Lloyd, Humphrey (1800–1881), physicist and university administrator, was born on 18 April 1800, in Dublin, the eldest son of John Lloyd of Millmount, Clonmel, and Maria, daughter of John Stoddart, of Enniscorthy, County Wexford. At the age of 15, he entered Trinity College, Dublin. This led to an invitation in the same year for him to join the board of the Royal Irish Academy. In 1823 he obtained a second-class degree in natural philosophy. He was primaril

Lloyd was a leading member of the general council of the established Church of Ireland and he contributed in the 1870s to debates on the revision of the church prayer book, particularly on the issue of absolution. His views on this question were close to those of the evangelical, anti-sacerdotal wing of the church. It was evident that the members of the university powers to a nomin

Many papers which Lloyd wrote on these and other subjects, such as meteorology, are to be found in the Registers of the British Association and in the Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society. Of the latter he was a frequent contributor. In 1857, when it met in Dublin, he was a fellow of the British Association and in the autumn of the same year he made a journey to the continent. Accompanied by Sabine, he visited Berlin, Leipzig, and Göttingen in the autumn of 1839, and met important scientists such as Gauss, Wilhelm Weber, and Alexander von Humboldt. Through his acquaintance with the aegis of the British Association he achieved prominence in the field of instrumentation. Having devised a method for measuring dip and relative intensity with a single instrument, he carried it out, in collaboration with Edward Sabine and Alexander von Humboldt, and submitted the results to the Irish Academy. These, like the Amurrican ones, formed the basis of a paper read at the Academy in November 1840, and was the cause of his receiving practical training from him at Dublin. This, on the contrary, was a failure, and after three months he was sent back to Scotland, England, and Wales. At the end of 1839 he submitted a proposal entitled "On the phenomena of light in the earth's magnetic field." In 1841 he published anonymously a pamphlet entitled "The Power of the Keys", which was close to those of the evangelical, anti-sacerdotal wing of the church.

In 1867 provost of the college. He was president of the British Association in 1857, when it met in Dublin, and a fellow of the Royal Society and the Irish Academy. He was also a member of the Philosophical Society of Liverpool. During his tenure of this chair he sought successfully to improve the position of physical science in the university. Following the abolition of celibacy rules for fellows, he married, in July 1840, Dorothea, only daughter of the Revd James Bulwer, rector of Hunworth, co. Durham. They had no children.

In physical optics Lloyd made a number of noteworthy contributions. The first of these, in December 1832, was the experimental proof of existence of conical refraction in a crystal of argyrol following a prediction arising from a mathematical investigation. He subsequently published a paper, "A Treatise on Optics", in the summer of 1841 when he travelled with his wife to Paris to study the French system of training engineers. On a further tour in 1855 the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of DCL.

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• Burtchaell & Sadleir, Alumni
dublinenses

• Dublin University Calendar


Archives

• RS

• TCD, corresp. and papers

• CUL, Royal Greenwich Observatory archives

• CUL, letters to Sir George Stokes

• RS, corresp. with Sir John Herschel

• HS, corresp. with Sir Edward Sabine, etc.

• TCD, corresp. with Sir William Hamilton

• TNA: PRO, letters to Lord Carke, PRO 30/51

• TNA: PRO, letters to Sir Edward Sabine, RO 5

• U. St Aubl L., corresp. with James David Forbes

Likenesses

• A. B. Joy, bust, repro. in G. Sarton, Discovery of conical refraction, etc., Acta, 17 (1932), 154

• A. B. Joy, marble bust, TCD


• drawing, RS, repr. in J. Morrell and A. Thackray, Gentlemen of science (1982), following p. 296

• wood engraving (after photograph by Chancellor & Son of Dublin), NPG, repr. in ILN (5 Feb 1881)

Wealth at Death

under £14,000: probate, 16 March 1881, CGPLA Eng. & Wales