

HENRY JONES was born 30 November 1852 at Llangernyw, Denbighshire, into a strong Calvinistic Methodist family, the third son of Elias Jones, a shoemaker, and Elizabeth Williams. Having left school at twelve years of age Jones followed his father's trade, but was shortly after persuaded to continue his education while working. He succeeded in winning a scholarship to Bangor Normal teacher training college in 1870, and became the headmaster of the Ironworks School at Brynammam, South Wales, in 1873. He was a lay preacher and registered Calvinistic Minister, and wished to pursue his religious calling further. He won a scholarship to study at Glasgow University in 1875 where he came under the influence of Edward Caird and John Nicol. They persuaded him to give up his religious ambitions and make philosophy his vocation. Although he formally followed their advice, in practice he preached the gospel of Idealism, seeing no useful distinction to be made between philosophy, religion and poetry. On graduating with first class honours Jones won the Clark fellowship which enabled him to study for four more years, the bulk of which were spent in Glasgow. In 1882 he married Annie Walker and was appointed to a lectureship at University College, Aberystwyth, and in 1884 he became professor of philosophy and political economy in the newly established University College of North Wales, Bangor. Intellectually, however, he felt much more at home in Scotland, where he returned in 1891 to take up the chair of logic, rhetoric and metaphysics. In 1894 he succeeded to Caird's chair of moral philosophy at Glasgow, beating John Watson and David George Ritchie in the competition.

In politics he was a Liberal and close friend of David Lloyd George. He believed passionately in the responsibility of university professors to give moral guidance to the general community. He took a lead in establishing and supporting the University Settlement in Glasgow, and the Civic Society devoted to promoting the better understanding of widely opposing views. He was also committed to forging links between the University and business, and of getting businessmen to acknowledge their responsibilities to the broader community. He campaigned vigorously in Wales and Scotland for educational reform, including university education for women. He served on Haldane's Royal Commission of 1916-17 into the University of Wales. He was a strong supporter of the federal structure of

the University of Wales and was instrumental in preventing moves to establish the autonomy of the constituent colleges. He was a member of the Universities Mission to America in 1918. During the war he campaigned on behalf of the Parliamentary Recruitment Committee throughout Wales in an attempt to quell syndicalist opposition from miners in Merthyr and North Wales slate quarrymen.

He was honoured with doctorates from the University of St. Andrews and the University of Wales. In 1904 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. He was knighted in 1912 and became a Companion of Honour a few weeks before his death in 1922. He was Hibbert lecturer at Manchester College, Oxford for many years, and in 1908 delivered a series of lectures at Sydney University which were published as Idealism as a Practical Creed. He was the Gifford Lecturer at Glasgow University in 1920 and 1921.

Jones endured a great deal of personal tragedy, but his optimism and faith in God were never shaken. Two of his six children died young, and a third was taken prisoner of war in Turkey. A fourth was killed in France during the War. After a prolonged and painful battle against mouth cancer he died 4 February, 1922 and is buried in the churchyard at Kilbride, the Isle of Bute.

Biographical: Henry Jones, Old Memories, ed. Thomas Jones (London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1922); J. H. Muirhead, 'Sir Henry Jones', Proceeding of the British Academy, x (1921-3); H. J. W. Hetherington, The Life and Letters of Sir Henry Jones (London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1924); H. J. W. Hetherington, 'Jones, Henry 1852-1922', Dictionary of National Biography 1921-1931; The Times, Feb. 6, 1922; John O'London's Weekly, March 11, 1922; Western Mail, Feb. 6, 1922; Leonard Russell, 'Sir Henry Jones', Mind, xxxi (1922).

Principal works: Browning as a Philosophical and Religious Teacher (Glasgow, Maclehose, 1891); The Philosophy of Lotze (Glasgow, Maclehose, 1895); Idealism as a Practical Creed (Glasgow, Maclehose, 1909); The Working Faith of the Social Reformer (London, Macmillan, 1910); The Principles of Citizenship (London, Macmillan, 1919); A Faith That Enquires (London, Macmillan, 1922).