

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

A Letter To the Reverend Mr. Geo. Lewis, Chaplain to the Honourable the East-India-Company, at Fort St. George

Ziegenbalg, Bartholomäus
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Lewis, George

London, 1715

I. The Order of the First Malabarick School; consisting of Eleven Scholars, and one Master.

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know what that *Method* is, we have thought fit to write this Letter in the *Portugueze* Language. Please then, *Reverend Sir*, to receive it favourably, since it is in Truth, but an Answer to a Question put by your self in the Presence of one of us, *viz.* What was our *Method*, especially in our *Charity-Schools*?

For the greater Benefit and Improvement of the Scholars of both Sexes in Religion, and other Knowledge, there are Five Schools appointed, *viz.* three *Malabarick*, one *Portugueze*, and one *Danish*.

I. *The Order of the First Malabarick School; consisting of Eleven Scholars, and one Master.*

From Six a Clock till Seven;

Those of riper Years being come to one of the *Missionary's* Chambers, do there hear a *Catechetical* Discourse on the Articles of Faith, which are clearly and thoroughly explain'd and apply'd: Likewise Men and Women of the *Malabarick* Church, come thither to hear the Word of Salvation.

From Seven to Eight;

All being in the School, learn the principal Texts or Proofs out of the *New Testa-*

ment, which are gathered according to the Order of each Chapter, and written in a Book for that Purpose, taking notice withal of the Doctrines contain'd in them.

From Eight to Nine,

The Scholars read by Turns, one Day the *New-Testament*, another Day the History of the *Old-Testament*. At the End of every Chapter, they repeat the most remarkable Passages, that, by this Means, they may be well instructed in the Word of God, both as to the Doctrine and the History. Besides this, they are diligently admonished, that, like careful *Doers of the Word*, they put in Practice what they learn.

From Nine to Ten,

They are exercised in Matters of Faith, reading one Article several Times over in an Hour; and that not only in order to understand the Doctrines and their Coherence; but likewise to apply them to the Improvement of their Meditations, which they write down every Week.

From Ten to Twelve,

The Scholars read Books of *Malabar Poetry*, that they may both understand Verse, and have an Insight into the abominable Idolatry of these People, discovering the horrid Blindness of their false Doctrines. Likewise they
read

read Letters written on divers Subjects, that they may learn to write themselves in an agreeable Style. The upper Boys on *Tuesdays* and *Thursdays*, learn likewise *Geography*, and the Use of the *Globes*.

In the Afternoon; *From One to Two,*

They all go to the *Portugueze* School, there to learn that Language, which they use themselves to speak on all Occasions.

From Two to Four,

They return to the *Malabar* Schools, where they transcribe on * *Leaves* with a Steel-pen, such Books as they have themselves occasion for at School. Some learn to write a good Hand on such *Leaves*.

From Four to Six,

They learn to cast Accompts according to the *Malabar* Arithmetick, from a Book on that Subject; Part of which they say by Heart every Day, and write Examples to the Rules.

From Six to Half an Hour after Seven,

Half of the younger Boys, belonging to the other *Malabar* School, come to the Elder, and they have a *Catechetical* Conference, concerning those Points of Doctrine, which they heard from the *Missionary* in the Morning.

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* *Leaves* of a Tree called *Palmeira*.

The Elder, one by one in their Order, put Questions, which the rest, with the Younger, answer, passing on from Period to Period. By this Means, through the Assistance of the Holy Spirit, they gain not only the necessary Knowledge of Christian Religion; but likewise a due Assurance in discoursing upon a Subject. This Hour, on *Sundays* and *Fridays*, is set apart for the Repetition of those sacred Truths, which they heard at Church by the *Missionary*; which is likewise done by way of *Questions* and *Answers*.

II. *The Order of the Second Malabarick School; consisting of Twenty one younger Boys, with one Master.*

From Six a Clock till Seven,

TH E S E Boys go to another *Missionary*, to be taught and examined in the *Catechism*, which is expounded to them with a due Simplicity, and much Plainness.

From Seven to Eight,

They repeat the Lessons they ^were taught the Day before.

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