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THE JOURNALS OF THE REV. T. L. HODGSON

Edited and annotated by R. L. Cope, with an introduction and an index

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Thomas Laidman Hodgson was a missionary of the Methodist Missionary Society. He was in South Africa from 1821 to 1831, and played a leading part in establishing the first Christian mission beyond the Vaal River within the borders of what was later to become the Transvaal. He worked for four years among the Seleka-Rolong, a Tswana group, and later among the Griquas for a period of two years.

These journals contain important information on the *Difaqane*, the period of turmoil in the interior of South Africa which preceded the Great Trek. They also constitute a valuable record of the interaction between missionaries and an African chiefdom which had had no previous contact with missionaries. In addition, Hodgson's comments on social and economic conditions both within the Colony and beyond its borders are of considerable interest.

The Journals of the Rev. T. L. Hodgson, like *The Papers of John Mackenzie*, have been published under the auspices of the African Studies Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand, the publication of both books being based on original material held in the Historical and Literary Papers Section of the University Library.

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