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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Kiernander, Johann Zacharias**

Cuddalore, 01.01.1740-29.12.1740

1. - 7. Januar 1740

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A Journal.

2

Containing the most material Circumstances, happening in
the year 1740. with the British Mission at Cuddalore, near
Fort St Davids.
in East-India.

January.

1. Having in my private Devotions recollected the Benefits of God bestowed on me hitherto, and thanked my Creator and Redeemer for his undeserved longanimity, favour and most Gracious assistance, I took the opportunity to excite those that are with me, to do the same, in a Sermon on the 145 Psalm. I seriously exhorted them, as I did with the beginning of the last year, not to be negligent, careless and ungrateful, but earnestly to consider the innumerable and undeserved benefits of divine Goodness, & most of all those, that tended to the Salvation of their Souls, which they should chiefly take care to make a right use of, in order to take care of the blessings intended by them.
2. I dismissed Arulappen, who formerly had been Catechist, for the reasons mentioned in my Journal of the last Year.
5. Having till now received only a part of the remittances of the money sent last year, because I was resolved to stay for proper and secure opportunities, a Gentleman in the Place, some days ago offered me freely, that he would accept a bill of Exchange, if the money was paid at Madras. Upon my desire Mr Schulze paid the money at Madras and I received it here.
7. I went over to the Fort-side in order to go through Dewanapatam (which is a small Town near the Fort) and to see if I could be acquainted with somebody, or find an opportunity to address myself to one or other of the Inhabitants there.

But

January) But though I went through two or three Streets I saw but very few people and found no opportunity to talk to them, till at last I came to a School, where I began to discourse in general of the insufficiency of the Malabar Books & Sciences in order to come to a true knowledge of things.

y. 9th As I walked up and down in the Hall after dinner, I saw that a poor labourer with his wife rested themselves under the shade of a Tree before the house. I stepped out, & after some general Questions, who, from what Country, & of what Trade they were, I asked the Man if he served God, and whom he served as God. He answered that he was a poor ignorant Man, & was obliged to work hard for his livelihood from morning till night, and that amongst such poor People and of a low cast or Tribe, it was not in use to concern themselves about God and his Service. I asked him if he knew nothing at all of a Deity, or if he never heard of a God, who was adored by the People of his Tribe. He pleaded his ignorance, but told me at last that some days Journey from hence to the North West, his God resided. Qu: what is that God made of Stone or Wood? Answ: of Stone. Qu: can you believe that a piece of Stone, has given you life and Health, giveth rain and sunshine, that the Earth can produce the Necessities of life &c. He gave a very pitiful answer and discovered an Extraordinary Stupidity. Upon this I represented unto him, that there was only one God the maker and preserver of us all to whom alone we were obliged &c. I exhorted him, that every morning and Evening he should consider, that his being preserved hitherto did only depend from God Almighty & that he should endeavour to be thankful to his Benefactor and not to Stones and Pieces of Wood. I told him likewise, that if he had a mind to be instructed further of his Duties to God, I would give him opportunities to learn what he wanted: and so I dismissed him. His wife seemed to be more moved than he, yet when he went away, he told, that neither his Father had ever spoke to him about such Things. When I was yet talking with him, the Malabar Schoolmaster happened to come

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