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Gericke, Christian Wilhelm

Nagapattinam, 19.01.1785-10.11.1785

1. - 8. April 1785

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Monday after Easter March 28th. To-day, yesterday, & on good Friday I preached in Portuguese at the Mission Church.

April 1st 1785. Last night arrived here Brother Swartz from Tanjore, & having with him attended this morning the Weekly Conference of the Missionaries, I set out in the Evening for Nagapatam. at Karikal mons: De Boistell, with whom I supped, put into my hands an Answer from Mons: Coutancon, Governor of Pondicherry, in which he promised that he will inform himself of my Affair, & then do me Justice.

April 5th. With this Day I enter upon ~~my~~ ^{the} 43^d. Year of my Life. Lord have Mercy upon me! Lost much time & was much hurt in endeavouring to compromise Matters between 3 Christian families, of which one is guilty of great Injustice, the other willing to forgive it, the third insisting on Restitution to the full. The Malabars, that are not above mean things by. Affluence & a high Station or not put above them by the general Principles of the Christian Religion, are a most litigious, covetous, ungenerous, mean People. We Missionaries who have to do with the Bulk of this Nation, experience but too oft the contrary of what some others have wrote of them, who perhaps never beheld their practice, but only heard the fine Sentiments of some of their Authors, by which means many are enabled to say the finest things of Truth & Justice whilst they are about to deceive by Lies & to over-reach their Neighbor.

April 8th. This morning Brother Swartz arrived from

Tranquebar in his way back to Tanjore. In the Evening he edified the portuguese people, that assembled in my House, with a Discourse.

Sunday April 10th. Brother Swartz preached both in English & Portuguese on the Gospel John 10, 1-18 & chiefly on these three words: I am the good Shepherd; I know my sheep; I am known of mine.

April 11th. This Evening Brother Swartz, having prayed with & catechised the malabar Christians in my House, set out for Tanjore.

April 12th. a heavy Monsoon Day. Early in the morning a loud Thunder Shower. It is remarkable that so heavy a Thunder Shower, hanging so low over a large Town for the space of above an Hour, should pass without doing the least Damage.

April 14th. a hard monsoon Day which ended in a very violent Gale.

April 17th. Untill this morning the Rain, wind, & Thunder continued.

April 23. I finish this night a Week, which was full of Affliction & Trouble, & that of such sort partly, as I never yet experienced. God have mercy upon me & on my family for the sake of Christ. Before this painful week endeth, in comes an unexpected Message from the Lady who received us last Year so kindly under the Roof of one of her Houses, requesting, that we will quit her House as soon as possible. I should now on account of my present Situation be quite unhappy, if it ~~had~~^{was} not ~~been~~ for the Comforts of Religion.

May 5th 1785. Being Ascension Day Brother John,
N. L.