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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 18.01.1741-28.12.1741

Januar 1741

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A Journal
Containing the most material circumstances, happen-
ing 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 explain-
ed 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 at-
tempted 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

of Christs Suffering, according to the Gospel of St Matthew.
After the dispatch of our European Correspondence we re-
sumed all our business.

February.

We took ^{the} opportunity to converse with the Country People,
who in this troublesome time were come in for protection.
Some of them came to our house, & with others we conversed
publicly in the Streets, endeavouring to turn our discourse,
which was begun perhaps upon indifferent things, to some-
thing usefull & religious. They seemed to approve what
was proposed to them, though when a nearer application
was made by asking them why they would not search
further into what they allowed to be true & right, they
immediately sheltered themselves behind their received
doctrine of an absolute destiny, saying: our time is not
yet come.

7. We had long ago taken a resolution to visit the old
Mahomedan Priest, Kutter Saung (of whom formerly some-
thing has been mentioned in the Journal) but impediments
coming in the way, it was delayed till to day, when we
went to Him in the Evening. He received us very friendly,
but being 117. Years of age, he could not talk much, so
that we discoursed chiefly with some other Mahomedans
that were there. One of them who seemed to be a scholar
in their way, brought a book wrote in the Arabian language,
which as far as we could understand, was a Commentary
upon the Alcoran. This man, (in a manner which
was none of the civilest, considering it was our first
visit, with no design to dispute, & that we not came to
visit him, but the old Gentleman) attacked us briskly with
several objections. First of all he reproached us with
the veneration of images, to which the Answer was, that
we differed in this from the roman catholicks. He proceeded
to object against the mystery of Trinity, & how God could
have a Son. It was answered, that thousand Things were
pretty near us, which we could not comprehend nor pene-
trate into, though for all this we could not deny their exis-
ting, & that in matters of Religion the expressions and
terms must not be taken in a gross and carnal sense.
Obj: How Christ as man could be born of the holy
virgin