

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 Fourth Question.

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wise the Soil that produces them. We have also *two* regular Harvests, or Reaping Seasons, every Year.

The Fourth Question.

What do they drink there, Wine, Beer, or Water?

Answer: All manner of Liquors fit for drinking, are somewhat scarce in *India*. There is Water enough to be had, 'tis true, but not without Money. We pay about *Three-pence* a Day *English* for Water for the Use of our House. Those that either cannot or will not go to the Price of it, may chuse to drink Salt-Water, or walk themselves to those Wells or Springs that afford good Water. But since those Wells are but rarely to be met with, the general Part of the *Malabarians* living in the Country, are forced to drink Pond, or River-Water.

Besides *Tea-Water*, which doth very good Service in this Country, we have several sorts of Liquors, called *Areck* and *Fincken*: The first of these is a kind of Brandy, and the other a sort of small Wine; but I have not yet tasted either the one or the other. The Juice of *Coco-Trees*, known here by the Name of *Suere*, and not unlike to that Beer in *Germany* which is called *Bryhane*, is pretty common in these Parts. Our *Coco-Nuts* contain in them a fresh and cooling Water, which in the Hot-Season most effectually quencheth the Thirst. One may have also *Milk* of *Cows*, *Sheep*, and *Goats*, throughout the Country. The *Europeans* are fond

fond of their own Country-Liquors, which indeed do best agree with their Constitution, provided they keep within Compass and Moderation. For this Reason, abundance of *European* Liquors are yearly imported into this Country, amounting to the Value of many Thousand *Rix-Dollars*. We are not only supplied with *Rhenish*, but also *French* and *Spanish* Wines; with *Brunswic-Mum*, with Variety of Beers sent from *Lubeck*, *Wisnar*, *Zerbst*, *England*, *Denmark*, &c. together with great Quantities of Wine shipped off at the *Cape of Good-Hope*.

As for *Brunswic-Mum*, it doth the best Service in this Country: One Spoonful of this Beer being mixed, by way of a Tincture, with a Glass of boiled *Sugar-Beer*, will make it drink as fresh and good as if it had but just been brewed in *Europe*. So that with one Bottle of *Mum*, one may tincture about twenty Bottles of *Sugar-Beer*, and make it good and palatable. This is the most common Liquor in this Place, and is called by the Name of *Shamprade*.

Neither are we here without *French* Brandy; which, though it be very dear, is reckoned however to be very wholesome for those that drink much Water. This Country produceth no Wine; only I have seen and tasted at *Nagapatnam*, a Place belonging to the *Dutch*, some fine and large Bunches of Grapes; of which the Governour there useth to send Presents to *Tranquebar*, where they are looked upon as great Rarities.

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