

The minds of most men stiffen with age, and after a certain period the faculty of reception in most disappears. It was evidently not so with Professor Kelland.

ALEXANDER JAMES ADIE, Esq. By David Stevenson,  
M.I.C.E.

ALEXANDER JAMES ADIE, Civil Engineer, son of the late Alexander Adie, F.R.S.E., the eminent optician, was born in Edinburgh in 1808. A course of study at the High School, and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh, prepared him for entering on an apprenticeship under Mr James Jardine, Civil Engineer, with whom he was afterwards associated in carrying out various works.

In 1836 he became Resident Engineer of the Bolton, Chorley, and Preston Railway, and communicated some interesting papers to the Institution of Civil Engineers regarding that work, particularly one on Skew Bridges.

On leaving Lancashire he removed to Glasgow to take charge of some of the colliery railways there, and ultimately became engineer and manager of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, which post he resigned about 1863.

Mr Adie made a series of important experiments on the expansion of stone by heat, which he communicated to the Society in his paper entitled "The Expansion of Different Kinds of Stone from an Increase of Temperature, with a Description of the Pyrometer used in making the Experiments," which is published in vol. xiii. of the Transactions.

Mr Adie was elected a Member of the Society in 1846. He latterly retired to reside at Rockville, near Linlithgow, where he had an opportunity of cultivating his taste for horticulture and the fine arts, and of receiving visits from many who esteemed his friendship, and valued his accomplishments.

JOHN BLACKWOOD, Esq. By Principal Sir Alex. Grant, Bart.

JOHN BLACKWOOD, who died on the 29th October last, was for a long period one of the most widely known and highly esteemed worthies of Scotland. As head of the last remaining of the great