

WILLIAM DENNY, C.E. By John Henderson, Jun., F.R.S.E.

William Denny was born in Dumbarton on 25th May 1847. His education was commenced in the Academy of his native town. Shortly afterwards he was sent to Jersey, more particularly for the sake of his health, and after a residence of four years he returned to Scotland, and was placed in the Edinburgh High School, where he remained until he was seventeen years of age.

He had resolved to become a shipbuilder, and on leaving the High School in 1864 he entered his father's ship-yard in Dumbarton as an apprentice, and passed through the several departments, where he laid the groundwork of his future ability as a naval architect.

In 1868 Mr Denny became a partner in the firm of William Denny & Bros., and shortly after assumed the administrative charge of the extensive business conducted by the firm. He continued to occupy this position until his death on 17th March 1887.

He early showed great promise of becoming an eminent naval architect, and introduced a more scientific basis in all the practical work of shipbuilding. He wrote many papers, and took a prominent part in all discussions in connection with his profession.

Mr Denny had great force of character, and a wonderful gift of inspiring his staff, and those with whom he came in contact, with his own enthusiasm and earnest perseverance in carrying his investigations and experiments to a conclusion.

He was a fluent speaker, and his professional and other papers, which he read from time to time, were noted for the finished manner in which they were prepared and delivered.

He took a prominent part in the introduction of steel for shipbuilding, and did much to bring it into the general use it now obtains. He introduced an admirable system of conference between his firm and delegates from all trades represented in the works, in order to adjust and arrange all questions of wages, rules, &c., and these conferences were under his presidency during the last year of his life at home.

Such deep and active interest as he had in everything connected with the scientific part of his business would have absorbed all the energies of most men, but not so with William Denny. His nature was many-sided, and his sympathies were broad and deep. He was

well read in many subjects, and proved himself a capable lecturer on art, politics, and many other subjects, in which he took a deep interest. Possessed of a warm and affectionate nature, he will be long remembered for the interest he took in every one with whom he came in contact, and the generous, but wise, assistance he was ever ready to afford in advancing the well-being of all who had the good fortune to know him.

Among the papers which he wrote were "The Worth of Wages"; "Dimensions of Sea-going Ships"; "On the Difficulties of Speed Calculations," for the latter paper he was awarded the Marine Engineering Medal of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland; "The Speed and Carrying of Screw Steamers," being the Watt Lecture delivered before the Philosophical Society of Greenock; "On the Question of Success"; "Christianity in this Life"; of the latter he was only spared to conclude the first part.

Mr Denny was appointed by the Government a member of the Load Line Committee, and he took an active part in all its investigations. He was a member of Council of the Institution of Naval Architects, a member of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, of which he was president at the time of his death. He was also member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the Iron and Steel Institute. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 3rd February 1879.

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Dr DANIEL RUTHERFORD HALDANE. — From materials supplied by Dr John Smith, LL.D., and Dr Heron Watson.

Dr D. Rutherford Haldane was the son of James Alexander Haldane, who founded the Scottish Congregational body, and has sometimes been called the Whitefield of Scotland. He was of the family of the Haldanes of Gleneagles.

Our deceased Fellow was educated at the High School of Edinburgh, and during the six years of his attendance there his usual place in class was about third,—the dux for the first three years being "blind Laurie," and when that distinguished pupil left,