

WILLIAM HAVARD HUNTER was born on the 10th of November, 1835. He commenced his career under the late Mr. Adam Murray, of Brough Castle, Glamorganshire, to whom he was sent to study farming. Subsequently he entered the office of his father, Mr. William Hunter, of Briton Ferry, the local agent of the Earl of Jersey's Briton Ferry Estate, and upon his father's death succeeded to that post, which he held until 1864. In the latter year, in consequence of failing health, he removed to London, where he became associated with Messrs. Richard Hall and Sons, Land Agents and Valuers, of Westminster and Cirencester, still, however, keeping up his connection with mineral and other properties in South Wales. In 1880 he was appointed Head Agent of the Briton Ferry Estate, which he managed up to the time of his death. From 1881 onwards he was very actively interested in the promotion of the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway Company, for which he acted as Land Valuer until the end of 1891. Mr. Hunter, who was on the Board of Trade List of Surveyors and Umpires, was a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution and of the Geological Society, and a member of the South Wales Institute of Engineers. He was also a Justice of the Peace for Glamorganshire, and was elected, in 1889, County Councillor for Briton Ferry, and subsequently a County Alderman.

Mr. Hunter, in November 1891, had a severe attack of bronchitis and congestion of the lungs, which confined him to his bed, and on the 30th of that month he expired, very unexpectedly, from sudden failure of the heart's action.

He was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 12th of January, 1886.

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JOHN WILLIAM MIERS was born on the 2nd of May, 1819, at Villa Vicencio, an elevated spot in the Andes, 45 miles from Mendoza in the Argentine Republic. His parents at the time were journeying to Chili, where his father, the late Mr. John Miers, F.R.S., had taken up, conjointly with Lord Cochrane, then Admiral of the Chilian Navy, some mining and engineering projects. His early childhood was passed in Chili, but in 1826 he was sent to Buenos Ayres and in the following year to England. After receiving a good school education, he obtained some experience in surveying and levelling with a view of becoming a Civil Engineer, and in 1838 entered the works of the late Mr. John

Hayne as a pupil, under Mr. (now Sir Frederick) Bramwell then in charge of the drawing-office.

In 1841 Mr. Miers was invited to Brazil, to advise on a projected line of railway in the neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro. On completing the survey and estimating the cost, he, however, could not, under the conditions of traffic existing at that time, recommend its construction as a commercial undertaking. His attention being then called to the great need of improving the rude appliances in use in the country, he passed a few years at some of the principal coffee and sugar estates in the interior, devoting his time to improvements in the application of water-power, to the construction of water-wheels, and more especially to perfecting the machines for pulping, husking, and drying coffee, giving a stimulus to that industry which has raised Brazil to be the largest and most important coffee-producing country in the world.

In 1845 Mr. Miers, in conjunction with his brother, Francis, established a factory at Rio de Janeiro for the construction of steam-engines and other machinery. This soon became of considerable importance. A yard was afterwards added for the building of steam-boats for coast and river service. Contracts were carried out with the government for dredging and improving the Rio Inhomerim, then the only highway to the Estrella range of mountains and to Petropolis; for the erection of iron roofs over the building-slips and other structures in the Marine Arsenal; and for the construction of lighthouses at Rio Grande do Sul and on the Abrolhos reefs, as well as for many other important works.

While superintending in 1857 the firing of a large blast at the Imperial graving-dock at Rio, Mr. Miers met with a severe accident from a falling piece of rock, which necessitated abstinence from all work for a time. During this period he visited England, and also went to Rio Grande and Buenos Ayres in search of health. A continued residence in a hot climate being considered undesirable, he finally retired from business in 1863, and from that time resided in London. He was held in high estimation by the leading authorities in Brazil during his residence in that country, and his courteous manner and desire to serve others made him many friends.

Mr. Miers died from pneumonia on the 28th of January, 1892. He was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 7th of December, 1869.