

# Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

## Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Being a further Account of the Progress Made by some Missionaries to  
Transqear, Upon the Coast of Coromandel, For the Conversion of the  
Malabarians

**Ziegenbalg, Bartholomäus**  
**Plütschau, Heinrich**

**London, 1711**

To the Reader.

---

### Nutzungsbedingungen

Die Digitalisate des Francke-Portals sind urheberrechtlich geschützt. Sie dürfen für wissenschaftliche und private Zwecke heruntergeladen und ausgedruckt werden. Vorhandene Herkunftsbezeichnungen dürfen dabei nicht entfernt werden.

Eine kommerzielle oder institutionelle Nutzung oder Veröffentlichung dieser Inhalte ist ohne vorheriges schriftliches Einverständnis des Studienzentrums August Hermann Francke der Franckeschen Stiftungen nicht gestattet, das ggf. auf weitere Institutionen als Rechteinhaber verweist. Für die Veröffentlichung der Digitalisate können gemäß der Gebührenordnung der Franckeschen Stiftungen Entgelte erhoben werden.

Zur Erteilung einer Veröffentlichungsgenehmigung wenden Sie sich bitte an die Leiterin des Studienzentrums, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle ([studienzentrum@francke-halle.de](mailto:studienzentrum@francke-halle.de))

### Terms of use

All digital documents of the Francke-Portal are protected by copyright. They may be downloaded and printed only for non-commercial educational, research and private purposes. Attached provenance marks may not be removed.

Commercial or institutional use or publication of these digital documents in printed or digital form is not allowed without obtaining prior written permission by the Study Center August Hermann Francke of the Francke Foundations which can refer to other institutions as right holders. If digital documents are published, the Study Center is entitled to charge a fee in accordance with the scale of charges of the Francke Foundations.

For reproduction requests and permissions, please contact the head of the Study Center, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle ([studienzentrum@francke-halle.de](mailto:studienzentrum@francke-halle.de))

**urn:nbn:de:gbv:ha33-1-42465**



---

T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

---

**W**Hereas God in his infinite Mercy hath been pleased, in these latter Days, to inspire some Souls, with a more than common Vigour, for carrying on the Work of Reformation; the happy Effect resulting from thence, speaks loud of so glorious and charitable an Enterprise already. Not to mention the noble Effect such Efforts have produced in several Parts of Europe, being obvious to every one that doth not wilfully shut his Eyes against it; one can't but take Notice of that enlarged Charity, which hath mov'd some so far, as to go beyond the Borders of Christendom, and to scatter some Rays of Christian Knowledge, both upon the Eastern and upon the Western Pagans.

It can't be expected, that in a succinct Prefatory Discourse as this is designed to be, I should set out the Usefulness of so generous a Design; much less, that I should go about to give an Account of that great Success wherewith it hath been blessed already. However, I can't but mention in a few Words, what hath been done in the EAST; and what might be further effected, if the Design now in Hand should, under the gracious Influence of the Lord, meet with any favourable Encouragement from the Christian Nations in Europe.

In



*In the Year 1705, the King of Denmark resolved upon sending some Missionaries to Tranquebar, upon the Coast of Coromandel, to attempt the Conversion of the Malabar-Heathens, inhabiting that Country. The University of HALL being applied to for fit Persons, to undertake so hazardous an Enterprize, Two young Divines, bred in the said University, were singled out for this Undertaking; who, after having embarked about the latter End of November 1705, arrived at last at Tranquebar in July 1706. What Progress they have made hitherto, what Impediments they have met with in prosecuting their Design, together with the singular Providence that hath attended them, hath been publish'd from their own Letters, for Edification of the English Reader, in the Year 1709.*

*But the Design did not end with those Two Missionaries. They soon perceived how great the Harvest was in those Parts, and how few Hands, to carry on a Work of so great Importance. Therefore at their earnest Sollicitation, Three more have been sent after them. These arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, in the Month of April 1709. and from thence gave an Account to their Correspondents in Denmark and Germany, of what might be helpful to them for furthering the Dispatch of their Errand to the East. The Knowledge of the Portuguese Language, and a good Number of NEW-TESTAMENTS in this Tongue, are recommended to such, as perhaps in Time might follow them, as MEANS highly conducive for Propagating the Gospel in the East. But this latter being now very scarce, or sold at least at a very high Rate, a new Impression will be required, where-*



## To the Reader.

v

whereby to answer the Expectation of our Missionaries. And'tis hoped, some will be moved to lay so charitable a Design to Heart, and thereby to support the Work so happily begun in these Parts. By such a Return of a Spiritual Benefit, the Temporal Riches our Europeans have drawn hitherto from the Heathen World, would prove a greater Blessing to the Christians themselves, and our most holy Religion would thereby in some Degree appear again like a City that is set on an Hill, and may be seen at a Distance.

Certainly, there is nothing more productive of melting Impressions, than the Religion established by CHRIST. It softens the Heart into most tender Inclinations. It is of a communicative and overflowing Nature; whereas "Wicked Men (to use the Words of a very worthy Writer,\*)" "are of most narrow and "confined Spirits; they are so contracted by the "pinching Particularities of earthly and created "things, so imprisoned in a dark Dungeon of Sensuality and Selfishness, so straitned through "their carnal Designs and Ends, that they cannot "stretch themselves, nor look beyond the Horizon "of Time and Sense. Truly, a Soul that is made Partaker of this divine Amplitude, will expose herself to Hazards and Difficulties, to prevent the eternal Ruin of others. And if it makes those that are rooted in it, lay down their Lives for the Brethren; then without Doubt, such must be utter Strangers to it, as stick at laying down a little Money for those that are in the way to come over to it.

We see how eager those of the Romish Party are, to push on their Designs up and down the Heathen World,

A

---

\* Mr. Smith's Select Discours. p. 394.



World, extending themselves from the East to the West. Nothing is more frequently, or loudly objected by them against us, than the Conversions they have made amongst Heathens, both in the East and in the West ; and the extreme Readiness and Zeal of great Numbers of their Clergy, to expose themselves to all manner of Perils, both by Sea and by Land, for the Propagation of the Christian Faith in the Infidel World. And it is well known, that some of 'em have boasted, (when they are maintaining theirs to be the Catholick Church,) that their Loss in Europe, by what they call the Northern Heresy, has been more than made up to them, by the Accession of such vast Numbers to their Communion, as within these Two last Centuries have been added to them, from among the Heathen Nations.

I know, what the common Evasion of Protestants in Relation to the Popish Missionaries, is, viz.  
 “ That they do not act upon a good Principle ; that  
 “ they have no other End in what they undertake,  
 “ than to promote the Interest of their Party, which  
 “ at last would prove an undermining, rather  
 “ than advancing of the Gospel of Christ. But  
 as on one Hand, I don't design at all, to justify the Conduct of the Roman-Catholick Missionaries ; (their Method being generally too slight, and unbecoming the Gravity of a Missionary of Christ ; ) so on the other, I can't see for what Reason, Protestants should not act at all ; because they observe others act irregularly. Certainly, if the Roman Missionaries act upon a selfish Foundation, Protestants ought to act on a more solid One. If they act upon a partial Principle, Protestants ought to act upon a Principle more universal, more favouring of the Spirit of Christ, more attended with univer-  
 sal



*sal Love and Benignity. If the Method of Roman-Catholicks seems too shallow, deadish, and superficial to us; then Protestants ought to carry it higher, and inspire their Converts with the Power of Religion too. If those acquiesce in a pompous, though dead Performance of a ceremonious Worship; then WE ought so much the more to preach up an inward and vital Principle, sending forth good Works, as so many free and unconstrained Emanations. If those at the best, inform the Understanding only, and charge the Memory with some partial Sentiments of Religion; we ought not to take up there, but by a sincere Endeavour to work up the Will likewise into a ready Compliance with the Commandments of God. And in fine, do those venture Life and Limb, or compass Sea and Land, to make Profelytes to their Party, and all this, by the Influence of HUMAN Authority; and should not Protestants, under the gracious Influence of GOD himself, carry things considerably beyond what these are able to do?*

*What has been done in the East-Indies, on this behalf, the following Papers will give an Account of. Great things cannot be expected from so few Hands, and in so small a Compass of Time these Missionaries have been engag'd in this Work. However, thus much may be gathered from the various Oppositions and many Difficulties they all along have encounter'd with, that their Endeavour is not altogether destitute of LIFE, though perhaps it be but like a Grain of Mustard-Seed as yet, and scatter'd among a mean and contemptible sort of People too. The Work of God begins generally with a low Ebb, and moves on by degrees to its Spring-Tide: And the Religion of Christ still produces the same Effects which it produced*



duced at its first appearing in a corrupted World, viz. to set People at Variance against one another, to create Divisions, and to send Fire on the Earth.

'Tis true, the Kingdom of Christ may be built, nay, even is to be built, without Noise and Brawls; but the Kingdom of Antichrist (on the Ruins whereof the spiritual Temple of Christ is to be raised,) will never be pulled down, but with rumor and uproar; the great Enemy of Souls, never wanting, either by open Assaults of Malice, to persecute; or by exquisite Arts of Policy, to disgrace the Promoters of that Religion, which will prove in fine the total Overthrow of all his usurped Powers and Dominions. Hence, as so hazardous an Enterprize as the Work of Propagating the Gospel is, cannot be carried on so silently, as not to allarm the busy Enemy of Souls into most violent Oppositions; so those that are acquainted with the Nature of Christ's Religion, will be so far from being offended at such Stirs and Divisions, that they will rather conclude, these to be the unavoidable Consequences of a pure Gospel preach'd in an impure & refractory World.

Something of what hath been said may be seen exemplified in the Conversion of a heathenish Poet or Scholar; the Circumstances whereof are briefly related in this Narrative; and which deserves so much more our Observation, since it raised so fierce a Storm among the Heathens in Malabar, who undoubtedly thought the Young-Man's Wit and Reason to be a sufficient Guard against the Religion of Christ. But this may show, that God is able to reclaim some, even of the most refined Wits, who generally are most backward, to submit to the Rules of a crucified Saviour.