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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister.

Geister, Johann Ernst

Cuddalore, 01.01.1739-17.12.1739; 10.01.1740

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case I could not help complaining against the Priests, who would cause the Children to be taken away in a forcible manner, though they had cost money for their maintenance.

This worship was very much displeas'd at this great presumption of the Priest, and promis'd me, that the boy should come again, and that he would reprimand the Priest for it. Some days after, the Priest being call'd, thought best, to deny every thing, though at the same time, he complain'd to some Gentlemen in the place, that I us'd violence, against which I answer'd, that I never design'd to force any body in point of Religion, but as I had the favour of living under the protection of an English Government I could not believe, that I did wrong, when I apply'd to the Governour for help against insults of this nature. Though the people saw, that the Governour had taken notice of the affair, yet they us'd delays, till upon a repeated order the boy came back again. An other boy, who, most about the same time was taken away from me, by the same arts, was either brought out of the place or carefully hid, and could not be found. I heard afterwards, that he was here again, but I thought it was better, to let him go, than to have more disputes.

13. After a great many impediments I had at last the joy, to enter into the new built house, and I thank'd God for his providence, which had assist'd and carried me so far, that I could live in a house fit and comodious for my business and for my health and convenience. The whole was not yet done, but the remaining part, was not ~~not~~ very much, and was like to go on the better, when I was present in the house, and had it always under my eyes.

The next following days I took care, as much as the circumstances would permit, to bring every thing in proper order, and to have a publick congregation again, as soon as possible.

22. To day, being Easterday I gave the first publick Sermon again in the Portuguese language, though I had but very few auditors. The day before I sent a messenger about, to give notice of it to all those, who formerly us'd to come now and then. In my Sermon, I first of all, excited those, that were present, to acknowledge Gods favour in having given us after some interruption, a convenient place for a Congregation, and admonish'd them not to neglect this opportunity, intended for the benefit of their Souls but to make a right use of it. Then I proceeded to my Text, Declaring them the history of the resurrection of our Saviour. Divine Service is begun with the Litany out of the Portuguese Common prayer book, after this follows the Sermon, and the conclusion is with a prayer. The appointed time is from 8 to 9. in the morning, and the hall of the house is the meeting place. At 10 of the Clock the schoolmaster repeats this Sermon with the Children by way of catechizing.

May.

Though this ~~this~~ is the beginning of the hottest time of the year, yet I find the new house so convenient, that I hardly perceive the heat. This together with the satisfaction of my mind on account of several successes in my business, has contributed so much to my health and vigour, that now in the hot season I can do more, then formerly I could in the cool weather. My main business has been and is yet, to perfect myself ^{in the} country Language, for which I have spared no pains, and (thanks to God)