

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 Eighth Question.

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Oil they have in abundance, and extraordinary cheap, not drawn from Olives or Turnip Seed, but pressed out of another Fruit and Seed, much like unto the *European Mustard*. It is called *Ellu*, but hitherto unknown to me. *Wax-Candles* may be had for a moderate Price, and much cheaper than in *Europe*, there being Multitudes of Bees swarming every where in the Country.

The Eighth Question.

Do they Till the Ground? What doth it produce?

Answer: They do Till it. This Coast being extremely fertile, it is able to furnish other neighbouring Countries with Corn. That which groweth here most plentifully, is our *Nellu* or *Rice*, and is used for the same purpose as the Corn is in *Europe*. It groweth almost like *Millet*, or *Hirse* in *Germany*, and often beareth an Hundred-fold. The Fields are *Plowed* and *Harrowed* after the manner of *Europe*. In the Reaping Time, all is cut down with a Sickle, and being carried together in Heaps, they strike a Floor in the midst of the Field, and Thresh it. If there remaineth any thing in the Stalks, their Cows and Oxen must tread it out.

Besides the Arable Ground, they have also fine Pastures and Meadows for Cattle. Horses are very scarce among them. They have great Numbers of *Asses*, *Puffeloes*, and divers Kinds of *Cows* and *Oxen*. Such of the *Malabarians* as make it their Business to till and ma-

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manure the Land, are held here in great Esteem, and are not near so contemptibly used as the poor Plow-Men in *Europe*. I have in my Hands some *Malabarick* Composures, descanting upon the Excellency of a *Rustical* State, together with a Copy of Verses made on every Branch of a Husbandman's Life.

The Ninth Question.

To what Age do the Malabarians commonly attain?

Answer: Some of the *Malabarians* attain to a far greater Age than perhaps you may find in *Europe*. The Reason whereof is undoubtedly to be ascribed to the good Diet they observe in Eating and Drinking, since they feed on nothing but what is Simple and Natural: When, on the contrary, the *Europeans* having but little regard to a moderate Diet, overcharge themselves with Variety of high-seasoned Dishes, and so considerably weaken their Nature. Many very old Men and Women are found among the Heathens, and yet still nimble enough to go about their Business.

In their Histories, one may read many fabulous Relations of the uncommon Age of the *Malabarians*; and I heard but lately, that one of their holy Men has already attained an Age of four Hundred Years, and that none can tell by whom he is supplied with Victuals. And there is a Mountain, eight Days Journey from hence, out of which, they say, none that entereth in it doth ever return, but lives eternally