

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Ziegenbalg, Bartholomäus
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London, 1709

Letter II. The Missionaries set out from the Cape of Good Hope in Africa,
and safely arrive at Tranquebar in the East-Indies, on the Coast of
Coromandel.

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LETTER II.

S. 9

The Missionaries set out from the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, and safely arrive at Tranquebar in the East-Indies, on the Coast of Coromandel.

Dear Friends,

SINCE the Lord in his infinite Mercy has been pleased to bring us hither safe and sound, we find our selves in Duty bound, most humbly to return Thanks for so signal a Favour, and likewise to encourage our Friends to join with us in so noble an Exercise ; being fully assured, that your Prayers and Good Wishes have all along attended us hither. After what manner we arrived at the *Cape of Good Hope*, has been declared to you by Letters, sent by way of *England* and *Denmark*, which we hope are come to your Hands. From this place, where (after the mouldy Bread, dead Beer, and stinking Water we had lived upon for some ywhile) we were refreshed with good and wholesome Cheer, we sailed the Eighth of *May* well victualled, and soon after met with great Cold. Returning under the 30th to the 39th Degree or thereabouts, towards the South, we had almost nothing else but Thunder, Lightning and Hail, with such a violent Storm, the like we never perceived beyond the *Cape*. One time the upper-part of the Main-Mast was split
into

into Three Pieces, and in the Cabin every thing was broke with a prodigious Violence, which might have proved very fatal to us, if the Lord had not been pleased to prevent it to our no small Astonishment. The 24th of *May* we reached the great Island of *Madagascar*, and shortly after *Mauritia*. Afterwards we fell sensibly a second time into the warm Climate, where our Men went again to Fishing. Having passed the Tropic of *Capricorn* on the 13th of *June*, we came the 24th to the *Maldiv*e-Islands. Our Ship was daily stored with abundance of Birds, of so dull a nature, that they of their own accord flew into our Hands, or lighting down near us, wou'd play with us. Nay, they wou'd by no Means be turn'd off, till they by force were driven away.

The 27th of *June* we happily passed the Equinoctical-Line a second time. After having plyed a few Days, and getting no Sight of the Island of *Ceylon*, we begun to be somewhat uneasy, being afraid we had taken the wrong Course of sailing. We sounded the Depth with the Plummet every Day, and at last found our selves near some Land. Soon after perceiving we were got into the Tract of *Camerin*, we sailed back again. And now certainly supposing, we should come in Sight of *Ceylon*, and yet still frustrated in our Hopes, we were not a little concerned, knowing that but a few Years ago a *Danish* Ship had unfortunately been cast away hereabouts: The Captain and the Pilate climbing up the Main-Top-Mast, look'd about. In the Stern of the Ship they kept the Lead going, and so took every where the necessary Precautions in so critical a Juncture of Time. The
Wind

Wind blew so violent, that the Ship, like an Arrow, cut its Way through the midst of the Waves. And it was then, when our Men cry'd out all on a sudden, that large Sand-banks were just before us. This we shou'd not at all have been sensible of, if the Wind had not been so boisterous, and with its Vehement battering and beating back of the Waves, had not made such a prodigious ecchoing and roaring Noise. Here we seasonably remembred the Words of the 139 Psalm: *Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy Presence? If I should take the Wings of the Morning, and dwell in the uttermost Parts of the Sea, even there would thy Hand find me.*

But the Lord happily delivered us out of this Danger, and soon after granted us to come in Sight of Ceylon, which Island we touched very near, being refresh'd in our Passage with a delicate Fruit come from thence called *Anas*. In calm Weather we could spy the Elephants walking on the Shoar.

At last all these Toils and Fatigues ended in a happy Arrival, and on the 9th of July we cou'd say: *Hitherto the Lord hath helped us!*

Contigimus Portum, quo mihi cursus erat!

We arrived in good Health, and were received with great Joy. Whilst we were aboard, we passed our Time among other Things, with taking down in writing such *Meditations* as we made upon certain Subjects, and particularly upon the Nature of *true Wisdom*, and the *Harmony betwixt the Kingdom of Nature and Grace*. This Place lies under the 11th Degree this Side the Line, & is altogether stocked with *Malabarian Heathens*; so that we shall find Work enough cut out for us here,

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without being obliged, to go further up into the Country for the present. We converse daily with them, and allow every one a free Access to us: Which is the Reason, that they begin to love us heartily. So much for the present: Our hearty greeting to all our Friends. Mr. *Plutshow*, my dear Brother and Fellow-Labourer in the Work of the Lord, wishes you with me the Blessing of the Lord upon your Function. I rest

Yours

In the East Indies, at Tranquebar, on the Coast of Coromandel July the 12th 1706.

Bartholomew Ziegenbalgh,

Minister of the Gospel among the Heathens.

[LETTER]