

## MTSHODO

25.10.1897

File 74, pp. 36, 37.

- 36 Customs, Ingwavuma district. Per Mtshodo, 25.10.1897.<sup>1</sup>  
 The *custom of marrying off (ganisela)* young children is very common in the district. [I knew this of myself before Mtshodo acquainted me thereof.]
- 37 Mtshodo says that he knows that children, even children not yet born, are *given for marriage (ganisela'd)*. A beast is generally paid as a sort of 'retaining fee', or as indicating good faith. If a boy is born, the boy is looked upon as the man's 'wife' and is held as a guarantee for a future girl to be born. This custom is at variance with what is done in Zululand and even Swaziland. [Examine further.]

## Note

<sup>1</sup>On p. 122 of File 74, under date 22.10.1897, Stuart records that Mtshodo had previously been a policeman attached to the Ingwavuma magistracy.