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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

**Geister, Johann Ernst
Kiernander, Johann Zacharias**

Cuddalore, 01.01.1740-29.12.1740

18. - 23. August 1740

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August

(19)

18th - The next day I received and opened the letters directed to me, from England & Germany, which supplied me with new matters of Joy and Thanksgiving.

We dispatched a Messenger to bring this agreeable news to Tranquebar and to enquire which way the two Danish Missionaries might prosecute their journey thither.

The new Missionaries having already at their arrival waited on his Worship the Governor, who received them with a particular kindness, we went the following days to compliment the other Gentlemen in the place who likewise expressed much kindness to us.

23rd From Tranquebar we had not only an answer, but a commodious Boat too, was sent for the use of the two new Missionaries. As they were desirous to end their Voyage the next Tuesday being the 26th was fixed upon for their departure.

They waited once more upon the Governor and Gentlemen of the Place taking their leave, and so on the day mentioned in the morning left this place. Some days after we received News of their safe arrival.

In the following days I endeavoured to assist my Colleague in regulating several necessary external Things, and he having made some progress on board of the Ship in the Portuguese language, he continued the same with my assistance, which tended chiefly to the instructing him in the Country Dialect.

As from this time I reckon a new Period of my Circumstances I cannot but with the humblest thankfulness recollect the numberless and undeserved mercies of my most Gracious God, who not only has preserved me till now but hath carried me through several Things, which at first sight seemed to be very difficult and even has been pleased to rejoice & encourage me by some success in my Endeavours. I heartily wish that the remainder of my life may be wholly sacrificed to his divine will, depending only on his paternal Protection, care, and assistance. It causeth a great deal of concern, when I consider that hitherto none of the natives has been brought over to Christian Religion. But as this is a thing beyond human Capacity, I must leave it entirely to him who alone has the power over mens hearts. On my part I have taken all Opportunities publick and private to converse with them in order to their conviction and conversion. I have endeavoured to find out the best ways and methods to converse with them confidently & to make them sensible of my Readiness to teach them better things. Experience has Taught me that it is necessary to appear frequently among them and as Circumstances happen to talk with their learned and great men in the presence of a number of People to convince the ignorant, that for all the high and extravagant pretences of their Bramines & Priests something material can be objected. Though I am yet of opinion that the publick Conversation must serve only to open the way for a private one in order to come to a close and particular opening of minds. So much I find that several of the inhabitants have not only a good opinion, but even an esteem for me, which they express not only in words but have proved already by sending their Children to the School which is under my care & I hope to God that this will be a means for the obtaining of the main End in my Business.

John Ernest Gueister