

TREGELLES, SAMUEL PRIDEAUX (1813 - 1875), Biblical scholar and linguist

Name: Samuel Prideaux Tregelles
Date of birth: 1813
Date of death: 1875
Parent: Samuel Tregelles
Gender: Male
Occupation: Biblical scholar and linguist
Area of activity: Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: John Daniel Vernon Lewis

Born of Quaker parentage at ' Wodehouse Place,' near Falmouth, 30 January 1813. His father, Samuel, joined a Cornish company, which settled at the iron-works of Cwm-y-felin, Neath Abbey, Glamorgan, at the beginning of the 19th century, and his name appears on a deed in 1818. Tregelles came early under the influence of J. N. Darby (1800 - 1882), one of the chief founders of the Plymouth Brethren. Although Tregelles left the Plymouth Brethren for the Church of England, he retained to the end some of their characteristic doctrines. Educated at the Rev. T. Sheepshank's grammar school, Falmouth (1825-8), he moved, when 15 years of age, to Neath Abbey, where he was engaged in the iron-works (1829-35), probably as a clerk, but according to **D. Rhys Phillips**, he was there apprenticed as an engineer and assisted in lighting the morning fires for the craftsmen. He diligently applied himself to master Hebrew and Greek and also the Welsh language. In the vicinity of Neath he felt the urge to preach the Gospel, and doubtless did so in Welsh on several occasions. He was secretary of Neath Cymmrodorion c. 1833. He moved to Falmouth in 1835 as private tutor, returned for a while to Neath, 30 July 1844, when in a letter to **Eben Fardd** he expressed his intention of visiting him at Clynnog during his preaching tour. They frequently corresponded with each other in Welsh, the Welsh poet having taught him the rules of *cynganedd*. For over thirty years he devoted himself to the study and elucidation of Hebrew and Biblical Greek, collating all manuscripts then known here and on the Continent. His chief work was on the Greek text of the New Testament; he deviated from the ' Textus Receptus.' He was known also as a poet, and the *Lyra Britannica* and Schaff's *Christ in Song* contain poems by him. In his last years he received a civil pension of £200 a year in recognition of his work. He died of paralysis at Plymouth, 24 April 1875.

He published: *Passages in the Old Testament connected with the Revelation*, 1836; ' An account of English Versions ' in the 'Introduction' to *English Hexapla* (London, 1841); *Hebrew Reading Lessons*, 1845; *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament*, 1847 (transactions of Gesenius *Lex*); *Heads of Hebrew Grammar*, 1852; *Interlineary Hebrew & English Psalter*, 1852. He had a large share in *The Englishman's Greek Concordance to the New Testament*, and *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance to the Old Testament*, 1839-43; *Account of the Printed Text of the New Testament*, 1854; *An Introduction to the textual criticism of the New Testament*, 1856; *The Ways of the Line* (anon., 1858); *New Testament Greek Text* (in parts, 1857-72), besides several articles in *Smith's Dictionary of the Bible*.

Author

Reverend Emeritus Professor **John Daniel Vernon Lewis**, (1879 - 1970)

Sources

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Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Handwörterbuch in gemeinverständlicher Darstellung (Tubingen 1909-13)

The National Library of Wales Journal, Winter 1952, 344-6

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Samuel Prideaux Tregelles](#)

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