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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 01.01.1740-29.12.1740

Nachtrag

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The chief matters, deliberated and resolved upon in a weekly Conference about the concerns of the Protestant Mission at Cuddalore, which conference was begun again after the arrival of a new Missionary in the Year 1740, by us

John Ernest Queister

John Zach. Kiernander

Sep. 1. Having previously agreed, that the conference should be held, as formerly, on Mondays from 8 till 9 of the Clock in the morning, after a joynt prayer for Divine blessing & Assistance we thought it most proper to read first of all the instructions of the Hon^{ble} Society, which gave us opportunity of conferring and resolving upon the following particulars.

1. We hope with and engage before God, that we will do our Business in the closest harmony as Brethren and fellow-labourers, and that I- Gueister will assist my Colleague to the best of my Capacity, in any thing, which may be necessary and serviceable to him in learning the languages, and acquainting him with every particular that concerns our Work. —

Only 2. It is not well practicable to call Catechists & Schoolmasters to the conference because — some of them understand Portuguese only and others the malabarian language. Therefore we resolved that as many times as the presence of a servant is necessary, he shall be called in and instructed in such particulars as are thought necessary. We did the same after the conference calling in the Portuguese Schoolmaster, whom we ordered to give a particular account of his Business, and gave him some Instructions. D

3. We will deliberate and come to a Resolution about a private Conference for our own mutual Edification.

4. ^{They} We will endeavour that all our teaching be only about the most necessary Points of Religion, taking particular care to condescend to the capacities of these we teach. —

8 - 1. The Society's last letter of March the 18: 1739⁴⁰ was read and we conferred about the particulars mentioned therein Resolving that such Directions in the Hon^{ble} Society's letters, as are general, shall be wrote out, and added to the Instructions sent some years ago to the British Missionaries. This was accordingly done after the conference. 2. Likewise we read over the Invoice casting up the sum of all the remittances of this year, and considered which way might be the safest, to bring the money down from Madras.

15 - We conferred particularly about our Letters to Europe about our Cash & Schools.

22 — 1. We resolved that we will write only the most necessary Letters because we fear that the writing of many Letters will hinder us too much in our Business.

2. We will write to Madras & endeavour as soon as possible, to have our money by a Bill of exchange.

Resolved

September 22

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- 3rd - Resolved not to take in more Children in the Portuguese School, except they pay for their maintenance, till some particular benefactions, should be sent out for this purpose.
- th 29th 1st J. Hiern: hoping with God's help to begin instructing the Portuguese Children next week, some particulars concerning it, were considered and the Resolutions about them deferred to the next conference. 2nd After the dispatch of the European Letters & other external things, J. Guisot: will now with a new Industry apply myself to the Malabar language, in which, with God's help, I intend shortly to catechize & to preach. 3rd We will take care in particular of the Malabar School, that with divine assistance, it may answer its design. 4th We have appointed to employ every Sunday in the morning from ten till eleven for a private Edification and to begin next Sunday. We are resolved to begin with the 4 Evangelists in the original Language & to take the 4 Gospels together harmonically.
- th 6th 1st The two Girls in the Portuguese School being come to such an age that in 3 or 4 Months time they must be dismissed, we took this into a particular Consideration, and deliberated chiefly how after their dismissal we might prevent their taking ill courses, because their Parents seem bad enough, not only to neglect the welfare of their own Children, but even wilfully to through them in disorderly ways. 2nd It seems that the method taken hitherto in reading and literally explaining the historical Books of the old Testament to the children in a Sunday's afternoon lecture is not well adapted to the Capacity of the children. Therefore we resolved for the future, to pick out only the most necessary and eminent parts of Scriptural history and explain them in a plain manner. 3rd J. H. intend God willing next Wednesday to begin Catechizing in the Portuguese School. we resolved on some particulars in order to manage it in the most proper way.
- th 13th 1st We have divided our Business in the Portuguese School that Gu: will take two hours in every week for catechizing and teaching the boys to sing Hymns, & Hi: will take three hours every week. 2nd It is necessary to provide a Desk or Chest of Drawers to keep our Letters Accounts, and other Papers orderly, cleanly & conveniently. 3rd We will endeavour to find a proper method to instruct the children in Scriptural History. 4th We will divide our Correspondence to Madras and Tranquebar betwixt us equally.
- th 20th 1st Deliberated upon several particulars concerning the most proper method of teaching those under our care & 2nd upon the Behaviour & other Circumstances of the Servants.
- th 27th 1st About the reception of two Children into the Malabar School. 2nd Hiern: intends God willing to preach in Portuguese next Sunday. 3rd About the Choice of Scripture Sentences, which the Portuguese boys learn & how it may be made easier. 4th About celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Two

Novemb^r. 3rd - First. Two children of a Malabar Christian, from Tranquebar, (who lives here) have been taken to School, and upon Consideration of the Circumstances, we have Resolved to give the Father half a Bagoda ^{per} month towards their maintenance, with condition that it be only for 3 or 4 months, & that sometimes the Boy shall work in the House or Garden. 2^{ly}. As here is an opportunity to get a Desk, we will see if we can buy it for 7 Bagodas. 3^{ly}. if for the future, Children should be offered to the Portuguese School we will endeavour to bring it about, that they have only their maintenance and that their Parents give them Clothes. 4^{thly}. Having received last month all our money we have brought every particular in account and made it up. We find that it is necessary to be particularly Frugal, & if we can we will give part of the money upon Interest for some Months. 5^{thly}. Hiern: having by Divine assistance preached yesterday his first Sermon in the Portuguese we have now divided our Sundays Business and considered several particulars concerning it.

6^{thly} Hiern: is resolved to begin now the Malabar Language.
 10th - 1st - H: having begun the malabar language last week we have fixed now the hour from 3 to 4 in the afternoon, when Gu: will Teach him. 2^{ly}. Deliberated how our Journal may be jointly made. 3^{ly}. We will endeavour to Teach the Boys 2 or 3 Times well that we may in a short time begin divine Service with a Hymn.
 17th - 1st - Some general deliberations about our Sermons and Regulating the Schools. 2^{ly}. H: is resolved besides the hour in the afternoon to apply himself to the Malabar Language in the morning from 11 for half an hour & the Malabar Catechist Ambros is to assist him.
 24th. An impediment coming in the way the conference was put off till the following week.

Decemb^r. 1st - 1st. About the better Regulating the hours appointed for H: learning the malabar Language. 2^{ly}. In our Sermons we will now propose the Doctrine of Christ & choose suitable Texts out of the Old Testament.

3^{ly}. We will begin in time with our Correspondence to Europe; the particulars of which we deliberated upon. 4^{thly}. We will buy for 7 Bagod: a convenient Desk to put in our Papers Accounts &c.

8th - Concerning our Correspondence to Europe & some particulars thereof.

15th - 1st. Resolved to Refit the Fledge on the River Side (it being now the proper Season for it) & to raise the Ground a little, to keep off the water which on Extraordinary high Tides and Freshes comes very near. 2^{ly}. Deliberated more particularly concerning our Correspondence to Europe. 3^{ly}. As the money sent for half a year's Salary to H: goes no further than the 11th of this Month we have agreed to take from that time his Salary out of the Cash first for two thirds of this Month and so on Regularly the following Months.

About

December

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22nd - First, About the celebrating of Christmas day. 2. ^{Only} It is necessary to preach in the malabarian language, which must not be delayed any longer. 3. ^{Only} About our Correspondence to Europe.

4th - About the malabar School.

29th 1st - We hope God willing to have the first malabar Sermon in the middle of the next month.

^{Only} 2. - About our Correspondence.

^{Only} 3. - About the Portuguese School.

