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Auszug aus dem Tagebuch von Christian Wilhelm Gericke.

Gericke, Christian Wilhelm

Nagapattinam, 19.01.1785-10.11.1785

1. - 5. Februar 1785

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Extract of Gericke's Journal of the Year 1785. 5

January 1785.

My Europe correspondence took up a great deal of my time in this month. From the 19th to the 24th I had a Visit from the Revd: M^r Diemer in his Return to Europe.

Febr: 1st 1785.

My faithful Disciple & Assistant Rhayappen who fell sick yesterday, is now in Danger of Life. I went to see him both in the Morning & in the Afternoon, & was much afflicted.

Febr: 2^d. This Morning I went to see Rhayappen, as soon as other Business would let me; & whilst I was praying & surrounded by many Christians & Heathens, who loved him, & were much affected by what he said of the Hope that was in him, he expired. His Death affected me like that of my own child.

In the Evening arrived Brother Pöhle from Tirutchingopoly. His Arrival gave me Ease in my Sadness.

Febr: 3^d. This Morning Rhayappen was buried, & many a Tear was shed by white & black people; for many have taken Notice of him & valued him. His elder Brother Sinnappen, the first person whom I endeavoured to bring up for the Service of the Mission, began also to be a good & useful Young Man, but died at Fuddalore before he could reach those Accomplishments which Rhayappen acquired.

Febr: 5th. Received News of Fuddalore being given up to the English on the 1st of this Month, & at the same

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time such a Description of the State of that place, as was not inviting to me.

Sunday Febr: 6th. Brother Pohle preached for me in English.

Febr: 7th. Accompanied Brother Pohle to Karikal. Upon the Persuasion of Brother John, who there met us, I went with them to Tranquebar, whence after having conferred with the Brethren about some particulars relative to the Mission, & particularly about the Utility of my Stay in Nagapatam. I returned on the 9th.

Thursday Febr: 10th. Proposed the Life of our late Rhys ap Iwan in my Malabar Discourse to the Congregation as an Example for their Imitation, & told them the many good Things, I heard of him lately at Tranquebar, & how beneficial & edifying his Conversation had been to many there, & how much the Tanjore Christians had valued him, tho' he had been there with me but few Days last year.

Febr: 11th. I have hitherto catechised in Malabar four Hours a Week in my House. Since the beginning of Lent I have given one of these Hours, vizt, that of Friday to the poor portuguese people of this place. To-day there came also many of the rich, so that there was hardly place for them.

March 3. 1785. Preached a German Sermon preparatory to the receiving of the Sacrament on Self-Examination