

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
Gründler, Johann Ernst
Lewis, George

London, 1715

Concerning these Five Schools, the following Particulars are to be observ'd.

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In the Afternoon; From Two to Four;

In the first Place, a Chapter is read out of the *Old Testament*; then the Master briefly sums up the Parts and Contents of it. After this, the elder Scholars learn to write. On *Tuesdays* the Master reads a Letter to them, which they must take in writing from his Mouth, and by that Means are brought to understand their Faults in Orthography. The little ones that do not yet learn to write, continue reading their Books, as between *Eight* and *Nine* in the Morning.

From Four to Six,

The Elder proceed in Arithmetick. On *Wednesdays*, from *Four* to *Five*, they read *Danish* Letters; in order to acquire an Epistolary Style. Other Children go forward with their Lessons in the Books appointed them. Some accustom themselves to read the *New Testament* in *Portuguese*.

Concerning these Five Schools, the following Particulars are to be observ'd.

1. **T**HE whole Number of Children is 78, of which 56 are lodg'd in our House. The Two first Schools of Boys, with
a Ma-

a Master, in one Chamber ; The Girls, with their Mistrefs, in another ; In a Third, the Girls of the *Portugueze-School*, with the Semmistrefs ; In a Fourth, the Boys of the *Portugueze-School*, with the Catechist.

2. At Break of Day, all the Children, in their respective Chambers, devoutly kneeling, say the Morning-Prayer ; besides this, Two of them conceive a Prayer in Words of their own ; all concluding with a short Hymn. The same is done when they go to Bed.

3. At Noon, between *Twelve* and *One* a Clock, and in the Evening at *Eight*, they go to Meals, at Three several Tables ; whilst they sit at Meat, the Word of God is read with due Reverence. Sometimes, in their order, they repeat Texts of Scripture, of which they tell likewise both the Doctrine and the Use. In the Morning, at *Eight* a Clock, they all take a short Breakfast.

4. The eldest Five of the *Malabar*, and Two of the *Portugueze-School*, every *Wednesday*, exercise themselves in the Word of Truth, by writing a Meditation ; the former on *Leaves*, the others on Paper. The Missionaries propose a Theological Subject, shewing at the same time how it is to be explain'd, and how improved to their Edification. Then every Scholar reads his written Meditation to the Missionary, who tells how this or that thing may be corrected, or might have been done better in the Explication, or Application, or in the Style. In this manner these Children are, through the divine Grace, and by a careful Instruction, fitted, if it shall so please

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please God, for the future Service of the Church of *India*.

5. On *Sundays* they repeat, every one in their Order at home, the Doctrines which they heard preach'd at Church: The rest of the time they read such Books as are useful for their Improvement and Edification.

6. All the Children of the Three *Malabar-Schools* go on *Mondays* to a certain Village to be publickly catechized by a Missionary, and in the Presence of the Gentiles there gathered, to give Testimony to the Gospel of the Grace of God. When Catechism is done, they rise and pass into a Garden, where they wash their Bodies according to Custom. After this, they have time given them to exercise themselves. Being come home at Evening, they, from *Six* to Half an Hour after *Seven*, practise singing to *Malabarick* Musick, but have always some Christian Subject for their Songs. Likewise every *Sunday*, about *Five* a Clock, one of the Missionaries goes at the Head of those Three Schools to some publick and open Place of this City, where he catechizes them in Christian Doctrines before the Unbelievers; the Boys of the *Portuguese-School*, with their Master, go twice a Week, in the Afternoons, to the Garden, where they wash and exercise their Bodies. The Girls of that School at the same time wash at Home.

7. Whenever there is a Sermon, or Catechizing at Church, or at Home, or in the Streets of the Gentiles, the Children of all the Schools that can read, have always
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that Book in their Hands which is explained, and mark diligently how the Missionary opens and applies the divine Truths: To the end that, by this Means, they may be rightly grounded in the holy Doctrines. All Catechizings and Lessons in the Schools, begin and end with a Hymn and Prayer, considering that Blessings, whether Spiritual or Temporal, are then only to be obtained, when sought after by the earnest Desires of a faithful Heart.

8. Every *Friday*, from *Four* a Clock till *Five*, they are divided into Three Companies, and are taken up in Supplications and Prayers. The Scholars of the first *Malabar-School*, with the Men of that Church, and a Missionary at their Head; The Girls of the Third *Malabar-School*, with the Women, led by another Missionary; and the elder Boys of the *Portuguese-School*, with other Members of that Church, following the Assistant: All being upon their Knees, first the Missionary, then the rest, conceive a Prayer, which is suited to the State of their Souls, the Necessity of our Church, and the Miseries of the Gentiles and Unbelievers among whom we here converse, that those wretched Souls may be guided into the blessed way of Truth; not forgetting devoutly to supplicate the God of Mercy, that it may please him to remove all Stones of Stumbling, and Rocks of Offence, to destroy the Devil's Kingdom of Darkness in those misguided Souls, and to enlarge his holy Kingdom here, and throughout the World. In a more especial man-

manner they commemorate their Benefactors, both in the *Indies* and in Christendom, humbly praying, that God will be pleas'd, of his gracious Goodness, to pour abundantly into their Hearts his heavenly and incorruptible Riches in Jesus Christ, and excite them more and more for the future, to the doing of Good, that, through their Works of Beneficence and Charity, more may be brought up in the blessed Knowledge of Salvation which is in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

9. The same *Friday-Evening*, from *Six* till *Seven*, there is a Meeting of the Missionaries, their Assistant, the School-Masters, the Catechist, and the Steward; where an Account is given of all that has been done the Week before, and what has been taught in the Schools: whether the Children have been diligent; who have been obedient, and who not; or if there hath been any Failure in other Respects? The Missionaries say what they think useful for Edification, in all these Matters, exhorting those present to be faithful in the Discharge of their Duties, and in giving good Examples to the Children.

10. At the Beginning of every Month, we have all the Five Schools under Examination, calling the Scholars of both Sexes before us; diligently trying every one of them apart, to see how far they have improved for the past Month; and giving them a Fatherly Admonition, to increase more and more in Holiness and Wisdom in the Sight of God and Men. At the End of this Examination, one of the Scholars that wrote the Meditations

beforementioned, stands up, and, in Presence of the rest, repeats by heart one of those Meditations or Sermons.

This is the *Method of Instruction* used in our Schools, which we have here briefly described with that Truth which becomes us. Any one that is present in this City, if he will come into the Schools, may, upon the Place, compare this Relation with the Order there observed, and he will, upon the strictest Inquiry, find it to be true in every Particular. For we give free Leave to all People, whether Christians, Gentiles, or Mahometans, to become Witnesses of all that passes amongst us.

By the marvellous Providence of God, 56 of these Children are maintained *gratis* with Meat, Drink, and Clothing; viz. 39 of the *Malabar-Schools*, and 17 of the *Portuguese*. The same is to be said of those that serve them, who, reckoning the School-Masters, amount to 17 Persons in Number, besides those who do all sorts of Work. Once every Month we commonly pay all of them their Wages, according to their respective Employments.

To defray these and other necessary Charges, we possess no certain Fund that will supply the Expences of one Day. But whatever it be that we expend, we receive it from the Hand of God, and his gracious Bounty, with Prayer and Thanksgiving. For it is his Power and Goodness alone, which, without our Forecast and Knowledge, so disposes

poses the Hearts of our Benefactors here in the *Indies*, but chiefly in *Europe*, that there are those among many Nations who take Delight in the Work of the Lord, and rejoice to offer up their temporal Goods, which they send beyond the Seas, where they may be useful towards propagating the Gospel, and the Maintenance of these Schools established among the Gentiles. And although, many times, we have not known where to find, in this heathen Wilderness, our necessary Sustainance for the next Day, or the next Week, God, who is all-sufficient, according to his gracious Providence over us, and over these little ones, hath so plentifully supplied our Wants to this Day, that in all our Necessities his Fatherly Assistance, Grace, Beneficence, and Consolation, have abounded towards us, and so confirmed our Faith and Confidence in Him, that we firmly believe this Work, among the Gentiles, to be his Work, begun, and carried on through all Temptations by his powerful Hand, which will continue to direct and advance it both at present, and in time to come. Wherefore we, the unworthy Servants of the Lord, are not dismayed, but being strengthen'd with Power, by his holy Spirit, in the inward Man, continue to carry on the Work of the Lord with Confidence, and without ceasing; as knowing that our Labour will not be in vain in the Lord, who always can do much more abundantly for us than we can either ask or think.

To make it further known, that our daily Labour is not in vain, nor all the Expences

thrown away, which we are so readily supply'd with, through the Will of God, by charitable Benefactors; but that they may hereafter bring a great Blessing upon these *Eastern* Countries, we shall add, to what has been above written, something concerning the *End* or *Design* of these *Charity-Schools*: which is briefly comprehended in these Three Points:

1. The laying a Foundation of true Christianity in tender Souls.

2. The Preparation of Disciples for the future Service of Christ's Church.

3. The bringing in the Use of Books among Christians in the *East-Indies*.

Concerning the first Design, which is to lay the Foundation of true Christianity in tender Souls: We find, by daily Experience, that such as are in Years are not so well disposed, or able to apprehend Christian Doctrines, and attain to the Knowledge of spiritual things, as younger Minds are; besides, those that are grown up, being forced to work hard to get a poor Livelihood, cannot spare time for frequent Instruction: Wherefore it is our earnest Care, that our Scholars, of either Sex, should, in the time of their Childhood and Youth, be fed, as it were, and nourish'd with Christian Doctrines; so as that they may not attain to a bare historical Knowledge, or even an outward Practice of many Christian Truths, thereby to become *like tinkling Cymbals*; but that their Minds, by means

means of what they learn, may be sanctified, regenerated, and renew'd; feeling within themselves the good and lively Word of God, and knowing, by their own Experience, that true Christianity, and the *Kingdom of God in the Soul*, doth not consist in Words, but in a divine Power, and a real taste of God's Goodness in the Heart; consequently that the holy Doctrine of Jesus Christ, when learnt with such divine Efficacy, must necessarily be accompanied with a pious Life, and a holy Conversation.

This is the first and principal Point, which, by the divine Assistance, we are perpetually labouring to inculcate to our Children in the Schools, by continual Precepts, Admonitions, and Prayers.

Touching the second *End*, which is a worthy Preparation of Disciples for the future Service of the Church, and the Schools in *India*; Every Day's Experience gives us to understand, that in order to have good and sufficient Masters, Catechists, Writers, and such others as may be useful on several Occasions, it is necessary they should be bred up in good Schools; and that not only on account of their being well rooted and grounded in all good Learning and Piety, but of their being skilful in such Methods of teaching as may be most for the Advantage of others. For the Missionaries cannot do all themselves that is needful to be done in the Church and Schools, and therefore such Catechists and Masters as have been trained up in Schools, from their Youth, to a mature Age,

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and fitted for such Employments, will be a mighty Help to them in their Ministry. And this Hope, which we conceive of our Scholars, will not, we are sure, be in vain; since God gives the Increase to such an Education, for his own Glory, and the future happy Enlargement of Christ's Church in the *East*.

As to the Third and last *Design*, which is, the bringing in a right Use of Books among Christians in the *Indies*; We know it, for a Truth, that the Want and Disuse of Books is that which chiefly hinders true Christianity, and such a holy Conversation as becomes the Gospel, from being introduced and propagated among Christians and Gentiles. How greatly the Distribution of religious Books tends to the Advancement of true Piety in *Europe*, is well known to those Persons who have made it their Business to promote Religion and Virtue.

Now this Want of Books in the *Indies* proceeds, in Truth, from the Want of well-order'd Schools, for the good Education of Children. Who can doubt but that the Corruption of the *Portuguese-Language*, in the *East-Indies*, proceeds, in a great Measure, from this Want of good Schools, and the Scarcity of Books? We say nothing of the Gentiles, and their Neglect of so necessary a thing; but only speak of those who call themselves Christians, and profess to be Converts from Heathenism, who, by reason of their great Neglect of this Matter, know very little of the Christian Religion, either they,

they, or their Children ; and for the most part, cannot so much as write or read.

The Care of procuring good Schools belongs, in a special manner, to the Missionaries, and the *Padres*, who are set over the Flock in *India*. But it is no small Grief to us, when we consider, that there are such in the *Indies*, as seek their own things, and not the things of Jesus Christ. Wherefore we earnestly beseech them, in the Name of the Lord, that they will, for the future, lay this Matter more to heart, and show a more tender Concern for the Institution of good Schools, and religious Education of Youth ; this being the only way to raise a holy Church in *India*, that shall be well-pleasing unto God, in his Son. For our selves, though unworthy, we are very careful, that such as are under our Discipline, be they of either Sex, whilst they are instructed in Matters, the most necessary to be learnt, shall, at the same time, be taught to read and write well ; this being a Means to promote the Desire, and Use of Books in the *Indies*. For in case those who shall hereafter become Christians, shall be able to search for the divine Truths in Books, there is no doubt, but such a Search, accompanied with the Operation of the holy Spirit, will mightily conduce to attaining the true Knowledge of Jesus Christ, and his heavenly Doctrine, to a pious Life, and holy Conversation of Christians among the Gentiles.

The

The *SOCIETY* for Promoting Christian Knowledge, considering how necessary the Distribution of Books is to the Propagation of the Christian Faith, have sent us, last Year (from *England*) a Printing-Press, with a Font of *Portuguese Letters*, with which we have, by this time, printed four Books, for the Benefit of Christians in these Parts. And this Year we expect to receive, if it so please God, a Set of *Malabarick-Types*, by the Ships that shall come from *Europe*, that we may likewise publish the Word of Salvation among the *Malabars*, in their own *Damulick* Language, and introduce the desirable Use of Books for their temporal and spiritual Advantage. We may remember how much the Art of Printing contributed to the Manifestation of divine Truths, and the spreading of Books for that End, at the time of the happy Reformation, which we read of in History, with Thanksgiving to Almighty God. O living God, grant that the Christians here in India, and the Multitude of Gentiles, may, with Hearts full of Gratitude, become sensible of this great Benefit, and receive with Joy that Word of Life which is, and shall be laid before them, printed in their own Languages; that the lively and spiritual Knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ may enlighten their Souls, in order to their unspeakable and endless Happiness.

That it may be known likewise how we have here, on all Occasions, employ'd our Care and Time, in order to bring in the
Use

Use of Books, we shall now give an Account of such Books as have been written by us in both Languages these Six Years last past.

In the *Malabarick Language*, we have written and translated the following Books :

1. **T**HE *New Testament.*
2. **A** *System of Divinity.*
3. *An Abridgment of Divinity.*
4. *The History of the Old Testament.*
5. *The Gospels and Epistles appointed for Sundays and Holidays.*
6. *Luther's Catechism.*
7. *Christian Morals.*
8. *Six and Twenty Sermons upon the Articles of Faith.*
9. *Eleven Sermons upon divers Subjects.*
10. *Fourteen Sermons upon Points of Divinity.*
11. *The History of Christ.*
12. *The Method [or Way] of Salvation.*
13. *A Description of the four principal Religions in the World.*
14. *Ecclesiastical History in Questions and Answers.*
15. *A Circular Letter to the Malabars.*
16. *Several Letters to the Malabars.*
17. *Letters out of Europe to the Christians of our Church.*
18. *A Letter from Madras to the Members of our Church.*
19. *The Rites of the Danish Church.*
20. *The*

20. The Book of Hymns, set to *European* Tunes.
21. The same set to *Malabarick* Musick.
22. Christian Prayers.
23. *Short Questions concerning the whole Christian Doctrine.*
24. The Catechism.
25. A *Dictionary* written in Paper.
26. A *Dictionary* on *Leaves*; in which, under every primitive Word, the Derivatives are written.
27. A *Poetical Dictionary.*
28. A Book of *Malabar-Arithmetick.*
29. A *Spelling-Book.*
30. An *A, B, C,* with the Variations.
31. *Christian Rules of Life.*
32. A *Malabarick-Grammar.*

Besides these, we have 14 Books written by *Romish* Missionaries; 156 Books of *Malabarick* Theology, Physick, and Philosophy; 12 concerning the *Mahometan* Religion.

In the *Portuguese-Language*, we have the following Books, Ten of which have been written and copied by our selves, Eleven sent us by Friends.

1. **A**N *A, B, C.*
 2. **A** The *Method of Salvation.*
 3. A Summary of *Christian Doctrines*, set forth in *Questions and Answers.*
 4. An *Explication of the Christian Doctrines*, according to the Order of the Catechism.
- These Four have been printed here,

5. An

5. An *Abridgment of Divinity*, written.
6. A *Prayer-Book*, written.
7. A *Book of Hymns*, written.
8. *Ecclesiastical Rites according to the Use of the Church of Denmark*, written.
9. A *Dictionary in Quarto*, written.
10. A *Portugueze-Grammar*, written.
11. The *New-Testament*, in 8vo.
12. The *New-Testament*, in 4to.
13. The *Book of Common-Prayer*, according to the Use of the Church of England, together with the *Psalms of David*.
14. The *Catechism*, and *Liturgy* of the reformed Christian Churches.
15. A *Breviary of the Christian Religion by way of Dialogue*.
16. A *short Examen of the principal Points of Christian Religion*.
17. *Ars Grammatica pro Lingua Lusitanica ad-discenda. Latino Idiomate*.
18. A *Rustick and Pastoral Dialogue* between the *Curate of a Village* and a *Keeper of Sheep*.
19. The first Part of the *History of the Dominican Order*, in the *Kingdom and Conquests of Portugal*.
20. A *Compendium and Summary for Confessors*, extracted from the *Manual*; by a *Friar minor*.
21. The *spiritual and posthumous Works of F. Antonio das Chagas*.
22. A *Dictionary*, written in *Folio*.

So that there are at present 237 Books in our *Malabarick and Portugueze-Library*.

Reverend Sir,

Thus much we have thought fit to write at this time, in order to acquaint you with the *Method of Instruction* used in our Charity-Schools. We beg the Continuance of your Prayers, your good Counfels, and of your Affection to us, and to the Work of propagating the Gospel of Christ among the Gentiles. In our Prayers, we supplicate the Father of Heaven, that he will strengthen you with his Power, by the Influence of his holy Spirit, and assist you in all your Ministerial Functions for the Good of Christ's Church, to the Glory of his holy Name, and Advancement of the Eternal Kingdom of our Saviour.

Reverend Sir,

Your most obliged

and affectionate Servants,

*Tranquebar, in the
East-Indies, on the
Coast of Coroman-
del, Apr. 7. 1713.*

Bartholomew Ziegenbalg.
John Ernest Grundler.

F I N I S.

THOSE who shall be willing to support the Protestant Mission aforesaid, by their charitable Contributions, either Annually, or Casually, may apply to any of the Persons hereafter mention'd; viz.

Christopher Appleby, Esq; in Chancery-Lane.

The Reverend Mr. Boehm, at the Golden Angel in the Strand.

Thomas Bromfield, in Chancery-Lane.

Whitlocke Bulstrode, Esq; in Hatton-Garden.

John Chamberlayne, Esq; in Petty-France, Westminster.

Colonel Colchester, at Westbury in Gloucestershire.

Daniel Dolins, Esq; at Hackney.

Mr. Archdeacon Frank, Rector of Cranfield in Bedfordshire.

Thomas Freke, Esq; at Shroton in Dorsetshire.

Thomas Greene, Esq; in Westminster.

Roger Harris, Esq; at Winchester.

Mr. John Higden, Merchant, in Milk-Street.

Mr. Henry Hoare, Goldsmith, in Fleet-Street, Treasurer.

Edward Jennings, Esq; in Little Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.

The Reverend Doctor King, at the Charter-House.

Peter Lavigne, Esq; in Henrietta-Street, Covent-Garden.

The Reverend Mr. Mayo, at St. Thomas's-Hospital in Southwark.

John