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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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the single member they took hold of, the whole Shape of the Elephant. By this Simile he would declare^{me} the cause of the different opinions of men & because he did it with a very agreeable utterance, the Auditory seemed much pleased & on his side. I answered: that this Simile did not hit the mark, because I had not spoke of blind ignorant men, but of God, who according to their opinion must have different and contrary wills. To this he could not answer and the Auditory seemed to be on my side again. I proceeded further and asked them why they hid their pretended Historical and Religious knowledge, that nobody even very few of their own Countrymen could be acquainted with it, which seemed wrong to me because true and useful knowledge should be propagated every where. They answered: the Vulgar and lower sort were so stupid and uncultivated — that it was in vain to bring them to some understanding & it was better to keep these things from them. My reply was: you Bramines and Poudarams are according to the constitution of your Country obliged to teach the people, & if they are stupid & uncultivated, the blame falls only upon you. Obj: There is nothing to be done with these Brutish People. Answ: As far as I know You have never tried proper means to bring it about & consequently you cannot say that the People are so incapable & untractable. If one should begin to cultivate a Ground, which had never been cultivated before he must take a good deal of pains and it would not be enough only to put a Bag of Seed on the Ground, and ^{when} the Ground would not receive it of itself to say, there was no hopes that the Ground could produce any thing. I mentioned a particular instance about their historical knowledge viz: that a great many years ago a certain King had ordered the principal Circumstances of their Country to be Engraven on Copper Plates which with a great deal of Expences had been buried very deep under Ground so that it would cost a great deal of money to dig them up again. This seemed to me very imprudent, that a King should spend a great Sum of money on purpose to hide useful knowledge. I illustrated it with the Simile of the Gospel Mt: that Light ought to be put on a candlestick and not hid under a Bushel &c. As it began to be dark & the Lamps were lighted in the Bagode, I asked them what a prudent Business it would be if one would be at the Expence of digging very deep holes & putting all these Lamps under ground. After I had talked for near an hour on these Subjects, I took my leave of them promising to come again some time or other & inviting them to my Lodging.

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After the dispatch of all my Letters to Europe I took care to return to all my Business again which had been interrupted frequently, Chiefly I applied myself to the Malabar language again with all possible

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diligence. As for the Portuguese School I designed to take every day an hour to instruct the Boys but finding so much other Business, I resolved to take them four times a week, & go on in teaching them the high language I finished to day the Gospel of St. Luke.

20. Upon a due consideration I found it necessary to take again the explanation of the Catechism, and Scripture Sentences which the Children had learned by way of Repetition to the eldest of them and as a new instruction to those that might be ranged in the second Class. To day I began the Catechism.

24. In my Sunday's afternoons instruction I ended Exodus, past over Leviticus, (my design being only upon the historical part) and begun Numbers.

My first Sermons this Month were on the Doctrine of the holy Ghost, & the last, on the State of the first Man's Innocence and his unhappy fall from it.

I had the uneasiness to see that a certain Portuguese (who had two Children in the School and as a pretended Protestant came frequently to my Sermons, whom I had obliged several ways and christened a new born child of his on the 8th of this month) abused me in a very impudent manner. He desired leave to have his Children at home for a day which I granted, but the Children not coming again, when I went for them, it was told they were indisposed, and took Physick but should be with me in a day or two: afterwards on a second message the boy was only sent, and the Girl kept under some pretence. I suspected something, and therefore insisted that the Girl should be sent immediately. Upon this the man began to talk high blaming me for my ill management, & hard wage, that the Children were used unmercifully, starved, & naked assuring me withall that he was not only absolutely resolved to take his Children from me but he would cause the Parents of the other children to do the same. The impudence of this man, was so much the greater because it was known that he was an ill Economist & lived extremely poor and that even when he brought his Daughter to School the cloth she had on to cover her nakedness, was borrowed, & went away again as I provided others for her. Though this was a provoking injustice yet I tryed all fair means to bring the man to a reasonable Sentiment. But finding that nothing would do I applyed to the Gentleman his Officer, who was so kind, as to order him, to send the child again, & not to use me any more in so unhandsome a manner. I had very

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