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Auszug aus dem Tagebuch von Christian Wilhelm Gericke.

Gericke, Christian Wilhelm

Nagapattinam, 19.01.1785-10.11.1785

Mai 1785

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urn:nbn:de:gbv:ha33-1-171269

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.

who arrived here the night before last & sets out again this Evening preached this morning in the Malabar Church, whilst I preached at the Dutch Church in English.

May 17. Praised be God, who has enabled me in my present weak state of Health to preach as usual both on Witsunday & yesterday, & who has renewed my Strength, so that I find myself much better now, than I have been these several Weeks. My Weakness has not prevented me from doing my Duty, but I have performed it with Pain. I have often experienced, that the natural Feelings of the Heart caused by outward Trouble, at the same time that they tend to the Perfection of my better part, & raise the Mind above things of little worth to those of infinite Value, debilitate my body, dispose it to pain & Sickness, & make it for a while unfit for its proper Functions. This has been my Case lately as it has oft been before. May God enable me to accept & embrace every Cross & Disappointment without Reluctance at the very instant of its approach.

May 19. At the Malabar divine Service were christened two Adults, a man & his woman, who have formerly been Slaves in a Dutch family. Having obtained their Liberty by the Death of their master they became Servants in an English family. They had a Child which they wished to have christened. I proposed to instruct them, & then to baptise them together with their Child. This Proposal was not pleasing to them. And getting acquainted with some Roman Catholic People they would have gone to that Church, had not their mistress prevented it by getting from me a proper Person to instruct them in her House. And as she sent them also to the catechetical

Hours in my House, they learned so well, that they could ^{give a proper answer} to all the Questions, that were put to them at Church before Baptism.

July 27th 1785. Early in the morning I set out for Tranquebar to take my Passage to Pullicat in a Dutch India man.

July 31st. I did not expect to stay so many Days at Tranquebar. However I am not sorry for it; my time has been well employed in conversing & consulting with the missionaries about the mission in general & my own Situation in particular. This morning we went on board the Boet, in the afternoon we sailed.

August 1st. at Day break we found ourselves opposite to Allamparey. In the Evening we came to an Anchor between Covelong & Madras.

August 2^d. Our Ship which is twenty feet under water, came at once from nine to five fathom of water upon the dangerous Sand bank of Ennore between madras & Pullicat, & remained in that shallow water for some time to the consternation of every body. In the Evening by the Help of a Pilot we came to Anchor in Pullicat Road.

August 3^d. We were two Hours in the Boat, in which we went ashore. The Arrival of our Ship gave new Life to the Dutch Inhabitants, which has been sent on purpose from Batavia to supply Pullicat, which is now the chief Dutch Settlement on this Coast, with such things as they want for reestablishing it, & the other inferior Settlements. The joy would have been still greater, if instead of Goods the ship had brought ready money, as there is very little prospect of disposing these Goods in a depopulated country.

August 4th. The Malabar & portuguese Catechists & school masters with many other poor people came to me & thanked me for having continued my charity to them till the End of last