speaker and as a preacher who stood in a class by himself. His sparkling animation and many-sided culture were characteristic, and because of his pleasant and courteous personality few teachers inspired such affection. He wrote little and left no book behind him. His deafness was a social disadvantage, and there is an extensive canon of stories about him. Towards the end of his life he met with an accident at Chester and died 2 February 1915.

### Author

Reverend Gwilym Arthur Edwards, (1881 - 1963)

### Sources

*Y Goleuad*, 1915

*Y Drysorfa*, 1915

G. A. Edwards, *Athrofa'r Bala, 1837-1937*

### Images

Hugh Humphreys, Rev. Ellis Edwards

### Additional Links

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