

Handschriften / Autographen

Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Kiernander, Johann Zacharias**

Cuddalore, 01.01.1740-29.12.1740

1. - 22. September 1740

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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 Gueister
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.

2. It is not well practicable to call Catechists & Schoolmasters to the conference because some of them understand Portuguez only and others the malabar 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 Portuguez Schoolmaster, whom we ordered to give a particular account of his Business, and gave him some Instructions.

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

4. 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 those we teach.

8. 1. The Society's last letter of March the 18th: 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

(30)

- 3^{dy} 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. 2^{dy} 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. 3^{dy} 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.
- October 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. 2^{dy} 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. 3^{dy} 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. 2^{dy} It is necessary to provide a Desk or Chest of Drawers to keep our Letters Accounts, and other Papers orderly, cleanly & conveniently. 3^{dy} 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 & 2^{dy} upon the Behaviour & other Circumstances of the Servants.
- th 27th 1st About the reception of two Children into the Malabar School. 2^{dy} Hiern: intends God willing to preach in Portuguese next Sunday. 3^{dy} 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