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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Mai 1740

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April

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exceeding high, But finding it was in vain, he broke of at once, saying it was Dinner time and the strength of his appetite did not permit him to stay any longer.

About the middle of this month an unlucky quarrel was begun among the Inhabitants of this place about the respective privileges of their particular Tribes or Casts. Though the thing was decided by the Government yet one party not acquiescing and thinking to obtain by force, what they could not in a fair and lawful way, they made one bold fellow their head-man and in a Mutiny almost half the inhabitants amongst whom were all the working-men, left the Town gathering themselves without the limits, in hopes that the Government should be forced to call them in again & grant them all what they desired. But they were greatly disappointed, & after they had suffered very much for their folly, they were glad some weeks after to come in by stealth again, and took it as a Favour that they were not taken up and punished. I found this to be a great hinderance to go on in my conversation with the People because the place was not only most half empty, but those that remained were in such a hurry, & so exasperated against the others, that they had nothing in their minds and mouths, but revenge & destruction.

This month I continued to preach on the Doctrine of original and actual Sin.

May

Nothing extraordinary happened this month, but I went on in my Business according to the method mentioned before.

After the middle of this month, an inhabitant, with whom I entertained an acquaintance, brought a boy, who was related to him desiring that he might be taken in and instructed in the Portuguese language. I willingly granted this, in hopes that it might be an opportunity to a more friendly conversation. But the boy came only a few days, and afterwards absented himself.

22. To day the Choultry designed for a Malabar School was finished.

31. The eldest of the school-boys John Pearson was dismissed, and entered into the military service of the Hon^{ble} East-India Company. He has behaved himself very well being obedient diligent and willing. He was exhorted not to forget the benefit he had received in the School, and to fear and reverence the Lord sincerely, for the better promoting of which he should not neglect to come on Sundays to hear the Sermon & that whenever he was free from Military duty, he should have leave to come again to repeat and improve what he had learned. His Captain gave leave and order, that on Sundays he should have liberty - for an hour to come to the Sermon.

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May-

M^r. Sartorius had a few weeks before his decease begun a Vocabulary in English & Malabar of which about a third part was finished. Considering the usefulness of which, I resolved to spare an hour now and then, for the continuation of it; & begun this month first of all to encrease it with several English words, with a design to add the Malabar afterwards, and even the Portuguese, if Circumstances and times should permit.

My Sermons in this month were upon the delivery from Sin, & the assistance which God offered us to this Purpose?

June

Last month great disturbances happened over a great part of the Country and a Rumour was spread that a numerous Army of the Marattas (a warlike nation of the other Coast) was advancing to conquer the Country, & to drive away the Governor and great Officers of the Mogul. Though the Accounts varied very much, yet it was certain that in an Engagement the Nawab (or Governor General of this Country) with several of the greatest men was cut off, and those that could escape, retired in the utmost Confusion to the Sea-Coast, leaving Aurkot, the Capital City unguarded & to the Enemy's mercy. Upon this all the Country People fled, and Endeavoured to shelter themselves in the European Settlements, so that several thousands of them came within the Limits of Fort St. David. It happened that some of them passing through the Street, and seeing a new House, asked the Servant for liberty to come & see the inner part of it which upon advice was readily granted by me, and I took hold of the Opportunity to talk with them on which they seemed very much surprized and afterwards told the news of it to their acquaintance. As soon as this began to be known amongst they came sometimes by Dozens & desired the same liberty with those that came first which was always granted, & seeing that Bramines and other people of the better Sort came I sat down now and then with them for an hour - endeavouring to make them sensible of their unhappy mistakes & errors and that they should find an Opportunity for a better knowledge if they would converse with me. They always expressed a great Satisfaction, and I thought if no more was obtained it would be at least so much that after their returning home, they would talk of it to their Countrymen, which will enlarge my acquaintance with the natives.

This year the Rain with which the Land winds set in, did fail, & which made the weather exceeding hot and dry. Yet the house being
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