

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Brief von Johann Caspar Kohlhoff an Gottlieb Anastasius Freylinghausen.

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Tiruchirapalli, 07.07.1783

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Job. Cass. Koplhoff.
 Titchinapoly 7th July 1783.
 pr. 25. Jun. 84.

Very Reverend and Worthy Sir,

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With the greatest Respect I herewith humbly beg Leave to pay Your Reverence my grateful Acknowledgments which besides being encouraged by my honoured Father I think myself greatly obliged to do for Your paternal good Wishes, and kind Remembrance of me in Your Epistles to my honoured Father: and considering Your particular Relation to the Church of Christ in this Part of the World, I think myself under great Obligation humbly to lay before You a short Account of myself and of my Business, hoping that it will meet with Your kind Acceptation.

About the 9th Year of my Age which was in the Year 1770 it pleased God to remove me from my honoured Parents to this Place, where having had the Happiness of receiving a christian Education under the kind Care of my honoured God Father the Rev^d. Mr. Swartz I was confirmed and received the Lord's Supper the first Time on the 19th of April 1770. — I humbly adore and thank God for all his rich and undeserved Mercies bestowed upon me, and for placing me in such a happy Condition wherein I have experienced many Proofs of his paternal Care and Protection over me, and of his Goodness in raising me several kind Friends and Benefactors, who have shewed many a Tokens of christian Affection, and of a true Concern of making me capable to live to the Glory of God, and for the Use of my fellow Creatures. — One of these my Benefactors namely the honoured Major William Stevens God was pleased suddenly to take unto himself on the 14th Oct^r. 1778. — May God bless and abundantly reward all my kind Benefactors for all the Kindness and Favours they have shewed to me,

To his Reverence the Professor
 Freylinghausen at Halle.

and may he also enable me by his blessed Spirit to use my utmost Endeavours that I may faithfully answer their good Intention doing the Will of our heavenly Father.

In the Beginning of the Month of Feb^y 1770 I was first appointed by my honoured God Father the Rev^d. Mr. Swartz to assist the english Schoolmaster. - Accordingly I made it my Business from that Time to instruct the english Scholars in Reading, Arithmetic and Christianity till the 2^d of July 1780, about which Time I undertook by the Consent of Mr. Swartz & Mr. Pohle to give a private Instruction to a few Children belonging to a Colonel, who was then Commandant of this Place, and to a Son of another Gentleman. - By the Blessing of God they soon made a Progress in their Learning and were brought to some Knowledge of God, of their Redeemer and of their Duty towards him. - The Instructions of these Children requiring at length more Attention I was not able to go on in my former Business in the english School, except that of catechising; but upon these Children's leaving this Place on the 12th of Septemb^r last Year, I resumed it again.

Besides my Employment of instructing Children, on the 23^d of June last Year I began to read the common Prayer to the english Congregation at divine Service, after having called upon God for his gracious Assistance, and beseeching him to bless this my Undertaking to his Honour and Glory, & to the Edification of Souls.

As I had not the Pleasure of seeing my dear Parents near the Space of 4 Years by reason of this grievous War with which God has visited this Country, I paid them a Visit last Year. - On the 20th of Nov^r I left Trikala napoly and arrived the next Day at Tanjore where I remained till the 1st of Dec^r and read once the common Prayer to the english Congregation at the Request of the commanding Officer.

On the 5th of Decem^r I arrived at Tranquebar and had the Happiness of finding my dear Parents in a tolerable State of Health. A few Days before my Arrival my honoured Father got a severe Fall as he was going down the Steps, and the Pain which the Contusion gave him was so great that he imagined it would put an End to his Life. But a merciful God has preserved him. - During my Stay at Tranq^r he was taken ill by the procidentiam and on the 18th of Jan^r which caused him a great deal of Pain for a considerable Time. But by the Mercy of God he was a good deal recovered before I left Tranq^r, and in several of his Letters which I received lately I learn that God has enabled him so far as to preach several Times. - On the 29th of Jan^r I left Tranq^r and arrived at Tanjore on the 1st of Feb^r - where I found my honoured God Father the Rev^d. M^r. Swartz indisposed by a breaking out in his Leg which was very painful and troublesome to him especially on Sundays. - During my Stay at Tanjore I assisted M^r. Swartz on Sundays by reading the common Prayers to the English, and in my going and returning from Tranq^r I had several Opportunities of discoursing with Heathens concerning the Sin of Idolatry, and of making known unto them the one only & true God.

After my Arrival here I applied myself to the Study of the Greek Language, wherein my worthy Friend the Rev^d. M^r. Pohle was so kind as to instruct me; and now as he has left this Place on the 14th of May my Business is to take care of the English and Malabar Schools, and to perform the English divine Service on Sundays. The Malabar divine Service both on Sundays & Fridays is performed by the Catechist Dewanezen.

To conclude I humbly pray that the God of all Grace may bless You richly, and crown all Your pious Labours with great Success to the Glory of his Name; recommending myself to Your Love and Prayers

I remain with the greatest Respect,
Very Reverend & Worthy Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
John Caspar Kohlhoff.