

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Propagation of the Gospel in the East: Being a Farther Account of the Success Of The Danish Missionaries, Sent to the East-Indies, For The Conversion Of The Heathens in Malabar

Böhm, Anton Wilhelm

London, 1714

The Introduction.

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A N
 Account of the S U C C E S S
 O F T W O
DANISH Missionaries,
 Sent to the
EAST-INDIES
 F O R T H E
 C O N V E R S I O N
 O F T H E
 H E A T H E N S *in Malabar.*

The I N T R O D U C T I O N.

IT was in the Year 1705. when the King of *Denmark*, *FREDERICK IV.* after a Motion made to him by one of his Chaplains, resolved on sending some Missionaries to *Tranquebar*, situate on the Coast of *Co-*
 B *romandel,*

romandel, in the *East-Indies* ; to attempt the Conversion of the *Malabar-Heathens* in those Parts. In order to this, Application was made to the Professors of Divinity at *H A L L*, one of the most flourishing Universities in all *Germany*, to supply His Majesty with such Persons, as should be thought fit to undertake a Design of that Importance.

Mr. *Bartholomew Ziegenbalgh*, and Mr. *Henry Plutsch*, resolved to go on so unpromising an Errand. For such indeed many looked upon it to be, considering, perhaps, how little hitherto had been done in this Matter by *Protestants* ; and what untrodden Paths, unknown Trials, and headstrong Difficulties, those were like to pass through, that would venture at last upon so hazardous an Enterprize.

These Two Candidates were both educated at *Berlin*. Mr. *Jochimus Lang*, who had a Cure of Souls there, and was besides Master of one of the publick Schools in that City, managed their Studies, and prepared them carefully for University-eLarning. And this is the Gentleman that hath successively publish'd in *High-Dutch*, the Letters sent over by these two Missionaries to their Correspondents in *Europe* ; some whereof being addressed to himself, from whom they had received the first Directions for a dexterous Management of their Life and Studies. Soon after they were removed to the University of *Hall*, and committed to the farther Care of the Professors of Divinity there. And from this Place they were sent afterwards on that new Employment, of which

which now something is to be said in the Sequel of this Account.

They embarked at *Copenhagen*, November the 29th, 1705. on Board a Ship called, *Princess Sophia Hedwigh*; being dismissed from thence with many fervent Wishes, by such as were Friends to the Design. They arriv'd at the *Cape of Good Hope* the 23d of *April* following, and from hence sent an Account to their Friends in *Europe*, of the most material Circumstances, Trials, and Dangers, incident to so long and tedious a Voyage. After many Toils and Hardships, they landed at last at *Tranquebar* in the *East-Indies*, on the 9th of *July* 1706.

By the Way we may observe, that *Tranquebar* hath been in the Hands of the *Danes* these *Eighty* Years, and is by them considerably improved. It was but a small Village when the King of *Denmark* purchased it from the then *Malabar* Emperor; but is now a populous Town, surrounded with strong Walls, and provided with a good *Fortaleza*, or Citadel. It hath Three Christian Churches in it: A *Danish* Church, for the Use of this Nation; the *Jerusalem-Church*, for the Benefit of the converted *Malabarians*; and another, belonging to the *Papists*. There is besides, a large *Mosquee* built by the *Mahometans*, and Five huge *Pagods*, frequented by the *Malabar* Heathens.

Some of the adjacent Villages and Market-Towns, being Fifteen in Number, are subject to the *Danish* Government there. The largest of these Places, called *Borejar*, containeth almost as many Inhabitants as *Tranquebar* it self, together with several *Mosquees* and *Pagods* for

Turks and *Heathens*. After this is *Tilliar*, a fine and large Town: Above Forty House-keepers in this Place are *Bramins*, or *Malabar* Priests, having one vastly great *Pagode* in it, for the Worship of their Idols, with several little ones. There are besides these, seven other Villages, not so very populous, and accordingly not furnished with any considerable *Pagode*. The remaining six Villages are but small, and thinly peopled, being chiefly inhabited by Fishers, and others employ'd in that sort of Business. Into all these Towns and Villages one of the Missionaries maketh frequent Excursions, in order to declare unto the *Pagans* the Word of Salvation; and when he is gone through them all, he begins again with the first, in Hopes that, by such Endeavours, the *Heathens* may be stirred up in Time, to a closer Attention to the Word of the Gospel.

CHAP.