

to establish "The Australian Mechanic and Journal of Science and Art," the editor of which periodical, in an obituary notice, bears the following high testimony to his character as a man who "was peculiarly straightforward and upright in all his transactions; he was earnest and practical in thought, skilful in action, of high integrity, and honest in feeling. His reports on scientific questions were masterpieces of conciseness."

Mr. Pritchard was elected a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the 7th of February, 1865, but his constant residence in Australia prevented his taking any part in its proceedings.

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MR. ALEXANDER SAMUELSON, fourth surviving son of the late Mr. S. H. Samuelson, was born in Hamburg on the 20th of July, 1826. His father returned to England in the following year, and he received his school education at Hull and at Liverpool. At an early age he was placed in the works of Messrs. Jones and Potts, of Newton, who were at that time chiefly engaged in the construction of locomotive engines, and at the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to Messrs. Bury, Curtis, and Kennedy, of Liverpool, Mr. Bury being then the contractor for locomotive power on the London and Birmingham railway. On the conclusion of his apprenticeship he entered the works of Messrs. Nasmyth, Gaskell, and Co., of Patricroft, where he took part, under the direction of Mr. James Nasmyth and Mr. Wilson, in the designing of the steam hammer, which was occupying Mr. Nasmyth's principal attention. In the year 1845 Mr. Samuelson entered the works of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, of Soho, and was employed in designing the atmospheric pumping engines for the South Devon railway, and in other important works. Ill health obliged him to resign this appointment, and in 1848 he undertook the management of the agricultural implement works at Banbury, now the property of his brother, Mr. B. Samuelson, M.P. In 1854 he became a partner in the engine and shipbuilding works of his brother, Mr. Martin Samuelson, at Hull, and took an active part in the various contracts, including the building of many oil-crushing mills, and of steam and sailing ships for the Baltic, Indian, and American trades. In 1861 the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Samuelson removed to London, where he practised as a Consulting Engineer, his time being engaged chiefly in the superintendence of the construction of machinery, in the valuation of engineering plant, and in giving evidence before the courts on questions involving mechanical knowledge. He was, however, also associated with Mr. Brunlees in

the preparation of estimates for a second direct line between London and Brighton, and was appointed by Vice-Chancellor Malins one of the official liquidators of the Imperial Land Company of Marseilles. In the summer of 1873 excessive application to his professional duties brought on symptoms of disease, which he unfortunately disregarded, until a fit of fainting with which he was seized during his summer holiday at Folkestone revealed the existence of heart disease. His anxiety to fulfil the duties of his office in the liquidation of the Marseilles Land Company induced him to break in upon his holiday, and to leave Folkestone for Paris. On the 4th of September he arrived there in apparently good health; but in the course of the same evening he became hysterical, and expired suddenly at the Hotel Westminster whilst the medical attendant who had been sent for was preparing a night draught for him at a neighbouring chemist's. His remains were removed to England, and are interred at Kensal Green.

Mr. Samuelson was elected a Member of the Institution on the 1st of April, 1862. He was also a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and of the Institution of Naval Architects. He was one of the original promoters of the volunteer movement in Hull, and held the rank of captain in the East Riding of York Volunteer Artillery under his brother, Mr. Martin Samuelson, as lieutenant-colonel.

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MR. JOEL SPILLER was born in the year 1790 at Buckland Brewers, North Devon. While yet an infant his parents removed to Exeter, in which city the first twenty years of his life were spent; but as the metropolis was at that time considered the only place likely to afford an opening for an enterprising youth, thither, in 1810, young Spiller made his way. He appears to have begun the real business of life under the late Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, M. Inst. C.E., in whose celebrated saw and veneer mills at Battersea Mr. Spiller was employed as an assistant. While here, he was specially entrusted with the manufacture of crystallized tin-foil sheets, which were largely used for ornamental purposes. The process as carried on by Sir M. I. Brunel was a secret one, and Mr. Spiller was the only operative to whom the method of production was known. He remained at the Battersea Mills until they were burnt down, about the year 1814, when he set up for himself, at first on the Middlesex side of the River Thames, but soon afterwards, he removed to Battersea, where for forty years he carried on the business of a millwright and engineer.