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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 01.01.1740-29.12.1740

Dezember 1740

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urn:nbn:de:obv:ha33-1-187648

November

to be received which could not well be denied. Though this is a new Proof of the Peoples liking and confidence yet we have not succeeded in the main design of this School (WIX:) to come into a nearer Conversation with the inhabitants. Some or other gave hopes for it as they came now and then to the School and talked with the Catechist but after some time they left off again. We must leave it to providence, when our endeavours shall be blessed with the Success wished for.

25th - Kiim: after having by way of repetition explained the Catechism again begun to day to read with the Children the first Epistle of St. John. The doctrine of Prayer has been continued in the Sermons this Month.

December

With the beginning of this Month, the disturbances in the Country round about, begun to be so great, that all the People fled again to the Sea Side for Shelter in the European Settlements. After several uncertain Rumours at last on the 15th in the morning, a dismal account was brought that yesterday in the afternoon, Porto Novo, which is an unfortified Place about 5 leagues from hence) had been plundered, by a large Body of horsemen, and the people, black as well as white without distinction most barbarously used. This put every body in the place, in a great Consternation and all things were kept ready for an Engagement. Before it was noon, small Parties of Horse came very near our limits and seemed to be Scouts of a larger Body, which probably would have attempted something if they had found some part of the bounds unguarded. But upon their appearance, in a distance, a signal was given with a great Gun from one of the Out Castles which was answered from the Fort and upon this the Enemy did not come nearer. Yet accounts were brought in that numbers of Parties were round our limits, & that in all Probability we would be attacked in the night time. This made every one very uneasy & there was not much sleep that night. We commended ourselves to divine Protection and considered a little —

(what

December

(28)

what we would do if an accident should happen. But divine Providence kept us in safety & excepting frequent Rumours & Alarms no attempt was made upon our limits. S

This gave us an opportunity to converse again with the Country People. We went about the Place, addressing ourselves to some, & others came to us in the House, with whom we talked something to their good, which they approved & seemed to be contented.

The time of the European Ships sailing from these parts & drawing near, we began to write letters &c. which takes away a good part of our time. S

For our Sermons on the Advent Sundays we chose proper texts out of the Prophecies of the Old Testament concerning Christ our Saviour. S

With the end of this month in the daily Catechisation Hiern: finished the verbal Explanation of the Epistles of St. John.

Concluding now our Journal for this Year we cannot but remember with the humblest thankfulness that God Almighty in his Paternal favour has not only spared, but bestowed so many Benefits upon us. Though we are not yet come so far as to have been instrumental in bringing over some to Christian Religion - yet we have Reason to believe and to hope in God that we shall succeed, & if only an effectual beginning can be made we do not doubt but to have a speedy Progress. We are resolved at latest in the middle of next January to begin with a publick Sermon in the Malabar language on Sundays, depending on God's blessing as for the success of it. S

With the Portuguese School and congregation it is most the same as has been mentioned at the end of the last Year, & is almost tiresome to spend pains & benefits on so ungrateful a people, who will not acknowledge God's benefits.

Cuddalore January ^{2th} 4-7-1740/
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John Ernest Gueister
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