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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 18.01.1741-28.12.1741

18. Januar 1741

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1

A Journal

Containing the most material circumstances, happening in the first six Months of the Year

1741,

With the British Mission at Puddalore, near Fort St David.

January.

We began this Year with thanksgiving, prayer & a Sermon upon Rom xiv, 7-9. which text was explained and the proper inferences drawn from it.

Our Correspondence to Europe required a great deal of time, & hindered us in our business. Likewise the rumours of war increased so much, that every body was in apprehension and hurry almost day & night. 18. This day, being a Sunday, at eight in the morning when we were ready for our Sermon, the Alarm Drum was beat, & immediately we heard the great Guns thunder & the balls whistle. A body of at least two thousand Maratter Horsemen poured in on a sudden, and no body knew any thing of it, before they came near the walls of Puddalore. But as every thing was ready day and night, they were no sooner seen but the balls came so hot amongst them, that, though they attempted to come nearer, they were soon forced to retire faster than they came in. Flying to the West, they came within the Guns of an Outcastle, & were drove back farther. At last they fell in on the North west side of the limits, where they could shelter themselves behind hedges & gardens. They plundered the open villages, wounded some people, & went off again. It could not be known, how many of them were killed, because they carried their wounded & dead along with them. Now the hurry & uneasiness of every body began to be very great, because it was certain, that small parties were near us, & rumours upon rumours were spread, that we must expect a brisker Attack every hour. This body went afterwards to the North, & almost near Madras.

They

They plundered all open places, & committed great barbarities. When they attacked Parar, which belongs to the Dutch, they plundered & ruined the place, but could not take the Factory, though they attacked it two days, the few Dutch there with the help of black Soldiers fired so much amongst them with small arms & Granado shells, that with a loss of a number of their men & horses they were forced to retire. As it was supposed, that they would go further to the North, we hoped to have a little rest, but unawares on the

23. at noon they came back again to the number of 3000. rushing in on the North Side of our limits, & were not discovered, before they were within a great Gunshot. The balls flying amongst them, & doing execution, they halted for a while, & went to the Westward. Not minding ~~from~~ the firing from two castles more they fell in again on the Northwest Side, as before, and plundered.

When they would go out again, some balls from an out-castle came amongst them, so that they drop'd a great deal of their plunder, & several country people who had been pressed to carry things and provisions, seeing the horsemen only intent to save their lives run away from them and came within the limits, selling what they had carried. In the night they encamped within two miles of Cuddalore and made a great fire to burn their dead. So our apprehensions and uneasiness increased, and frequent Alarums were made day & night sometimes even upon false reports.

K. began after the middle of this Month to catechize the Portuguese Children upon the Scripture sentences, which they have learned.

G. Applied himself seriously to preach a malabar sermon as soon as possible, for which purpose the Litany out of the English Common Prayer was translated in the Malabar language: but being indisposed for more than a week, it went on a little slow.

We began this Month to preach upon the history of