

## PARRY, JOHN (1812 - 1874), Calvinistic Methodist minister, college tutor, and editor

**Name:** John Parry  
**Date of birth:** 1812  
**Date of death:** 1874  
**Spouse:** Sarah Parry (née Gee)  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Calvinistic Methodist minister, college tutor, and editor  
**Area of activity:** Education; Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born 23 March 1812 at Bersham, Denbighshire, but in 1824 his parents removed to Manchester; in fact, until he went to Bala he was more at ease in English than in Welsh. After some unsatisfactory schooling, he was apprenticed. But he was assiduous at evening classes in the Manchester Mechanics Institute, and took to mathematics and science with such zeal that when he sought permission to become a preacher, the suspicious authorities gave only very tardy consent - indeed, **Lewis Edwards** admitted Parry to Bala C.M. College (1838) before that consent was given. Between 1841 and 1843 he put in some broken terms at Edinburgh University - broken, because of want of means. But in 1843 **Lewis Edwards** chose him as his assistant at Bala, where he remained for the rest of his life. He put his duties as tutor before everything else, rarely preaching outside the immediate vicinity of Bala, and only under pressure consenting to write for *Y Traethodydd* when that periodical began to appear. He was an extremely conscientious tutor; he seems to have been wholly unoriginal, but he laboured hard with the more backward of his pupils, and was indeed more fully appreciated by the majority of them than was **Lewis Edwards** himself - there is probably justice in the verdict of **J. Cynddylan Jones** that Parry did too much of their work for them, but that **Lewis Edwards** did them more real good. He was ordained in 1845, and was moderator of the North Wales Calvinistic Methodist Association in 1866. In 1844 he married Sarah Gee, sister of the publisher **Thomas Gee**. When **Gee**, in 1853, started the Welsh encyclopaedia *Y Gwyddoniadur*, Parry was persuaded to undertake the editorship, and though he died long before the work was finished, it was his connection with it that won him national fame - editorial work of this kind was congenial to a man of his conscientious nature. After 1865 his health rapidly declined, and he died 19 January 1874.

### Author

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

### Sources

Owen Thomas's preface to *Y Gwyddoniadur Cymreig* (1889-96), xix-xxxviii  
other scattered information

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Parry](#)

### Images

John Thomas, [Dr. John Parry](#), Coleg y Bala

Brown, Barnes & Bell, [Dr. John Parry](#) (of Bala)

### Works

David Jones, Owen Thomas, John Parry, *Cofiant y Parchedig John Jones, Talysarn* (New York 1868)

## Additional Links

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