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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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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
(very

June

(15)

very convenient and cool, I did not only go on in all the parts of my Business — but applied myself in a manner eagerly that I might go through once with the Malabar language. For a while I found no prejudice till in this month I began to be faintish & unfit for business, so that one Sunday I could not preach. In a few days I had a Feverish fit, weakness and want of appetite. At last it increased so far that once I found such a change in my Body, & such a Deficiency of Spirits that I expected no more than every moment to drop down & dye. I recommended myself to the will and disposition of God — Almighty, and then called in the two Schoolmasters, acquainting them with the present condition of my Body, and what they ought to do in Case of my decease. Likewise I desired a Gentleman who lives in the neighbourhood — to come to me, which he did immediately in a very friendly way. I told him how things stood, and what I desired to be done, if I should dye, to which he expressed himself friendly promising to do any thing that was in his power. But it pleased God in his great mercy to spare me, and though afterwards the like fits returned upon me yet they were not so strong. The Physician being consulted — gave his opinion that the whole was an Hypochondriac indisposition, caused by the weather and my too great application of mind, He ordered me a Diet, and told me that I must absolutely abstain from all Speculative application of mind, that I must exercise my Body and divert myself as much as I could, and not stay at home by myself as I found myself in this necessity. I followed the Physicians advice, just taking care that the servants might go on in their Business, — though my personal work was retarded. The Gentlemen in the place expressed a great compassion & several of them came to see and comfort me offering themselves to do what they could for me, and asked me to come abroad and be in their Company. Particularly an English Family in the place, shewed such a real and undeserved kindness to me, that I shall not forget it as long as I live. Under these Circumstances my indisposition was moderate, though I found upon trial that I was not capable yet to apply my mind.

th.

28.

To my great joy and Comfort I received to day the first European Letters, and was exceedingly comforted when I found that under the merciful direction of Providence The Hon^{ble} Society was sending out a fellow Labourer to my assistance.

I was obliged to dismiss at the end of this month, the Steward Linguen. — He gave not only strong suspicions of false dealings, but would always upon admonitions gainsay, in an obstinate and provoking way. Though he had been told several times, that one day or other, he would make me discharge him, if he would not leave of this bad custom, yet he went on though he knew very well the Disposition of my Body, to make me uneasy. I found this so prejudicial to my Health, that I saw no other means, but to dismiss him, & take in one Muttu who seemed to be of a

(better)

June

(16)

better behaviour and capacity. For his monthly wages I appointed 14 Tanam. O

July

3 With the beginning of this month, I found myself a little better and
th⁶ began to day to teach the Children again, as likewise
I preached again, but found myself almost sick again upon it so that I
resolved to forbear till I should find myself quite well.

11 - I ended the verbal explication of St. John's Gospel and the 16th began the
Acts of the Apostles. O

Though my indisposition did not increase, it did not much abate because
the weather continued to be exceeding dry and hot, so that hardly any
Gentleman in the Place escaped from being less or more affected by it.

27. I could not venture to preach, yet I christened a new born Child of the
Cathectist Ambros, though I was very low in Body and Mind. O

As some time ago I had to some inhabitants communicated my design of
beginning a School two or three of them addressed themselves to me offering
their Children amongst whom was a Merchant of good repute, who more
than once came and intreated me to begin. I was pleased with this
favourable prospect, yet I was very doubtful, that if I should propose
my whole Scheme to them, about the method and regulation of the School,
they would go back at once. O

Therefore I answered them in a doubtful way intermixing some engaging
things, for instance, that in case the School should begin and go on, the
Children should learn not only what they commonly learn in their Schools -
but that afterwards if they were inclined, I would find an opportunity to teach
them Portuguese or English writing upon Paper &c. In the mean time I
sounded the old man who instructs me in the language how the malabars
would take it if in some particular or other I should deviate from
their way of Teaching Children. He approved some & disapproved other
particulars. At last I told him plainly that the people might send their
Children, upon this express condition that nothing idolatrous must be heard in
the School, because I had never received nor expected assistance from their
Gods, but my only help was in the name of the Lord who made heaven and
earth. They readily consented, and I promised them to begin shortly. Another
difficulty came in the way how to begin and end the School with prayer
to the only true God. I designed first to draw up a formal Prayer & that in
the name of Christ. But I considered that it would be improper to make
the Children pray to a God & Saviour yet unknown to them and that this
very Circumstance would make the People suspicious and alienate the
People from me. Therefore after some deliberation, I found this expedient
(that