

older members of the Institution of Civil Engineers, who knew him well and estimated his uprightness and simplicity of character, as well as the ingenuity of his mind, he carried this intention of emigration into effect in the autumn of 1848, and in a farewell letter he said, "The Creator has constituted me an inventor, and I consider every useful invention given me, as a commission from Him, in trust, for the benefit of mankind; and I should deem myself guilty of a breach of that trust, were I not to use every reasonable exertion to carry the same into effect, as long as it can afford me due support. Society is now enjoying many comforts and conveniences from my inventions, while I have great difficulty in procuring common necessities."

Nothing was heard of him, after his arrival in the United States, until quite recently, when his death was reported to have occurred at Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, U.S., on the 28th of June, 1855. It is feared that his sanguine anticipations of the States being a land of promise for inventors were not realized, and that he might eventually have been really better appreciated, had he remained in England. He joined the Institution of Civil Engineers as a Member on the 27th April, 1824, was a constant attendant at the Meetings, taking part in the discussions, and always feeling a warm interest in the welfare of the society.

MR. JOHN LEWIS was born on the 20th of April, 1825, in the parish of Vaynor, county of Brecon. His parents were small but respectable farmers; and he received his education in a private school in the village of Cefn-Coed, which adjoins the now important town of Merthyr Tydvil. At an early age he exhibited a great aptitude for drawing, and was considerably in advance of those of his class in educational attainments. At seventeen years of age he had the good fortune to be placed in the drawing-office of the Dowlais Iron works, where he soon distinguished himself as a draughtsman, and obtained a good knowledge of Mechanical Engineering. He was afterwards removed to the mining-office of the same works, and was for a considerable time Surveyor of the extensive mining works of the Dowlais Company, under Mr. J. Dickinson, the Coal Viewer (now Inspector of Coal Mines for the Manchester District), and in that capacity Mr. Lewis acquired an extensive and varied knowledge of mining operations. He left the employ of the Dowlais Company in 1847, and undertook the superintendence of the erection of the Briton Ferry Iron works, Glamorganshire, which he completed to the satisfaction of the proprietors. In 1851 he commenced business on his own account, as a Mining Engineer and Surveyor, and from that period to the time of his death there were but few works of magnitude in

Glamorganshire and Breconshire with which he was not connected. He prepared the preliminary surveys of the Penarth Docks, and was also engaged upon the surveys of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway and its branches—in the preliminary surveys of the Rhymney Railway, and frequently by the Glamorganshire and Aberdare Canal Companies. He had likewise the management of the surveys of several collieries in the Merthyr, Rhondda, and Aberdare Coal Districts, including the extensive collieries of Mr. Crawshay, connected with the Cyfarthfa Iron works. In 1864 he developed the Bargoed Colliery, of which he was part proprietor. In 1851 he made the surveys for the supply of Weston-super-Mare with water, and in 1858 was engaged by the Merthyr Tydvil Local Board of Health to carry out the scheme of Mr. Hawksley (V.P. Inst. C.E.) for the supply of Merthyr with water. He did this to the entire satisfaction of the Board, and of the Chief Engineer; and, had he lived, he had intended to present an account of the works to the Institution.

He was elected a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1863, but attended few, if any, of its Meetings. Had his life been spared, he would have made a useful member, for one especial trait in his character was that of kindness, and a willingness to impart to others a share of the knowledge he possessed. In private life he was much esteemed for his unostentatiousness and amiability, and he died on the 10th of February, 1865, under very distressing circumstances, at the early age of only forty years, leaving a widow and two children to lament his loss.

MR. GEORGE MEREDITH was born in Dublin on the 8th of December, 1817; he was the second son of Mr. Benjamin Meredith, Civil Engineer, who successfully executed several important works in Ireland, and was engaged under Mr. George Stephenson in the construction of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, his experience in the formation of public highways over marshy land in Ireland having enabled him to afford some useful suggestions in regard to the mode of passing over Chat Moss.

Mr. George Meredith, having received a good education, was for a time under his father's tuition, learning the theory of the profession, and at the age of sixteen was admitted into the office of the late Mr. J. U. Rastrick (M. Inst. C.E.), where he remained until the commencement of the construction of the London and Brighton Railway Company's lines in Sussex, when, in 1836, he was appointed Assistant Engineer under the late Mr. Statham (M. Inst. C.E.), and had charge of the construction of that portion of the line between Brighton and Shoreham, and of that from Brighton to Hayward's Heath, including the Clayton and the Patcham Tunnels.