

### 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 Third Question.

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50 Of administring the Sacraments.

Children in Europe. For this purpose we have erected both a Malabarick and Portugueze School, (e) wherein the Children of our Congregation not only are maintained, but also used to good Order and Discipline. These give us no small Hopes towards establishing a real and true Christianity among them. Out of these may in time be chosen such Persons or Labourers, as will be helpful in Propagating the Christian Faith in their own native Country.

# The Third Question.

What Method do you observe in Preaching, and in administring the Sacraments, particular-ly that of holy Baptism?

Answer: When I first began to preach in the Malabarick Tongue, I did always chuse such a Sentence of Scripture as treated upon an Article of Faith; and this I explained in an easie doctrinal Manner. According to this Method, I preached Five and Twenty Sermons, and therein I opened, as well as I could, the principal Branches of our holy Religion. Afterwards being straitned in Time, I could not set down any longer my Sermons at large as I had begun, but was fain to preach without the Help of such Notes. However, I did earnestly meditate upon each particular Point I was to pro-

pore,

<sup>(</sup>e) See the Propagation of the Gospel in the East part I. pag. 37. And Part II. p. 6, and 54, seqq.

pose, in order to deliver every thing in a good Connexion, and with all possible Plainness.

Thus have I gone through a good Part of the History of the Gospel. After I have laid open the literal Sense of the Text, I endeavour to set home every Doctrine by way of a practical Application. The Catechism is taught twice every Week at Church, and twice every Day in our House. Lately I have begun to preach upon some of the Epistles of the New-Testament. I follow the same Method, expounding first the Words of the Text, and then applying the whole by way of Instruction, Correction, Consolation, &c. Besides this, I treat on the Study of Divinity in a more Systematical Manner; having for that Reason reduced the chief Heads of Theology into a succinct and easie Method. My Fellow-Labourer has hitherto preached on the Gospels in the Portugueze Tongue. In the same Language he catechizes every Week.

In the Administration of the holy Communion, we follow the Liturgy of the Church of Denmark. Every one that intends to receive the Sacrament, must give Notice of it eight Days before. During this Time, he is daily one Hour catechized, admonished, and duly prepared for a worthy Receiving of that

Ordinance.

Baptism is likewise administred conformably to the aforesaid Ritual. It was but Yesterday, that Two of our Malabarick Boys were Baptized, the one Six, and the other Nine Years of Age. Ten of our white Christians stood God-Fathers. The Boys were dressed in white and

red. They kneeled at Church during the Service: as did all the Members of our Congregation round about them. First, I examined over the Article of Baptisin in a plain catechetical Manner. After having examined the several Members then present, I turned towards the Two Boys in particular, and made them rehearse the Catechisin. This done, I briefly went through all the Articles of the Christian Faith, and made them answer every Question according to their own Understanding and Capacity. This they performed with so much Presence and Readiness of Mind, that the whole Congregation was pleased with it. When they had thus made a publick Confession of their Faith, I addressed my self to the Godfathers, to influence them the better with a Sense of their Duty. After having prayed over the Boys, I went with them to the Font, accompanied by the God-fathers that stood.

Those two new Christians were Brothers, and had by their Baptism, the Names of David and Solomon given them. At the Baptismal Act, they answered themselves all the Questions I put to them. After Baptism, I prayed for them again, and after a short Exhortation made both to them, and the Sureties, I dismissed them. Thus we use to baptize all adult Persons; but in Christning Children, we follow the same Method which is commonly practised in the Church-

es of Europe.

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