

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

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Section I. Containing Answers to such Questions as relate to the Government
or Political State of The Indians.

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A N
A C C O U N T
O F
East-India, &c.

S E C T I O N I.

Containing Answers to such Questions as relate to the Government or Political State of the Indians.

The First QUESTION.



Bout what Time was the Colony about Tranquebar planted? How Strong is, the same; and how far do its Limits extend?

Answer: 'Tis above Fourſcore Years when the Daniſh Colonie about Tranquebar was firſt planted: I could never learn the exact Time or Year thereof; the old Books or Records, that might give

2 Of the Town of Tranquebar.

a Light into this Matter, being wanting, and said to be lost. *Tranquebar* it self was formerly but a small Country-Town; but after the King of *Denmark* had purchased it, by Treaty from the then reigning *Malabarick* Emperor, and peopled it with *Europeans*, it became by degrees a fine flourishing City, fortified with a strong Castle. According to the abovementioned Treaty, two Thousand Perdous are still yearly to be paid to the Heathen King of *Tanjour*: The whole City is strongly walled about, and its Bastions are provided with a sufficient Artillery. The Castle lieth reaching toward the Sea, and has a Ditch, strong Walls and Bastions to defend it. Before the Gate which leads towards the Country, stands a fine Citadel.

Within the City are three Churches belonging to the Christians, viz. the *Danish* Church, called *Zion*; our own, erected for the converted *Malabar* Heathen, and named *Jerusalem*; (a) to which may be added, that of the *Papists*. There is also a large *Moorish* or *Mahometan* Church, together with five huge *Pagodes* or Pagan Temples, wherein the Heathens perform their Worship.

The Inhabitants are partly white *Europeans*, partly white tawny *Portugueze*, and partly yellow *Moors*; but for the most part, black-brown *Malabarians*. The exact Number of all these distinct Inhabitants I cannot truly tell; but

(a) A fuller Account of this Church may be seen in the first Part of the *Propagation of the Gospel in the East*, Lett. IX, pag. 70, seqq.

but 'tis certain that *Tranquebar* is a very populous City, whose Streets are crouded with vast Numbers of great and little ones ; being much frequented by many different Nations, that trade to and fro, both by Sea and Land. The Garrison is not very numerous, and consists of white *Europeans*, who list many Heathens for Soldiers, but keep the Places of Officers always in their own Hands.

The District which is subject to *Tranquebar* containeth fifteen Villages ; the largest whereof is called *Borejar*, holding almost as many Inhabitants as *Tranquebar* it self. Here are several large *Malabarick Pagodes* and Moorish Churches or *Mosques* ; and 'it is but lately the *Moors* have raised here a very fine new *Mosquee*. After this, *Tilliar* is the largest and most pleasant Village, in which are above forty Houses inhabited by *Bramans* : (b) It has in it one very large *Pagode*, with several others of a less Size. The Highway from *Tranquebar* to this Place is adorned with Trees, planted very regularly on both sides : They bear red, white, and yellow Flowers, much resembling our *Lillies* in *Europe*.

These two Towns or Villages are the largest and most populous of all the rest. Here follow the Names of seven other Places or Villages ; viz. *Tsandarapári*, *Kottupálem*, *Erukittántscheri*, *Tscháttanguri*, *Dewanallúr*, *Oruwamángalam*, and *Tschenkitankarei*. These are not near so populous, and have but very small

B 2

Pagodes.

(b) See the Character of these Men at the End of this Piece.

A *Of the Inhabitants of the Coast.*

Pagodes. The Inhabitants maintain themselves by their handy-work in serving the City.

The Names of the six remaining Places are: *Pommeampoettei, Killinschimedu, Kalinkaráipoettei, Singnurpoettei, Akkamenpoettei, and Ellamenpoettei*; all which are but small Villages, crouded by Fishers, and other Men that follow the like sort of Business. Few of the white *Europeans* know the Names of these sundry Towns and Villages, which is the Reason they frequently give them quite other Names, according as their Fancy leads them. In those *fifteen* Towns or Villages, and likewise in many others farther up into the Country, I constantly use to preach the Gospel, going from Place to Place, till I come quite round; and having finished this Excursion, I begin again with the *first*.

The Second Question.

Is the Sea-Coast below and above Ceylon inhabited by Europeans? And have these any Communication with the Danish Colony?

Answer. The Sea-Coast below Ceylon is all along inhabited, partly by the *Dutch, French* and *English*, and partly by the *Portuguese*; these having formerly been possessed, not only of the Island of Ceylon it self, but also of almost all the Sea-Coast above it: However, when the *Dutch* began to grow formidable on this Coast, they left but very little in the Hands of the Portuguese.

The

Of the Indian Kings.

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The manner of settling upon this Coast is thus: About *six, seven, eight, nine or ten* Leagues distance, there is either a Fort, Town, or Village inhabited by *Europeans*; from whence they can enlarge their Trade and Commerce, and advance it to the furthestmost Parts of the Island; and this by the Help and Influence of their *Malabarick* Servants, and by virtue of the Bargain every Sea-Port Town of the *Europeans* has struck up with the neighbouring Heathen Kings.

The *Danes* had formerly many Settlements, as well upon this Sea-Coast, as in divers other Places in the *East-Indies*; when now they have only some in *Benjalen*, and upon the *Pepper-Coast* as they call it: yet they may Sail and Traffick freely throughout all *India*, and *Persia*, and where-ever they please, they being every where admitted by the Heathen Kings, as well as by the *Europeans*; but their Lading runs for the most part upon Merchandises they purchase from the *Moorish* Merchants. Thus have both the *Indians* and *Europeans* some Communication with the *Danish* Colony.

The Third Question.

How far reacheth the Territory of the Indian King who borders upon the Colony? Which is the Place of his Residence? What Power has he? What other Kings are there in this great Peninsula belonging to the Jurisdiction of the great Mogol? Are they Sovereigns or Vassals, &c?

Answer. The King who reigneth here upon the Coast of *Coromandel*, has but a small Ter-

ritory, not much extending above a *Hundred English Miles* in Length, and *Seventy* in Breadth.

Tanjour is the Name of his Residence, distant about sixty *English Miles* from hence. The Town it self is pretty large, and encompassed with a strong Wall: the Castle or Residence very spacious and magnificent. Besides which, the King has two other very pleasant Castles, the first being in the Town of *Dirumarur*, about *thirty two Miles* from us; and the second, on the other side, in the Town of *Diruwiramá-rudur*, much about the same distance from hence. He hath several other smaller Castles, which he visiteth but very seldom.

There are in the whole Kingdom *four* fortified Towns or Fortresses, viz: The Towns of *Tanjour*, *Pattukotei*, about *Forty eight English Miles* from this Place; *Mannakowil*, forty Miles distant from hence; and the little Seaport Town *Kalkalatschéri*, but *sixteen Miles* from hence. Many other large Towns are in this Kingdom, famous on Account of the *Pagodes* they have in them, being stately and spacious Buildings. The former Kings have spared no Cost in raising and building such and the like *Pagodes*, and in erecting many large *Refectories* or *Piazza's*, for the Entertainment of Strangers, Pilgrims, and Travellers. These *Refectories* are very numerous throughout the whole Kingdom, in all Towns and Villages, and even in the high Ways, at about *four Miles* distance, where every one, especially during the great Heats, may freely enter, lodge, and continue therein as long as he pleaseth, let him be Heathen or Mahometan, black or white Christian.

Christian. Most of the Heathens, if they be but in any tolerable good Circumstances, will be at the Charge of Building such Houses or *Refectories*. Some of them will constantly keep and maintain Servants therein, in order to wait on Travellers, and provide fresh Water for them; this being one of the greatest Benefits in those hot Countries.

The King's Power consists chiefly in Wealth and Riches. He draws yearly out of his Dominions above *thirty* Tuns of Gold in Money: In his Treasury are said to be lodged above *Thirty Hundred Thousand* Tuns of Gold. He keeps *one Hundred and forty four* Elephants in his Army, trained up for Battle; and above *three Hundred* Horses, both which are brought to him from foreign Countries. In time of Peace, his Forces are not considerable; but when he engages in War, he can with his Money raise, in a very short time, a most numerous Army. 'Tis about ten Years since he besieged the Town of *Tranquebar* with *forty Thousand* Men, for the Space of nine whole Months, from which he would not retire, till they paid him down a Sum of Money, and agreed to such Terms as he demanded. He is obliged to pay Annually a very great Sum of Money to the *Mogol*, to whom he is Tributary. Thus is he no Sovereign King, but a Vassal of the great *Mogol*. And such are all the other Kings and Princes upon the other Coasts, since they all pay Tribute to the *Mogol*.

About a *Hundred and forty four English* Miles from hence, is a Kingdom which is governed by a Queen, as others are by Parliaments.

ments. In the ordinary course of my reading *Malabar Books*, I have met with up and down several Histories relating to the former State and Condition of the *Indian Kings*, together with an Account of their Genealogie for the Space of some Thousand Years. At present there is no Sovereign King in all *East-India*, except in the Island of *Ceylon*, who is called *Kāndiarāsha*, and is altogether independent. The *Malabarians* have written many voluminous Books relating the Atchievements and warlike Exploits of former Kings, most of which I am like to purchase in time.

The Fourth Question :

In what Parts of India is the Malabarick Language spoken? Has it any relation to the Arabick, Persian, Mogol, or Sinesian Languages?

Answer : Eighteen different Languages are spoken among the *Malabarick Heathens*, of which the *Kerendum*, *Damul*, and *Wardagū*, are the Chief, being most frequently used in Conversation and Correspondence. The *Kerendum* is the ordinary Language of the *Bramanes*, and is esteemed among the Heathens, as the *Latin* is by the *Europeans*. The most vulgar Language is the *Damul*, or the common *Malabarick*, spoke in the compass of near *three Thousand two Hundred English Miles*, being almost known every where, and in many distant Kingdoms. Upon this Coast, the *Malabarick* is spoken in its greatest Purity and Perfection : So that *Malabarick Books* of all sorts are written in this Dialect.

Dialect. But at about *two Hundred* and *forty* Miles distance, farther up in the Country, we meet with another Dialect, and a different Pronunciation, much as there is between the *High-Dutch* and *Low-Dutch* in *Europe*. And as he who knows the *Low-Dutch*, can pretty well read and understand the *High-Dutch*; so the *Low-Malabarians* read in a manner nothing but what is composed in the high Dialect, which they understand very well.

As from the *High-German*, many other Languages are derived; so likewise from the *High-Malabarick*, divers other Languages do spring up, which a *Malabarian* can easily learn. And since the *Malabarick* Merchants, on account of their Seafaring Trade, make many Voyages far and near, there is hardly a Sea-Coast in all *India*, where this Language is not heard and spoken. Yet has it no manner of Affinity either with the *Arabick*, *Persian*, *Mogol*, or *Sinesian* Languages, but is a peculiar Language for it self, full of Gravity and Pathos: It touches the Ear very agreeably, particularly if a Man has a good knack of Delivery, and takes time to pronounce it with Deliberation. It is also very exact and copious, as the *German* or *Latin* are. Its Words are somewhat difficult to remember, and to pronounce; yet very easily to be learned by the help of Grammar-Rules. The reading Part, I think, is almost as difficult as the Reading of the *Hebrew*. During my three Years stay in this Country, I have hardly read any *German* or *Latin* Books, but have spent most of my time, from Morning till Night, in perusing *Malabarick* Compo-
sures.

fores. In this Language I do also discharge my Ministerial Labours, and converse by its means with such Heathens as are Natives of this Coast ; being now as readily versed in it as in my own vernacular Tongue. I have also for two Years together writ several Books in the same. (c)

(c) See Part III. of the Propagation of the Gospel in the East, pag. 47. Likewise the Letter writ by the Missionaries to the Reverend Mr. Lewis, pag. 27.

S E C T I O N II.

Containing Answers to such Questions as relate to Physick, Oeconomy, and the natural State of the Country.

The First Question :

HOW is it with the Air, Heat, Cold, Day, and Night ?

Answer : The Air is different, according to the different Seasons of the Year. In the Months of *August, September, and October*, we have the most temperate and healthiest Air, but it is subject to change almost every Day, blowing in the Forenoon from the Land, attended with some Heat ; and in the Afternoon from the Sea, refreshing every thing again.