

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

A Brief Account Of The Measures Taken In Denmark, For The Conversion of the Heathen in the East-Indies: And Of The College or Incorporated Society, ...

Downing, Joseph

London, 1715

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the Heathen in the East-Indies, &c.

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A B R I E F

A C C O U N T

Of the Measures taken in *Denmark*,
for the Conversion of the HEATHEN
in the *East-Indies*, &c.

I.



IT must be acknowledged by all,
who are sensible of the Difference between a State of Sin and Wrath, and a State of Grace, to have been an inestimable Blessing to these Northern Countries, when the Gospel of *CHRIST* was received by our Fore-Fathers, about Nine Hundred Years ago, and Heathenism thereby in a great measure Abolished, and Expelled from these Parts of the World.

II.

And it must be confess'd, that this Blessing was again renewed to us, under the happy Reign of our pious King *FREDERICK I.* when Christianity, by means of

Luther's Reformation, recovered much of its ancient Lustre and Glory.

III.

Praised be G O D, who, of his infinite Mercy, has vouchsafed unto us, to enjoy that Benefit, for the Space of near Two Hundred Years, which many others stand depriv'd of to this Day.

IV.

Praised be likewise the same most merciful G O D, who, of his abundant Goodness, hath reserved this farther Glory to our Nation, that the same Grace which was received by us, (and that not altogether in vain) doth now again go forth from us, and spread it self in far distant Countries, whereby Protestant Churches may at last see the Possibility of that, which, by many, was deem'd altogether impracticable.

V.

'Tis now sufficiently known to the World, what pious Care His Majesty of *Denmark*, *FREDERICK* the IVth, our most Gracious King, has taken ever since the Year 1705. to have the Gospel of *Christ* preached unto the Heathen in the *East-Indies*, and a Church gathered there to the Author of our most Holy Religion.

VI.

Nor is the Progress that has been made in this Work, since its first Rise and Beginning, unknown to those who rejoice at the Enlarging of *Christ's* Kingdom, or indeed to any who do in the least observe what passes in the World, since the Accounts

counts of its Success have been from time to time communicated to all in Print.

VII.

How much pious and publick spirited Persons have been pleased with this laudable Undertaking of our most Gracious King, may easily be gathered from the Love and Affectionate Concurrence they have shewn hitherto to the Mission, and from their hearty Endeavours to promote it; so that it is hoped, there are but few that are not highly sensible of the Excellency of so Christian an Enterprize.

VIII.

Of what Importance the Institution of such a Mission is, and how great Advantage may be expected from it, will be best understood by those who have obtained Grace to work out their own Salvation, and are endued with an ardent Desire of Rescuing also their Fellow-Creatures from a State of Ignorance and Darkeness.

IX.

Nay, should this Mission be attended with no other Effect, than that the Light of the Gospel has, by this Means, been happily put on a Candlestick, and shone for several Years among the Heathen; yet hereby is there abundant Cause administred to glorifie G O D on that behalf.

X.

For as there are now among the Heathen, faithful Labourers, who constantly and affectionately Preach *Jesus Christ* to them in their native Language; so it is evident, that

that if they do not wilfully reject these Tenders of Grace, they may readily be made Partakers of the Benefits of the Gospel.

XI.

But any one that will seriously consider the signal and blessed Success with which G O D hath vouchsafed to crown the fervent Zeal, and unwearied Application of our Missionaries, will be easily induced to believe, that He seems to be pleased with this Work, as tending so much to his Glory, and the Salvation of Souls.

XII.

We joyfully remember, upon this Occasion, the most happy Effect of *Luther's* Reformation; since by this Means we have recovered the free Use of the Holy Scriptures, and the Liberty to read them in our own Language, whereby we our Selves are enabled to search the Sacred Oracles, and to know the Will of G O D revealed in them.

XIII.

And since the Missionaries have not only Translated the whole New-Testament into *Malabarick*, but are now engaged in the Translation of the Old; It must be acknowledged to be a very great Blessing to the *Malabar* Heathen, to have the Gospel laid before them in their Native Tongue, whereby they have an opportunity to learn and embrace the Counsel of G O D, and Offers of his Grace, for their Eternal Happiness.

XIV.

Any one who is engaged in the great Work of Converting others, and has thereby experimentally learnt how difficult a Matter it is to gain Souls to *Christ*, will easily believe it to be no small Success, that GOD has so far blessed the Labours of the Missionaries, as to enable them to gather a Congregation, and erect a Church, where the Heathen publickly and constantly may hear the Word of GOD in their own Language.

XV.

And whereas the Missionaries have not thought it enough to instruct the grown People only, but have bestowed much Charge and Labour in the Education of Children, we have good Reason to hope, that in a little Time we may see the blessed Fruits of their having set up, and for some Years maintained, several *Portuguese* and *Malabarick* Schools, as Nurseries wherein young and tender Minds might be train'd up and prepar'd for the Service of GOD and their Neighbour.

XVI.

As soon as the Effect of the *Portuguese* and *Malabarick* Printing Presss shall appear, by furnishing the Heathen with a sufficient Number of Printed Copies of the Word of GOD, and other Treatises concerning the Christian Faith, and the Duties of our holy Religion, we shall have a fresh and signal Occasion to Praise the Lord's most holy Name, for this new and singular Instance
of

of his Mercy, and to return our hearty Thanks to all those, who have spared neither Pains nor Costs to further and promote the same.

XVII.

Thus has the gracious Providence of GOD, in a short Time, vouchsafed unto this Mission such Success, as gives us a fair Prospect of its further Progress, and a promising Harvest to follow in due Season, if it shall please Him to continue to the Missionaries, as we hope He will, his Divine Support, not suffering them to be frustrated in their Undertaking by any Disasters, or to be discouraged by any Hardships or Obstacles which usually attend Works of this Nature; but all Difficulties will the sooner be overcome, if the Benefactors in *Europe* shall continue to exert themselves on their behalf.

XVIII.

His Majesty, our most gracious King, having a very great Affection to this Work, continues not only steadfast in so Christian a Resolution, but becomes more and more zealous to advance it, being fully determined to furnish, on his Part, whatever may be judged necessary to settle the Undertaking on the strongest and most lasting Foundation.

XIX.

And since Experience has convinced His Majesty, that many things are required to support and promote the Work of the Mission, and that great Care and Diligence must

must be us'd therein ; He has resolv'd to entrust this Work to more Persons than have been hitherto engaged in it, and those of different Ranks and Orders ; and for this End, He has constituted a College, (or Incorporated Society) on purpose for the Propagation of the Gospel of Christ, and has been pleas'd to nominate us the Underwritten, to be Assessors or Members thereof.

XX.

His Majesty, in His most Gracious Instructions, has intrusted us with every thing relating to the right Management of this important Affair, and that with so much Ardor and Zeal, that we have reason to tremble at those important Words wherewith He concludes his Royal Instructions.

“ This is Our most Gracious Will,
 “ which we expect you will observe with
 “ all Deference, and such an Application
 “ of Mind, as you will Answer the same
 “ here and hereafter, before the Great
 “ Judge and Lord of us all. Do ye there-
 “ fore, on your Part, as becomes the faith-
 “ ful Servants of GOD, and of your King,
 “ that our Ardor and Zeal may not be
 “ lost, nor your Labour be in vain.

XXI.

Besides this, His Majesty gave us most graciously to understand, that it would tend very much to His Satisfaction, if by our Endeavours and Consultations we could find out Ways and Means to answer what His Majesty has intended long ago, with
 regard

regard to one Part of his *European* Provinces, viz. his Subjects in *Finmark*, who, like Heathens, still continuing in Blindness and Ignorance, stand in need as much as any Nation of being instructed in the Word of Salvation.

XXII.

In Order therefore to carry on a Work of so great Concern, in which there cannot well be too many engaged, we thought it prudent not to rely wholly on what the abovementioned Society alone might find adviseable for this purpose ; but should be very glad if every one that rejoiceth at the common Good wrought in the Church of Christ, would join with us in so Christian a Work, which would mightily facilitate the whole Undertaking, and bring it to a greater Perfection in Time.

XXIII.

Accordingly we have communicated our Design to, and have settled a Correspondence with such Persons in *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Germany*, and *England*, as heartily wish the Conversion of the Heathen, and have hitherto shewed a good Will to this Work, not only by affording their Advice, but by contributing liberally to its Support and Enlargement.

XXIV.

For the same Intent and Purpose, we publish these Presents, and hereby make known to all, and every one in Particular, this Royal Institution, designed for the Conversion

version of the Heathen, and other Nations who sit still in Darknefs, that if any one unknown to us should have a hearty Affection for promoting the said Work, he may know by this means where to direct or address himself.

XXV.

'Tis therefore our hearty and humble Request to all sincere Lovers of the Salvation of Men, that they would lay hold of this fair Opportunity which now offers it self unto them, in the happy Beginning made in the *East-Indies*, and in the charitable Design upon *Finmark*, and also *Northland*; and by their Advice, and their Contributions, effectually Assist us to rescue a multitude of precious and immortal Souls from eternal Ruine, especially when they see how willing we are to receive such Advice as shall be communicated to us, and shall be always ready to make such use of, as is most likely to obtain the End for which it is design'd, and which we have entirely at Heart.

XXVI.

And we humbly intreat, in a more particular Manner, all Ecclesiastical Persons, Bishops, Superintendents, Provosts, and other Clergymen, as well in the Dominions subject to our most gracious King, as in Foreign Kingdoms and Countries, that they would zealously apply themselves to the Advancement of so important a Work as the Conversion of the Heathen is, and in their Conversation with other good Christians and publick-spirited Persons, consider of Ways and Means to

to promote it, and then communicate by Letters to our Society, whatever they shall think proper for settling the said Work on the most solid Foundation.

XXVII.

Students in Divinity, whether they be His Majesty's Subjects or Foreigners, who may either now, or hereafter, find themselves inclin'd to assist in the Conversion of the Heathen, are hereby earnestly desired, that after fervent Prayers, and serious Examination of themselves, they would either address to the Society in Person, or if at too great a Distance, communicate their Mind by Letter; and then they may, according to their Abilities and other their Circumstances, expect such help, as may prove conducive to the furthering of the Design.

XXVIII.

Those that are engaged in Civil Employments, are also heartily desired to concur in this good Work, particularly since, in their several Stations, they may perhaps have had frequent Opportunities to have made useful Observations on the Matter in Hand, and consequently will be able to suggest many proper Hints for good Orders, Methods, Regulations, &c. that may prove to be of singular Use in Managing a Work subject to many Difficulties and Changes.

XXIX.

Private Persons, who make Conscience of daily Addressing their Heavenly Father in Secret, are intreated to remember this Work, as a proper Subject in their constant Prayers

Prayers and Supplications. The more fervent they are in their Addresses to G O D, the more shall we be bound to recommend them to his Divine Favour and Protection; and the greater also we trust will be the Blessing of Almighty G O D upon the whole Undertaking.

XXX.

Let us therefore, with one accord, and with united Hearts and Hands, joyfully embrace the Opportunity which now offers it self of doing what the good and gracious Will of G O D enjoins, and the Misery of so many Nations requires. The Harvest is very great. Oh! let us do Good whilst we have Time, that in due Season we may reap the Fruit thereof to all Eternity.

XXXI.

May the Lord Himself, the Eternal G O D, give the Encrease to our Planting and Watering, that the Seed of his holy Word, scattered among the Heathen, may spring up, and bring forth a Hundred-fold. *Faithful is he that hath promised, who also will do it.* To Him be all Praise, Honour and Glory, from this time forth and for evermore.

Copenha-



Copenhagen, Jan. 19th, 1715.

Joh. Geo. von Holst. Kt.
Privy Councillor to
His Majesty the
King of Denmark,
Norway, and Bailif
in Sundern.

Will. Mauritz, von
Busseck, alias Munch,
Kt. and Steward
of the Queen's
Houshold.

Joh. Steen-
buck, Divi-
nity-Profes-
sor in the
Univerſity,
and Affessor
in the Con-
sistory.

Jac. Lodberg, Chr. Wendt,
Divinity-
Professor,
Rector
at Mary
Church, and
Prelate in
Sealand.

Governour
of the Pages
of his High-
ness Prince
Charles.

