

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 Eigth Question.

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The Eighth Question.

Is there any certain Account of the so called Thomas-Christians?

Answer : The *Papists* will give you long and various Accounts concerning the *Thomas-Christians*. I have seen my self a large Book, written by the *Papists* in *Malabarick*, on that Head. But there is so little Credit to be given to the Stories recorded therein, that I did not think it worth my while to get the said Book transcribed.

But be that as it will, it is generally believed in those Parts, that *St. Thomas* hath not only been in *India*, but likewise that he hath propagated the Christian Religion here, wrought many Miracles, and undergone hard Persecutions on that Account. The Heathens themselves do not question the Truth of this Report.

As for *Thomas's Mountain*, the Place where *St. Thomas* is said to have resided, there is at present a Popish Bishop, who possesses abundance of *Reliques*, which they say to be the genuine Remains of the Church of *Thomas* the Apostle. They shew there likewise many Marks and Prints on Stones, relating to the Kneeling and Praying of the Apostle. Concerning the *Thomas Christians* themselves, there is no certain Account to be had of them, at least, no such History as a Man may depend upon. The Places which they are said to have inhabited, are over-run with gross *Popery*, distinguished from

o *Of some Diseases, &c.*

from Heathenism, by no other Mark than the Language in which the Office of the *Mass* is usually celebrated.

Dated in the *East-Indies*, on
the Coast of *Coromandel*,
at *Tranquebar*, August
27. 1709.

Bartholomew Ziegenbalg.

*EXTRACT of another Letter, relating to
some Diseases incident to the Malabari-
ans: Likewise of some Remedies they
commonly use against them.*

The First Question.

W *HICH are the reigning Diseases a-
mong the Malabarians?*

Answer: The most dangerous Diseases are,
(1.) A *Lameness of all the Limbs.* (2.) *Stoppage of
the Wind-pipe*, whereby many strong and healthy
People are often carried off very suddenly.
(3.) *Agues*, which are likewise very dange-
rous in these Parts. Many other Diseases are
common on this Coast, of which some are in-
curable, and others cause a sudden Death;
whose several Names I cannot tell you in *High-
Dutch*. The Natives call them, (4) *Polawei*,
which