

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 Sixth Question.

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56 *Of the Maintenance of the New-Converted.*

As for getting an honest *Substance* for those that come over to Christianity, it is a Matter of the greatest Importance, and which hitherto has put us to no small Trouble and Difficulty: But we have not been able as yet to remove such Obstacles as have retarded this Work. The Children of our Congregation are maintained in our House, and freely provided with *Meat, Drink, and Cloaths*. But grown and healthy People, tho' they be obliged to earn their Bread by the Labour of their Hands, yet do we allow them weekly a small Charity towards their better Support. The Sick and Poor are sustained at our Cost, and the Dead buried on the same Score. If some have a Mind to set up some little Trade or other, we furnish them with so much as we can, to begin withal, and to get an honest Livelihood in Time. By these and other such Ways and Means, we endeavour to help them forward as much as the Nature of the Thing, and our own Circumstances will permit.

The Sixth Question.

Is it not worth while to try whether they might get their Bread by Manufactures, and their own Industry and Labour?

Answer. Nothing would be more easie and practicable, provided the Government would lay to Heart the Design, and concern themselves about it. These Heathens are born as it were to Labour and Hardships, and are willing

willing to work, if they can but meet with any Encouragement. We shall do what we can towards establishing in Time, one *Manufacture* or other, for the Benefit of this People. Many indeed, are well inclined to Christianity, but they shrink back at the Sight of Poverty, seeing they cannot live among us without a deal of Trouble and Misery.

The Seventh Question.

Is this Nation naturally sly and fickle, or is it naturally upright and open-hearted? How doth their Nature behave it self towards Grace?

Answer: This Heathen Nation is naturally inclined to Candour and Honesty towards those that are of the same Religion with them: But then they shew but little Regard to our *European* Christians, among whom they have for these *Hundred and Fifty* Years past, observed innumerable bad and disorderly Doings. The Consequence whereof is, that many will not stick to over-reach our Christians in whatever they can. They have all along harboured this Opinion, that there could not be a duller and more dangerous People in the Universe, than the Christians. But be that as it will, when an upright and honest *European* comes in their way, they will entertain him very civilly, without Fraud and Malice. However, what I say of their *Honesty* and *Faithfulness*, I would not have extended to all, but to such only as are somewhat more improved in Civility and good Manners. There are many that do not live