

7. Sekundärliteratur

Memoirs of the life and correspondence of the reverend Christian Frederick Swartz. To which is prefixed a sketch of the history of christianity in ...

Pearson, Hugh

London, 1835

CHAPTER I.

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MEMOIRS

OF

THE REV. C. F. SWARTZ.

CHAPTER I.

Early life and education of Swartz—His removal to Halle—
Proposal to go out as a Danish missionary to Tranquebar—
He obtains the consent of his father—His Ordination—De-
parture for England, and kind reception by the Society for
promoting Christian Knowledge—He embarks for India—
Account of his voyage—He arrives at Tranquebar—First
occupations at the Mission.

THOUGH the honour of originating the first Pro-
testant mission to India belongs, as we have seen,
to Denmark, it is remarkable that, from its com-
mencement, the majority of those who have been
engaged in its service, have been natives of Ger-
many. Of this number was the distinguished
subject of these Memoirs.

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1726.

Christian Frederick Schwartz¹ was born at Sonnenburg, a small town in the Electorate of Brandenburg, now the kingdom of Prussia, on the 26th of October, 1726.² His father's name was George, and his station in life appears to have been respectable. The family name of his mother was Gruner. This pious woman died during his infancy; but on her death-bed, she in the most solemn manner informed her husband and the pastor who attended her, that she had dedicated her son to the Lord, and obtained a promise from them both, that he should be trained up in the remembrance of this sacred destination; and that if he should in due time express a desire to be educated for the ministry, they would cherish and promote it to the utmost of their power.

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At the age of eight years young Swartz was sent to the principal grammar school at Sonnenburg, where, together with the elements of clas-

¹ This, it is scarcely necessary to observe, is the correct orthography of his name, and that which he used in the earlier period of his life; but as, during the greater part of it, he invariably adopted, both in corresponding with his friends, and in public documents, the simpler form, probably from its more easy pronunciation, and is by this generally known, he will be thus designated in the following Memoirs.

² This is the date invariably assigned in every preceding Memoir, but the author has recently ascertained that the real day of Swartz's birth was the 8th, and not the 26th of October.

sical learning, he received many good impressions from the moral and religious instructions of its rector, Mr. Helm. This excellent person particularly enforced upon his pupils the importance of private devotion, and encouraged them to offer up their petitions in language suggested by their own feelings. Swartz afterwards declared,¹ that even at that early age he used frequently to retire from his youthful companions into solitude, and there pour out his heart before God ; that he found this practice highly beneficial, and that when conscious especially of having acted wrong, he could never regain tranquillity of mind, until he had earnestly implored the divine forgiveness.

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On the removal of Mr. Helm by his entrance on ministerial duty, his successor neglected the religious improvement of his scholars, and Swartz became comparatively indifferent. He was about this time confirmed according to the rites of the Lutheran church ; but the clergyman who examined him, was too easily satisfied with the mere verbal replies of the catechumens to his questions on the catechism, without impressing upon them the necessity of giving up the heart to God.

¹ In Dr. Knapp's and other biographical sketches, it is said that Swartz made this declaration in a memoir written by himself ; but it is well known that he never wrote or published any thing of this kind. It was probably, therefore, in some letter to a friend that this circumstance was mentioned.

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Hence, though on partaking, for the first time, of the holy communion, Swartz was considerably affected, these pious emotions, for want of being suitably cherished, quickly subsided.

Having now acquired as much knowledge of Latin and Greek as the school of his native place could afford him, together with the rudiments of Hebrew, he was sent to an academy at the neighbouring town of Custrin, to pursue his studies, and to be qualified for the university. The father of Swartz, who was evidently a man of sense and piety, had always accustomed him to much simplicity and self-denial. He walked on foot with him to Custrin, where he consigned him to the care of his new master, and, unlike the parents of two of his young friends from the same town, allowed him no more money than was required for his necessary expenses. Here, by associating with some thoughtless companions, his heart became still more alienated from God, though he endeavoured to preserve a correct deportment. Occasionally, his good impressions were revived by the animated discourses of the Rev. Mr. Stegmann, one of the parochial ministers of Custrin; but he imagined that it was not possible for him, while he remained there, to lead a religious life, having no just conception at that time of the nature of genuine piety, and not perceiving the necessity of divine strength to enable

him to persevere in a christian course. While at this place, happily for his future improvement, he became acquainted with one of the Syndics, who had formerly been a student at Halle, and who retained great respect for the professors of that university. The daughter of this gentleman, who appears to have taken a lively interest in the young scholar, endeavoured to point out to him his previous errors, and to convince him of the importance of greater decision of character. She lent him several books, among which was the remarkable narrative of the rise and progress of the Orphan House at Glaucha, near Halle, entitled, "Demonstrations of the Footsteps of a Divine Being yet in the World," by the celebrated Augustus Hermann Francke. This extraordinary work made a deep impression upon his mind. It first inspired him with a wish to visit Halle, and proved, in fact, the turning point of his future destination. When reviewing, however, this period of his life, Swartz afterwards observed that he was diligent in study, but chiefly from worldly motives; and that twice in seasons of dangerous illness he had resolved to devote himself entirely to God, but that he soon forgot his good resolutions.

On his return from Custrin, well prepared by his progress in learning for the university, and having exhibited in his general conduct a striking contrast to that of his two companions from

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CHAP. Sonnenburg, his father, referring to the strict
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1742. economy which he had exercised with respect to his expenses, thus addressed him: "My dear Frederick, you may, perhaps, have sometimes repined on comparing your homely food and clothing with that of others: and possibly you may have thought that your father did not love you so much as the parents of some of your friends; but I trust that your own good sense, and the painful example of their failure, will have led you to perceive my reasons for inuring you to hardships, and never encouraging you in self-indulgence. I may now justly hope that in whatever situation it may please God to place you, you will be qualified to sustain it:"—a sentiment which was virtually prophetic of his future arduous and self-denying career.

1746. In the year 1746 Swartz proceeded to Halle, with a view of attending the Grammar School of the Orphan House; but his distinguished countryman, Schultz, who, as we have seen, had returned from the Madras mission three years before, and was then residing at Halle, advised him to enter the university at once, as he had attained his twentieth year, and was already sufficiently grounded in elementary knowledge. He accordingly followed this advice, and diligently attended the lectures of the professors Baumgarten, Michaelis, Knapp, and Freylinghausen, boarding and lodging in the mean time at the Orphan

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House. While pursuing his studies there, he was chosen to be preceptor to the Latin classes, and to assist in the evening assemblies for prayer, appointed by the venerable founder to be held with the attendants and servants of the institution. These pious employments were highly beneficial to him; and, together with the instruction which he received at the devotional meetings, under the direction of the Rev. G. F. Weiss, Inspector of the German School, and his intercourse with the learned and pious professor Francke, confirmed him in the determination of devoting himself to God, and established him in that truly christian course, the excellence of which his subsequent life so strikingly displayed.

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It was at this time in contemplation to print a new edition of the Bible, in Tamul, at Halle, under the superintendence of the late missionary Schultz, who was also carrying through the press a devotional tract, which he had translated into the same language, for the purpose of distribution in India. In connexion with another of the students, Swartz was recommended to acquire some knowledge of Tamul, in order to qualify him to assist in correcting the printing of these works; but though the intended edition of the Bible was not eventually carried into execution, this study occupied him for several months, and probably first directed his mind towards the sphere of his

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future labours. While thus engaged, professor Francke, who was making inquiries for new missionaries to India, proposed to Swartz to engage in this sacred and important work; and though the idea of such an employment was altogether new to him, he determined, if he could obtain his father's approbation, to accept the call.

For this purpose he made a journey to his native place. But here every thing seemed unfavourable; for, being the eldest son, he was considered the chief prop of the family, and no member of it would believe that his father could be brought to consent to such a project. Swartz, however, stated his wishes, together with the motives which influenced him, with great seriousness and solemnity, to his father; who, instead of putting an immediate negative upon the proposal, as had been expected, replied, that he would take two or three days to consider of it, and fixed a time for declaring his determination. The important day arrived; and the family waited with divided anxiety for the decision; the young candidate for this arduous undertaking afraid of a refusal, the rest equally fearing of a consent. At length, his father came down from his chamber, gave him his blessing, and bade him depart in God's name; charging him to forget his native country and his father's house, and to go and win many souls to Christ.

Having thus obtained his dismissal, he has-

tened his departure ; and, generously resigning his patrimony to his brothers and sisters, he returned to Halle. A few days afterwards, an advantageous offer was made to him of entering upon the ministry at home ; but he felt that the die was cast, and that having deliberately put his hand to the plough, it did not become him to look back. How manifestly this determination originated in the superintending providence of God, and was crowned with his blessing, the subsequent history of this eminent missionary has abundantly proved.

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On the 8th of August, 1749, Swartz set out for Copenhagen, for the purpose of receiving holy orders, accompanied by two other new missionaries to India, Messrs. Poltzenhagen, and Hutteman. They reached that city on the 23rd, were examined on the 6th of September by Dr. Hersleb, Bishop of Zealand and Primate of Denmark, and ordained to the sacred ministry by Bishop Horreboea ; and on the 19th they left Copenhagen on their return to Halle.

Every necessary preparation having been made for their intended voyage, the three missionaries took leave of their pious and excellent friends in that university ; and it being intended that they should proceed to India by way of England, they repaired to Helvoetsluys, where they embarked, and reached Harwich on the 6th

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of December; the next day they pursued their journey to Colchester, and on the 8th arrived in London. There they remained six weeks, during which time they were diligently employed in learning the English language, and in preparing for their important destination. Though they were not formally presented at any public meeting of the board, the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge most kindly received and provided for them during their stay in this country. The following extracts translated from two letters of Swartz in German, to the Rev. Dr. Francke, contain some interesting particulars of their feelings and occupations from the time of their departure from Halle. The commencement of the first is very characteristic of his mind, and is dated from Kensington, 18th of December, 1749.

“God hath ordered all things well on the voyage. Our hearts (more especially mine) were very cheerful during the storming and raging of the sea; and I have frequently reminded myself of the 46th psalm with great joy. Praised be God! This ought to be the beginning, middle, and end of my letter. If God maketh this only to resound in our hearts, that he, Jehovah, our sun and shield, is with us, we can then not only be tranquil, but cheerful.

“Our occupations here have been of singular use, and a great refreshment to us. In every dif-

ficulty we could have recourse to the Rev. Mr. Ziegenhagen, the venerable chaplain of his Majesty, who has behaved to us with paternal kindness, and has given us such plain directions as we, like inexperienced children, stood in need of. This was our daily occupation, to take lessons and receive instruction. Then we had also to preach a few sermons; I twice, namely, once in the royal chapel on the first day of the Nativity, and afterwards for the Rev. Mr. Pittius at the Savoy; Mr. Poltzenhagen four times, and Mr. Hutteman three. May God bless what has been spoken in great weakness!"

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The directors of the East India Company having, at the request of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, kindly granted the three missionaries a free passage on board the Lynn, Captain Egerton, they proceeded to Deal to embark in that ship. The second letter referred to is dated from that port, January 24th, 1750, in which Swartz thus writes.

"The 10th of January, according to the old style, which is yet used here, on the 21st according to the new, was the day on which we left dear Kensington, where God bestowed so much grace upon us. On the preceding evening we were from seven till ten with his Majesty's

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chaplain, who said many things to the awakening of our hearts. He gave us the 121st Psalm for meditation on our voyage: 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.' Whatever could in any way contribute to our comfort and encouragement, that he did. On new year's day also he addressed us publicly from the pulpit from these words, 'Be not afraid, only believe.' (Mark v. 36.) At the same time he exhorted the congregation to pray for us. On the same evening he prayed again with us, commended us to the mercy of our God, and gave us some copies of his lately published Exposition of the Lord's Prayer. He then dismissed us with the cordial admonition, not to allow our brotherly love to cool. May God write all that we have heard deeply in our hearts!

"Thus we departed on the 21st of January, N.S., in the name of Jesus, accompanied by that trusty German, Matthieson, who has conducted all the missionaries from Mr. Walther¹ until now, On the 23rd we arrived at Deal, in perfect health and spirits. Here we lodge in a house which is only a few paces from the shore, so that from our windows we see nothing but the sea. My heart is filled with cheerful confidence, being convinced that as God has taken us under his paternal care during our late travels, so will he likewise continue

¹ In the year 1725.

to be our Protector. If we will only cleave steadfastly to him, he will also most certainly be with us, and be our faithful God. And he will graciously hear the prayers with which we know so many of his children and servants accompany us. Now, therefore, we go forth in the name of the Lord, who hath called us to be his servants and messengers among the heathen; who will also guide and bring us to the destined place."

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The next letter, which was addressed to the Rev. Mr. Ziegenhagen, announces his actual embarkation.

"From on board the Lynn, off the Isle of Wight,
near Portsmouth, Feb. 1, 1750.

"There comes a ship to bring us provisions, by which I send you a few lines. On the 29th of January we left Deal. God hath given us a favourable wind, with which we have already sailed past Portsmouth. Praised be his name, we are all well. Our cabin is below that of the captain. We are alone, for which we have thankfully to acknowledge the goodness of God. We are as conveniently accommodated as can be expected on board ship. God be praised for it! The captain is a good, plain-dealing man, and the other passengers show us much kindness. We talk English as yet very badly, but they all encourage us to speak, and no one laughs at our

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blunders. Several of them know a little Latin, and use their utmost endeavours to explain to us whatever we do not understand. We return hearty thanks to God for having brought us to this ship. Hitherto he hath graciously preserved us, that no one has sustained any hurt, except that last night a sailor fell into the water ; however, he was saved. The number of persons on board is about an hundred, and a few passengers. We pass our time in reading the holy Scriptures in the original languages, and other good books, and practise reading and writing English, according to your kind instruction. There are persons on board who go to India for pleasure. One of them goes for the fifth time, and says it is a very pleasant voyage. There are also many children on board who learn navigation. Now this I have written in haste. May Jesus bless you abundantly, and hear your prayers, and those of other children and servants of God for us ! O, the Lord is faithful, and never yet forsook his people.

“ C. F. SWARTZ.”

The ship did not, however, proceed on its voyage so quickly as was expected. On the 3rd of February, Swartz wrote to Mr. Ziegenhagen as follows :

“ Filial love requires us to make use of this op-

portunity of informing you of our circumstances. When we last wrote to you, we were off the Isle of Wight, and had a most favourable wind; but we were obliged to lay to for more than half a day, before the things which the ship brought us from Deal were taken on board. Towards evening we sailed, and by Monday had come already close to the Bay of Biscay. In the morning the wind veered about, and the captain found himself compelled to return to some harbour. Here the motion of the ship was so violent, that I experienced something of the sea sickness, but only for a few minutes. That day, about four, we arrived off Falmouth. We were met by two pilots, and the captain engaged him who came first to the ship; but the other, on coming up, expressed his great dissatisfaction, not so much because he had not been engaged, as because the other had not conducted us aright. He disputed so long, that the first was obliged to go away. This morning we found that the man had just grounds for his displeasure. For when it was ebb tide, our ship had not sufficient water, but struck frequently against the ground with such a crash, as if a gun was fired. At the same time there was a great storm, so that we might have sustained much injury, if God had not preserved us. Now we praise him that we were forced to return; for in this storm we should have been in the greatest

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danger off the Spanish coast. Thus we daily perceive that his goodness preserves us. O that we might always look only to him, rest in his will, and filially resign ourselves to it! Our captain shows us great kindness. For the rest, I pray God daily, that he would purify my heart more and more from all dross, and by his Spirit fit me for the important office for which, unworthy as I am, he has, out of mere grace, ordained me. I rest assured that you also will daily beg this grace for myself, and my dear brethren.

“C. F. SWARTZ.”

The ship was detained at Falmouth by contrary winds rather more than a month; but this delay was amply compensated by its escape from the storms which, as it afterwards appeared, some others had encountered; in noticing which circumstance, many years afterwards, one of the brethren at Tranquebar took occasion to observe, that during the century which had elapsed since the commencement of the Danish mission, and in the course of which about fifty missionaries had sailed to India, no vessel which contained any one of them had perished.

In the following letter addressed to professor Francke, Swartz, with a fervour and simplicity of expression peculiar to the German language, gives a detailed account of the continuance of their

voyage, and their safe arrival in India. It is dated from Tranquebar, October 8, 1750.

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“We can now joyfully relate how graciously God hath heard your supplications to his goodness for us. With undeserved grace and mercy he hath brought us, hath graciously averted all perils on our long voyage, mightily refreshed us during the course of it both in soul and body, and caused us to reach the end of it speedily and happily, in four months and four days. We could scarcely have imagined, that he would so paternally and graciously guide us. His name be humbly praised and glorified now and in eternity!

“In order to give you, reverend sir, a somewhat detailed account of this gracious guidance of our God, that you may magnify his name with us, I shall briefly relate the most important particulars from our diary, not having yet found time to copy the diary itself, which your Reverence will kindly excuse.

“How God conducted us into Falmouth harbour, and what we there noticed to his praise, you will have observed from the short letter which we wrote on the day of our departure. On the 12th of March 1750, God gave us a good wind, and every thing was prepared for sailing. But the tide being then at ebb, we were obliged to wait till the evening, as we could not otherwise

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get safely out of the harbour. In the afternoon, an inhabitant of the town came on board, who had been powerfully awakened by Mr. Whitefield. This man related to us many things, particularly of the minister of Falmouth—how zealous he was in the discharge of his duty. We regretted that we had not visited him ; and as the stranger intimated that he would salute him from us, we sent the minister professor Zimmermann's Treatise on the Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ, translated into Latin, in which we wrote a few lines.

“ About seven in the evening we sailed, in the name of God, out of the harbour, with a man of war, which we thought was to escort us ; but the next day we learned that she was to escort the Norfolk. With this divine dispensation, we were well satisfied, believing that we should not need that convoy, if we could only say with David, (Ps. xli. 7,) ‘ The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.’ If the Lord be for us, who or what can be against us ? We met a Dutch ship, from Smyrna to Rotterdam, the captain of which informed us, that he had suffered much from the late severe storms, whilst we were quietly in the harbour. On the 16th, we were met by two ships, which exhibited a sad spectacle. One of them had sprung a large leak, and drew several feet of water, so that she lay very deep, and rolled from side to side. Our captain backed

the sails, and sent the carpenter, with an officer, and some others, to see whether they could assist ; but on their return, they declared that the vessel must sink. The other ship, therefore, kept quite close to the damaged one, that the people might save themselves.

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“ On the 21st of March, I had a fever, which continued till the 10th of April. As I fell away so much, the doctor was alarmed ; but God helped me graciously, and soon restored to me my bodily strength. I must also confess, to his praise, that this sickness has been of great service to me. On the 22nd of March, we had, for the first time, divine service on board our ship, which afforded us great pleasure. On the 29th, we passed the tropic of Cancer ; and on the 18th of April, we crossed the line, for the first time. There was great joy on board, that we had not been detained longer. On the 22nd, we were in the height of Ascension. The 30th, God visibly preserved a youth from death, who had entered on board to learn navigation. A thick cable fell down from above, exactly on the spot where he was standing ; but before it reached him, he perceived it, and narrowly escaped. Towards evening, a ship was seen. We rejoiced at first, hoping for an opportunity of sending letters ; but our joy had nearly been changed to fear, as our people began to think they might be enemies, and made preparations for

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defence. Early the next morning we looked out for her, but in vain. On the 5th of May, we passed the tropic of Capricorn, and thus left the torrid zone. As soon as the trade wind ceased, we were favoured with a delightful breeze from E. N. E. If we attend to the different changes of winds, we may observe agreeable traces of the admirable wisdom of God. On the 7th, we saw a French vessel, and, on our captain firing a signal gun, to desire them to wait, they did so, and we came up with her towards evening. The captains conversed with each other on their observations, and ours agreed pretty well with theirs. It was a great advantage that we could observe so well in our ship; for even in hazy weather, the sun appeared a little about noon. The chief mate requested us to communicate the observations contained in our diaries, particularly with regard to the variation of the compass. We did so, and he gratefully acknowledged it, by giving us a fine large Cheshire cheese.¹ The 11th of May we had a very high wind, and the next day a calm. While we spoke of it in the evening, and sighed to God that he would have pity on us, as before, suddenly there arose a very favourable breeze. Thus God fulfilled to us

¹ This is always an acceptable present in India, and was frequently among the gratuities sent out by the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge to their missionaries.

what he has promised—‘ Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.’ So that we could praise God with joyful hearts. On the 17th of May, we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost, and heartily besought God that, by his Spirit, whom Jesus has obtained, he would fit us for the important office to which he has called us. The 19th of May, our dear brother Hutteman was seized with alarming sickness; but God most graciously blessed the use of the medicines out of the travelling chest which you gave us, so that he was fully restored to us in a few days. On the 23rd we had an unusually brisk gale; the ship inclined so much, that it shipped water, which we had not hitherto seen. However, it passed over without damage. On the 27th, we had a complete calm, so that the captain and the chief mate went out in a boat, to shoot birds; but in the following night arose a real storm, which, as it came unexpectedly, tore all the sails. When we came upon deck in the morning, they all hung in rags, and we had only one small sail hoisted. We did not, however, yield to anxious or desponding thoughts. So faithful is God! In need he refresheth, and comforteth abundantly. The 30th of May, we had very pleasant weather, which was a great relief after the storm. On the 31st, we saw a Dutch ship. We all wished that it might approach us, but were disappointed, as it

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passed us at a considerable distance ; but in the afternoon our joy was the greater, as we got a sight of the Cape. The mountains presented themselves at a distance, like clouds ; but as we came nearer, we could see them distinctly. We praised God heartily, the more so, as we had on this very day been powerfully impressed in meditating on the words, (1 Cor. xv. 58,) ‘ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.’

“ From this time, we began to look out for India, and thought we had now left the worst behind. But on the 17th of June, in the night, we had a most furious storm, in which all declared we were in great danger. Even the next day it was frightful to behold, and it was much heightened by the heavy rain which accompanied the wind. Meanwhile, when the tempest was at the highest, we slept in peace and quiet : a gracious God had hidden the danger from us. On the 19th, there was a pretty strong breeze. A rope, with which a sail was belayed, happened to break, which caused the ship to heel a little, and all at once we lay on our side. The captain called out to the men at the helm to put the ship about ; but they could not accomplish it. The vessel had inclined altogether to one side, and was, more-

over, quite wet from the rain, so that the people
fell as they attempted to walk on the deck. How-
ever, the storm at length subsided, and we sustain-
ed no material injury. In how many distresses
hath not our gracious God covered us, as it were,
with his wings ! On the 30th of June, we passed
the tropic of Capricorn a second time. Now we
came again into a pleasant climate ; hitherto we
had sometimes very cold weather. The 4th of
July the rope at the helm broke, and, as the wind
happened to blow fresh, the ship fell into some
disorder. On the 10th, we again crossed the
line. The 13th was a most agreeable day ; for
we then came in sight of Ceylon. The chief
mate discovered it about nine in the morning.
The joy which this produced on board is hardly
to be described, since the greater number scarcely
expected that we should make it so directly. We
said, ‘ This hath God done ! ’ O, how great is
his goodness, and how graciously doth he hear
our prayers ! May the kindness which he hath
showed us in this instance, serve to strengthen us
in filial confidence !

“ This day and the following, we enjoyed the
delightful smell of cinnamon. At the same time,
we had a most favourable wind, so that, during
the day, we passed at a good distance by the
rocks of Ceylon. On the 16th of July we were
approaching the coast of Coromandel : every one,

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therefore, looked out eagerly for land ; but the night drew on, and we could see none. About nine, we found a bottom at fifteen fathoms ; and it was remarkable that, as soon as it was found, the wind ceased. We therefore dropped the anchor. In the morning, when we looked out, we not only beheld the coast, but found ourselves right opposite to Cuddalore. We praised the name of the Lord for this paternal guidance : and whosoever delights in the traces of his gracious providence will, on hearing it, exalt his name together.

“ After we had cast anchor, the natives immediately came on board. The sight of these poor people, who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, deeply affected our hearts ; and we awakened ourselves cheerfully to work at their conversion, and to recommend to them the salvation of the gospel. Now, the Lord vouchsafe to give us wisdom, grace, and strength, to accomplish this purpose, since we are most unworthy to be unto them ‘ a savour of life unto life.’ We informed the Rev. Mr. Kiernander¹ of our arrival, and he sent in the afternoon a country boat to fetch us. There we took our leave of the officers and passengers, who had showed us every kindness. They were much moved at parting, and wished

¹ The Society’s missionary at Cuddalore.—See Introductory Sketch, p. 44.

us every blessing in our future ministry. May the Lord do good abundantly to them all! In the evening, dear Mr. Kiernander received us, and praised the name of the Lord for all the mercy he had shown us.

CHAP.
I.
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1750.

“I should now give an account of our occupations during the voyage. But as they were substantially the same as those of our predecessors, that is, preparing ourselves for our duty in the best manner we were able, I shall be brief. Every morning and evening, and frequently during the day, we stirred up ourselves by joint prayer and meditation on the holy Scriptures, by which God graciously refreshed us. Afterwards, each of us, apart, used either to meditate on some passage of Scripture, or read some other devotional book. From eleven to twelve, we practised reading English together, besides what each afterwards read for himself. The German Mission Accounts hitherto edited, five volumes and a half, we have partially perused. Mr. Niecamp’s Abridgment, and the first volume, we have nearly read through. This occupation we have found to be of great advantage. We also kept a diary; but as in many places it is rather illegibly written, in consequence of the rolling of the vessel, and we do not wish to send it so, we shall by the first ships send one fair copy of it to your Reverence, and one to the Mission College.

CHAP.
I.
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1750.

“ On the 24th of July, the Rev. Senior of the Danish missionaries, Mr. Wiedebrœck, came from Tranquebar to fetch us. He joined us in hearty praises to God for all his mercies. After having therefore visited several English gentlemen, we departed on the 28th from Cuddalore. Dear Mr. Kiernander accompanied us as far as the first river, and there took leave of us. On the 30th we arrived at Tranquebar in perfect health, and were most fraternally received by our dear brethren. Now hitherto the Lord hath helped us. To him be glory for ever and ever !

“ Our present occupation can be described in a few words. At seven in the morning we begin, and practise Tamul almost the whole forenoon. Three days in every week Mr. Maderup comes to us at ten, and gives us a lesson in Portuguese. From two to three in the afternoon we again read Tamul. Afterwards every one remains alone till five. From five to six, I and dear brother Hutteman practise speaking Tamul. We have Christopher with us, who affords us wonderful help in that language, because he talks German fluently ; and where we make mistakes, he corrects us. The Rev. Mr. Zeglin is holding at this time a preparation for baptism with some heathen, at which we also attend, as we begin already to understand a little. We perceive that God helps us on from day to day. Dear brother

Poltzenhagen and I live together. We do not, however, provide for our diet, as Mr. Kohlhoff has taken us to his table. In the morning and evening we excite each other by joint prayer and reading the word of God.

CHAP.
I.
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1750.

“ This is the principal intelligence which I can at present impart to your Reverence.

“ C. F. SWARTZ.”

The providential escape of Swartz and his brethren from shipwreck, though not noticed in the preceding letter, crowned the mercies of their voyage. The vessel in which they sailed was lost in the river soon after their landing at Cuddalore.

Such was the diligence with which Swartz pursued the study of Tamul, that, on the 23rd of November, that is, in less than four months after his arrival in India, he preached his first sermon in Ziegenbalg's Church, called New Jerusalem, from Matthew xi. 25—30. Having pointed out the invitation of Christ to all to come to him for the blessings of heavenly rest and peace, and observed that they could only be obtained in the order here prescribed by the Redeemer, he earnestly exhorted all who were present not to think lightly of this gracious offer; thus exhibiting, in his first address to the heathen, the very spirit of that gospel which he was com-

CHAP. missioned to proclaim, and which he continued
I. unceasingly to recommend and to exemplify
1750. during his long and honourable career as a mis-
sionary in India.