

Encounter & Exchange: 1737 – 1869

B O O K:

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The Pear Tree Blossoms.

The History of the Moravian Church in South Africa 1737 – 1869.

[With 15 Reproductions of Historical Originals]

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335 pages.

This book tells the story of the Moravian mission-stations at the Cape from their beginning until the division of the work into two provinces. It is largely based on hitherto unexplored sources at the Genadendal archives and places the events into the context of South African general history. For the first periods, during which the foundations were laid at Genadendal, the author has told the story in detail, but as the range of the work increased, he turned to concentrate on a smaller selection of personalities and events.

It is an account of a peculiar and remarkable effort, which made an impact on the ecclesiastical history of the Cape, throws an interesting light on the contemporary South African scene and has resulted in the establishment of the Moravian Church in that country. In the concluding chapter, an evaluation of the characteristics, intentions and limitation of this enterprise is given.

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