

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

REVEREND FRANCIS HODGSON

Papers, 1841-1929

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Francis Henry Hodgson (1848-1930) was the son of Sir Arthur Hodgson, a Queensland grazier and politician, and the grandson of Sir James Dowling, the chief justice of New South Wales. He was born in Rickmansworth, England. In 1849 the family returned to Queensland and Hodgson spent his early years at Eton Vale, their sheep station on the Darling Downs. In 1860 he returned to England, where he lived for the rest of his life. His parents joined him in England in 1870.

Hodgson attended a preparatory school at Thorpe Mandeville, near Banbury, and went on to Eton. He was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating in 1871, and was ordained a priest in 1874. He was the vicar of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire (1878-93), the rural dean of Watford (1884-93), the rector of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire (1893-99), the rector of Escrick, Yorkshire (1899-1904), the rural dean of North Kington, Warwickshire (1908-18), and the rector of Clifford Chambers, Warwickshire (1818-26).

In his later years Hodgson lived at Stratford-upon-Avon. He married Mary Horsman Solly in 1881 and they had four children. She died in 1888 and in 1896 Hodgson married Elizabeth Odeyne de Grey. They had one daughter.

In 1925-26 Hodgson and his wife visited Australia and spent a short time in the country where he had lived in his childhood.

FRANCIS HODGSON

1 Diary kept by Francis Hodgson on the sailing ship *La Hogue* during part of the voyage from Australia to England, 29 January-27 March 1860.

Hodgson was aged 11 when he wrote this diary and the ship, captained by John Williams, was sailing eastward across the Pacific. In most of the entries he recorded the position of the ship and also referred to sightings of other ships and islands, games, church services, Bible classes, and crossing the antipodes (longitude 180°).

2 Memoirs, entitled 'Notes on my life', c. 1929.

The manuscript, which is about 200 pages in length, is essentially a chronicle of Hodgson's life, written in note form rather than being a polished memoir. The text was written on the right-hand pages of an exercise book, the left-hand page being left empty for additions. Hodgson dealt with his childhood and early life very succinctly, but his later years are covered in much more detail. There are many references to his parents Arthur and Eliza Hodgson, his brothers, and his own family, as well as to numerous friends and acquaintances. In addition to his work in various parishes and dioceses, Hodgson wrote about church affairs generally, his social life and sporting interests, and his travels in Europe.

Hodgson wrote in some detail about his visit to Australia in 1925-26 (pp 109-28). He and his wife left Southampton on a Dutch ship on 17 November 1925 and sailed to Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, the island of Sabang, Singapore and Batavia. They spent some time touring in Java and then sailed from Surabaya to Brisbane, arriving on 3 January 1926. They stayed on the Darling Downs for 12 days, visited Eton Vale, and met relatives and friends of his parents. They then travelled to Sydney by train, stayed at Camden Park and Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains, and met local dignitaries such as the judges Sir Adrian Knox and Sir Philip Street. Finally, they sailed round the south coast, making short visits to Melbourne, Kyneton, Adelaide and Perth. They left Australia on 22 February and reached Marseilles on 19 March 1926.

The memoirs contain photographs, but they have not reproduced well.

3 Newspaper cutting of a letter from Hodgson to the editor, dated 18 January 1926, concerning his brother E.D. Hodgson (d. 1896) who had managed the Eton Vale estate.

4 Pencil sketch of the Head Station, Eton Vale, 1 December 1841.

5 Printed map, with manuscript additions, given to Arthur Hodgson by Ludwig Leichhardt. It shows the Fitzroy Downs and the Condamine, Balonne and Dawson rivers in Queensland.