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### Auszug aus dem Tagebuch von Christian Wilhelm Gericke.

Gericke, Christian Wilhelm

Nagapattinam, 19.01.1785-10.11.1785

Oktober 1785

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beginning of 81 when this country was laid waste, that it made our journey very tedious. The above-mentioned Villages are known only by the Remains of some Mud-Walls.

Sept: 26<sup>th</sup>. In the Road from Wickaravandy to Cuddalore I saw in humulam & Tukanambakam a few Houses rebuilt by some people, who in the last calamity have saved their Lives in Pondicherry & Cuddalore. In humulam I saw the people very busy in extracting Indigo. Having taken Notice of the Process, I talk'd to them all, & as some of them could read, I gave them a Book. Late in the Evening I arrived at Cuddalore.

Sept: 27<sup>th</sup>. The most melancholy thing in Cuddalore is, that the people are full of Complaints against Government, & despair of the Wellfare of the Place. Some of their Complaints may be just, but some are evidently founded in Malabar perverse Self-will, & both have an equally bad Effect in checking Activity.

Sept: 28<sup>th</sup>. Having heard nothing farther from Mons: De Cou-  
tenceau to my Request of March 21, than what was mention'd in April 1, I wrote another Letter to the present Governor of Pondicherry, Le Vicomte de Souillac, & as he is also to embark for Europe in a few Days, I begg'd to recommend at least my Case to his Successor Mons: De Faigny. But I have received no Answer either from the one or the other.

Oct: 3. 1785. During my Stay here, I have daily catechised the Malabar Christians. Yesterday I preached in the Hall of the Mission House both in English & Malabar, & administer'd the Sacrament to eleven Malabars & five Europeans. Baptized 3 Children 3 English & three Malabar & one grown Girl, an orphan which

an English Widow Lady took into her House from the Street & got her instructed by Manoel. A Malabar Couple was married.

Octr: 5. Having received here by Letters from M<sup>r</sup>. Pasche the Mournful News of the Death of the Reverend Doctor Freylinghausen, & that we have no Missionaries to expect from Europe, as also a Letter from Nagapatam, acquainting me with the ill state of my Wife's Health, I hasten'd away from Cuddalore this Morning. The first place I stopt at, was Kayelpattloo or Anikaven Pattiram. Here came a Number of black officers & Sepoys of the Battallions, which were lately broke in their way to Madras. It was disagreeable & dreadful to hear them relate with what Disgust other black officers & Sepoys of the said Battallions, who had during the late War undergone so many Fatigues & Dangers, had left the Country & were gone into Tippoo's Service. Most of them were Muhammedans, but were all glad to hear me talk to them of the Comforts of the Religion of Jesus in Fatigue, Danger & Disappointment. At Manambady I talk'd to a number of Bullock People that were bringing Grain from the Tanjore Country to Portonora, who seemed to be much pleased with what they heard of the Blessings which the knowledge & Practice of the Christian Religion brings upon a whole people & upon Individuals. Some of them could read, & accepted a Book that was offer'd them with Pleasure. In Irisappa = Choultry at Vidambram was a Poet that instructed some Malabar Youths from Cuddalore in reciting & singing his Verses. The Scholars, who knew me, brought their Teacher to me, & I read & talked to them the whole Evening. The old man heard very attentively, but at the end he begged an Alms of me, & said: that procures Heaven.

Octr: 6. Since midnight we have northerly Winds & great

Rains, which made my Journey to Tranquebar in the Tanjore country, where there is yet a good deal of Water from the overflowing of the Savery, very tedious & troublesome. I had no Opportunity of talking to the people with any Satisfaction untill.

Octr: 7<sup>th</sup>. I arrived in the Evening at Amben Ron Choultry, which was full of People, who heard me on the same Subject as gladly as the Bullock people did the Day before yesterday at Manambady, & related of their own Accord many of the Evils caused by Idolatry & the Want of such religious Principles as I had mentioned.

Octr: 8<sup>th</sup>. This Morning I arrived at Tranquebar. And having conferred with the Brethren, I hasten'd to Nagapatam the Day following, in order to preach there on Sunday.

Novr: 10. 1785. Since the Rain in the beginning of October we have had again none but Southerly Winds & very dry & hot Weather. This Morning when I was preaching in the Malabar Church on 2 Cor. 1, 3 of the Sufferings of Christians & the Good they do them, the Northern Monsoon set in with its usual Violence; Excepting one Day in December when we had here a violent Gale for about eighteen Hours, which reached very far to the North, South, & West, which pluckt up many trees & dried up the Leaves of many, & caused in many places an Inundation; We have had every where on the Coast a very favourable & blessed monsoon, which promises great Plenty in those parts, where there is any cultivation.

In this Month I baptized another heathen, who came to it by the same Means as those did, that were baptized on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

Seiden