

## JAMES, JOHN (Ioan Meirion; 1815 - 1851), writer

**Name:** John James  
**Pseudonym:** Ioan Meirion  
**Date of birth:** 1815  
**Date of death:** 1851  
**Parent:** Sarah James  
**Parent:** John James  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** writer  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Ty-gwyn, Llan-ym-Mawddwy, Meirionnydd, younger son of John James (who survived him) and his wife Sarah; the father was a deacon in the Independent church at Dinas Mawddwy, and the elder son, Hugh James (1809 - 1875), became Independent minister of Brithdir (near Dolgellay) and of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Montgomeryshire. John James went up to London at an early age; his occupation there is not known, but he married a rich wife, and at the close of his life was living at 4 Tysoe Street, Wilmington Square. He wrote a good deal, in Welsh and in English, and on **Talhaïarn**'s testimony was a leading member of the Cymreigyddion Society. Unfortunately for his fame, he was appointed in 1846 one of the twelve assistant-commissioners in the inquiry into education in Wales - probably because of his Nonconformist background, though he was no longer a Nonconformist. His reports (included in the Commission's printed Report) were furiously attacked; he was severely handled by **Lewis Edwards** (; and see **Edwards's** *Traethodau Llenyddol*, 374-421); lesser critics than **Edwards** spoke of him as a Judas. In July 1847 he became secretary to the trustees of the 'Welsh Charity School' in London; and when the Anglican newspaper *Y Cymro* was removed from Bangor to London in 1830, James became its editor. He died 24 April 1851 (from a kick by his horse on Blackheath), and was buried in the churchyard at Llan-ym-Mawddwy; according to his tombstone he was then 36.

### Author

**Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins**, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Gwaith Talhaïarn* (London 1855), i, 435

*Y Dysgedydd*, 1851, 192

*Y Brython*, v, 451-2

*Bye-Gones, relating to Wales and the Border Counties*, 1894, 427

Rachel Leighton, *Rise and progress the story of the Welsh Girls' School and of the Honourable and Loyal Society of Ancient Britons* (1950), 102

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