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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister.

Geister, Johann Ernst

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1739.

July.

8. A Serjeant of the military, Will: Brandling, desired me to christen his newborn child which was very weak and in imminent danger of life. This being an extraordinary case, and the Child being in the neighbour-
hood, I gratified him in his desires. The Child dyed in few days.
20. To day I came to an end with the Gospel of St. Matthew in Portuguese, which was begun with the school boys in September last, on purpose to teach them so much of the Portuguese language, as is necessary to understand the Bible and religious books. This has required so many months because the boys were quite ignorant, and I was obliged to explain not only every word, but the variations of them too. Though I find now, that the boys have made a good progress, so that I can go on faster now, chiefly because the Schoolmaster comprehends my method more and more, for which reason he is more capable to assist me.
21. I began the Gospel of St. Mark with the boys.
24. I received to day all my European letters from England and Germany, which for several particular reasons were very joyfull unto me, and moved me to thank God for his favorable assistance and undeserved benefits bestowed upon me hitherto.

August.

14. The Rev^d Mr. Howard, who had been at Fort St. Davids for some days, went ~~to~~ ^{to} day on board, to go by Sea to Tranquerbar and Nagapatnam. In the time of his staying here, I took the opportunity of acquainting him particularly with the circumstances of my business, and when he came to visit me, I shewed him the house, school etc.
21. To day an end was made of building for this year, and all the workmen were dismissed.
- I received the chests, books etc. which came from England this year.
- Of Malabar books wrote by Malabar authors I have bought and collected now above 50. The main design is to learn the language out of them, and I had a secondary design, to see if perhaps something of antiquity, chiefly of the history of the Jews and Greeks might be found in them. As for the first, I saw there were now ~~and then~~ ^{enough} books for one, that would learn the language, and as for the second, I found nothing at all of true antiquity, but only extravagant, inconsistent and fabulous accounts and obscenities, so that, if it were not for perfecting myself in the

language, I should not read one of them. For these reasons I resolved not to buy any more, except it should be an extraordinary one.

23. A very curious and skilfull Bramine of my acquaintance at Madras, who knows the English language to a great perfection and is very inquisitive after the learning and religion of the Europeans, had wrote an English Letter to me. I answered him upon what he desired and added the following admonition: I cannot omit, recommending to you, that in the way, you have begun, you would go on, endeavoring to find out Truth; not taking a thing for granted, because it is pretended to be old, ^{nor} not accepting of it merely, because it is new, but applying the reason, God has given you, to see and distinguish with your own eyes, what is true or false. If you are sincere in this, you cannot fail under Gods blessing to find out the way for true knowledge and happiness.

26. Having till now in my Sermons proposed the doctrine of God, I begun to day the history of the creation out of Gen. 1. Taking proper care to convince my auditory of the necessity and obligation, we are under, of considering and regarding Gods works and benefits, which we are always surrounded with.

September.

The Steward Tiagappen not being so diligent and careful, as he ought, but shewing to the contrary an obstinacy and forwardness, was dismissed, and one Linguen, who formerly served us, was taken in his place, with the beginning of this Month.

5. I ended to day the explanation of the language of these scriptural sentences, which the boys had learned, and finding, that the Schoolmaster qualified himselfe more and more, I resolved for some months to instruct the boys only three times ^a week, that I might have the more time for my malabar work, and for the drawing and writing of my letters accounts and Journal for Europe.

9. A newborn Son of the malabar ~~Catechist~~ Catechist Avilappen was christened.

16. Before the hot season, I gave the boys every Sunday in the afternoon a Lesson on some historical part of religion, but being invited every Sunday to dine with his Worship, who lives
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