

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

Chap. IV.

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C H A P. IV.

The Missionaries highly affected with the Finger of Providence hitherto appearing in this Work. The Printing-Press set up at Tranquebar. A small Treatise is Printed. Some Books, relating to the Malabar-Paganism, are sent over. The present State of the Church and Schools at Tranquebar. A Catalogue of some Malabar and Portuguese Books.

IT was in the Month of *August* 1712. when the Missionaries at *Tranquebar* receiv'd at last the long-look'd for *Printing-Press*, being sent from *England* in the Beginning of the preceding Year. This *Present*, and the Society's *Letter* attending it, gave, as it were, a new Life to the whole Undertaking, which hitherto had lain languishing under various Trials and Disappointments. They own in their Letters to the *Society*, and some other Friends in *England*, "That they were most
 " movingly affected with the Finger of divine
 " Providence, which had stirr'd up so many
 " well-dispos'd Persons in *England*, to pro-
 " mote the true Knowledge of Christ, not
 " only in *Europe* and the *West-Indies*, but also
 " in the *Eastern* Parts of the World; to the
 " End, that, after the Removal of the profane
 " Superstitions of Heathenism, these might
 " be dispos'd for receiving in Time, the se-
 " rene

“ rene Light of the Gospel of Christ. They
“ heartily wish, the Religion of Christ may
“ gain more Ground every Day among the *Pa-*
“ *gans*, enlightening and regenerating their
“ Hearts by its divine Efficacy, that those that
“ sacrifice as yet unto Devils, might be re-
“ scued, and made Partakers of the Spirit of
“ Jesus Christ.

§. 2. They return their most humble Thanks to all their worthy Benefactors in *England*, for the seasonable Supplies wherewith they had been pleas'd to relieve them, in the midst of their pressing Necessities; and they hope, that this Zeal will inspire also other Nations with a like *Forwardness* of serving their Fellow-Creatures in the Work of Salvation. They hope particularly, that the *Correspondence* with the *Society*, to which they were so kindly invited, will prove a helpful *Means* towards removing such Obstacles as did surround them as yet, and towards establishing the whole Design on a better Foundation in Time. For they cannot but lament over and over again, the various Discouragements they meet with from the Christians themselves settled in *Malabar*; who, instead of promoting the Gospel in the *Pagan* World, did hinder it by many scandalous Practices, altogether inconsistent with the Rules and Profession of Christianity. However, they hope, and perhaps not without Reason, that these *unexpected Motions* of several Nations in *Europe*, may be as many happy *Fore-runners* of the approaching Conversion of the *Gentiles*, so gloriously set forth in Scripture. And what Power of Darkness will *then* be able to hinder
any

44 Books sent over from India.

any longer the Waters of Life from spreading themselves over the parch'd Wilderness of Paganism? *Who art thou, O great Mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a Plain! Zechar. IV. 7.*

§. 3. The aforesaid *Printing-Press* was immediately set up at *Tranquebar*. It happen'd now very fortunately, that a Man, who, in his younger Years, had learnt the Art of *Printing*, was found in the *Danish Company's Service*, and employ'd by the *Missionaries* to print off both a *Primmer* for the Use of the *Portuguese School*, and a Specimen about the *Method of Salvation*, of which they have sent some Copies to *England*. They call this last Treatise, the *First-fruits of the Word of God*, bestow'd on the Heathens by the Benefactors in *England*, and are highly sensible of the Good, which they hope may, in Time, accrue to the *Pagan World* by that Means. The Title at length of this Treatise runs thus: *A Ordem da Salvação: ou a Doutrina Christãa; brevemente emperguntas e repostas declarada e provada. Com principaes Testemunhos da Escritura sagrada. Juntamente com albuãas Oraçoens e Cantigas. TRANQUEBAR Em India Oriental na Costa de Coromandel, na Estampa dos Missionarios del Rey de Dennemark. Anno 1712.*

They have likewise compiled, and printed off a *Sheet Almanack*, very much wanted on that Coast: *O Calendario para o Anno MDCCXIII. depois de Nascimento de Nosso Senhor JESU CHRISTO. Tranquebar na Estampa dos Missionarios Reaes.*

§. 4. Besides this, they have, by the last Fleet, sent over to a Friend at London, several Treatises writ in *High-Dutch*, on such Subjects, as may prove both useful and entertaining to the Readers in *Europe*. Their Titles are as follows :

(1.) *The MALABAR PHYSICIAN: Or the Method of practising Physick among the Heathens in Malabar. Gathered from their own Books, and translated into High-Dutch, for the Satisfaction of Physicians in Europe. To which is added, a compendious Scheme of the whole Art of Physick; drawn up by an eminent Physician in Malabar.*

(2.) *An Historical Narration of the Kingdom of Tanjour, on the Coast of Coromandel: Sent in several Letters by two Malabar Heathens, to the Missionaries at Tranquebar; and by them translated into High-Dutch.*

(3.) *A Treatise of the whole Pagan Idolatry: Wherein is treated of the first Rise and Origine of Paganism; of its Nature and Constitution; of its vast Extent throughout the whole World; of its Division into various Sects and Parties; of its Affinity with Judaism, and of what there remains in it of Reason, both in respect to natural and spiritual Matters; of its Abominableness in the Eyes of God; of the violent Opposition it raised against the Jewish Church in the Old Testament, and against the Church of Christ in the New; of the Means made use of for extirpating it under the Old Testament, and of the likeliest Means whereby it may be extirpated under the New-Covenant; of the Hopes of their approaching Conversion; of the Im-*
pediments

46 *Of the present State of the Mission.*

pediments whereby their Conversion is obstructed, and of the Means whereby it may be promoted. Written by B. Z. in the East-Indies. Recommended to the Consideration of the European Christians in general, and particularly dedicated to the Divinity-Professors of the Protestant Universities in Europe.

(4.) *An Account of some Particulars relating to the present State of East-India. In a Letter to a Friend.*

(5.) *The Malabar Correspondence : Or a Treatise of the present State of the Malabar Paganism. Writ by the Malabarians themselves, and, by Way of an Epistolary Correspondence, sent to the Danish Missionaries, and by these translated into High-Dutch. To which are added, some Notes of the Missionaries, for clearing up many obscure Passages contained therein.*

§. 5. But to return to the Schools and Church, gather'd and gathering from among the Heathens at *Tranquebar*; the last *Pacquet* of Letters, dated in *September 1712.* and in *January 1713.* gives an Account, that in the *Malabarick* and *Portugueze* Churches were *January 1713.* of Persons baptiz'd 207. and *Catechumens* to be prepared for Baptism 26. In the *Five Charity-Schools* there were 78 *Children*, of which 59 are cloath'd and wholly maintain'd, together with some other Persons, who are employ'd in preparing Food for the *Children*, and other Services about the Churches and Schools. The Missionaries hope that, in a little Time, some of the more advanced Scholars in the *Malabarick* School will be fit to be em-

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employ'd in this Work, in the Quality of School-masters, Catechists, and Transcribers.

§. 6. Of all the *Malabar Manuscripts*, which either have been composed by the Missionaries themselves, or by them translated from other Languages, chiefly for the Use of the *Malabarick Church and School*, they have sent over the following Catalogue :

- (1.) *The whole New-Testament.*
- (2.) *A Collection of the Gospels and Epistles used throughout the Year. Done in a Volume by it self.*
- (3.) *Luther's Short Catechism, with an Exposition, and without it.*
- (4.) *A Short History of the old Testament, with the Arguments of each Chapter.*
- (5.) *A Collection of some short Rules or Directions for a Christian Life.*
- (6.) *Twenty Six Sermons upon the Articles of the Christian Faith.*
- (7.) *Eleven Sermons upon some other Subjects of Divinity.*
- (8.) *Fourteen Sermons upon Mr. Freylinghausen's short System of Divinity.*
- (9.) *The History of the Life of CHRIST.*
- (10.) *The Order or Method of Salvation.*
- (11.) *An Abridgment of the Old and the New Testament.*
- (12.) *A succinct Narrative of the Christian, Jewish, Mahometan, and Pagan Religion.*
- (13.) *A Compendium of Divinity.*
- (14.) *A Church-History of the Old Testament, by Way of Questions and Answers.*

(15.) *A*

48 *A Catalogue of Malabar-Books.*

(15.) *A Monitory Letter, directed to the Malabar-Paganism, by one of the Missionaries.*

(16.) *A Collection of Letters sent to some particular Persons of the Malabar-Heathens.*

(17.) *A Malabarick Translation of some exhortatory Letters, sent from Europe to the new-planted Congregation of Heathens converted to Christianity.*

(18.) *A Monitory Letter writ to the Malabar-Congregation by one of the Missionaries, who was then at Madras.*

(19.) *The Danish Liturgy.*

(20.) *A Book of Hymns, set to European Tunes.*

(21.) *A Book of Hymns, set to Notes after the Manner of the Indians.*

(22.) *A Book of Devotions, or Prayers.*

(23.) *The Articles of the Christian Religion broke into short Questions.*

(24.) *A little Reading Book, containing some moral Rules of Life.*

(25.) *A Body of Divinity, (not yet finish'd.)*

(26.) *Dr. Spener's Exposition upon the Catechism, (not yet finish'd.)*

(27.) *A Malabar Dictionary, compil'd out of various Authors, and provided with a German Index.*

(28.) *A Dictionary digested after the Order of the Malabarick Alphabet, and done in such a manner, that the Reader, at one View, may find the primitive Word, together with all the Derivatives depending thereon. It contains above 40000 Words, all writ on Leaves, and is design'd to be transcribed on Paper, and to be Printed in Time, for the Benefit of the Mission.*

(29.) *A*

A Catalogue of Portugueze Books. 49

(29.) *A Poetical Dictionary, digested into Twelve Parts, and taken out of Poetical Writers only.*

(30.) *A Book upon Arithmetick, composed after the Manner of the Malabarians.*

(31.) *A Malabarick Primmer.*

(32.) *A Malabarick Spelling-Book.*

§. 7. The Missionaries have also met with some few Theological *Manuscripts* in *Malabarick*, written by *Roman Catholick Priests*, sent to the *East-Indies*. Those Treatises, after being carefully revised by the Missionaries, and purged of whatsoever might favour of *Popery*, have been admitted also into their *Malabarick Library*. They are as follows:

(1.) *Some Questions relating to the Christian Doctrine.*

(2.) *A Catechism.*

(3.) *Some Orations upon Theological Subjects.*

(4.) *A Collection of Prayers, according to the Order of the Passion of Christ.*

(5.) *A String of Pearls: Or an old mystical Treatise upon the Christian Virtues.*

§. 8. The few *Portugueze Books* and *Manuscripts* the Missionaries are provided with at present, are as follows:

(1.) *The New Testament.* Printed.

(2.) *The Liturgy of the Church of England.* Printed.

(3.) *Luther's Catechism.* Written.

(4.) *Method of Salvation.* Printed.

(5.) *An Abstract of Dr. Spener's Exposition upon the Catechism.* Written.

(6.) *A Book of Hymns.* Written.

50 *A Catalogue of Portugueze Books.*

- (7.) *A Dictionary.* Written.
(8.) *A Grammar.* Written.
(9.) *Ars Grammaticæ pro addiscenda Lingua Lusitanica.* Autore Benedicto Pereira. Printed.
(10.) *A Historia particular de Reyno de Portugal.* Printed.
(11.) *A short System of Divinity.* Written.
(12.) *The Danish Liturgy.* Written.
(13.) *Obras espirituales do Fr. Antonio das Chagas.* Printed.
(14.) *Breviario de Religião Christão.* Pello R. P. Rogerio. Printed.

§. 8. “**M**AY the Lord have Mercy up-
“ on all Jews, Turks, Infidels,
“ and Hereticks ! And take from them all
“ Ignorance, Hardness of Heart, and Con-
“ tempt of his Word : And so fetch them
“ Home to his Flock, that they may be
“ saved among the Remnant of the true
“ Israelites ; and be made one Fold under
“ one Shepherd JESUS CHRIST our
“ LORD ; who liveth and reigneth with
“ the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one
“ God, World without End ! *Amen.*

F I N I S