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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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truth and antiquity of the Bible, and concluded with inviting them to a further conversation. It is to be observed, that the Malabarian Schools are not like in Europe, within the house, but they are in the Street, sometimes in open Choultries, sometimes on a large bench before the house, or quite in the Street, where the children sit down and write with their fingers in the sand. If we can find no other opportunity to address ourselves to the natives, we go to one of the schools, ask the Schoolmaster a question or two concerning their language & books, take perhaps a book and read, which commonly makes some of the by-standers come near, and according to the circumstances we talk something useful to them.

Coming home after the forementioned Interview with the Braman, we were visited by one of the chiefest Merchants in this whole Province, who has his abode in Portonovo, but since the troubles in the country began, lives in Cuddalore, where now and then we have been talking with him at the door of his Lodgings, and his brother has been several times at our house. He is a man of good sense and handsome deportment. After few words in general, the discourse was carried to the same points as had been proposed before to the Braman, at which he was not only very attentive, but seemed to be moved. When we had been together with him for about half an hour, an English Gentleman came to visit us, which made the Merchant retire.

27. We read to day in the Malabarian congregation the Prayers and some scriptural lessons. We thank God for all his Paternal assistance and furtherance in our business.

About the end of this month we received a bill of Exchange to the value of 100. Pagod. to be drawn upon a Gentleman in this place. Mr. Schultze at Madras had on our desire been so kind, as to procure us the advancement of this sum.

Our sermons in both languages have been upon the first chapters of St. Matthew and Luke, and on Sundays in the afternoon, the historical lessons have been continued with the Portuguese boys.

In the Portuguese School the literal explanation of the Second Epistle of St. Peter has been ended, and the Epistle to the Galatians begun.

Having

Having ended another Year, we find ourselves obliged to acknowledge Divine Goodness on account of the innumerable benefits and assistance received hitherto, and devote ourselves entirely to his service, who is the Benefactor of us all. We are indeed under some concern for not yet being so happy as to bring over some of the natives to christianity, though we have tried all means proper and practicable, as mentioned in our Journal. Yet as all beginning is difficult, and as the enlightening and converting of minds is above human capacity, we rely so much the more on divine power, and wait for that happy day, on which we shall see the fruit of our poor endeavours. It might perhaps be asked, what effects we have seen of our private and publick conferences. But besides what has been mentioned before, we can hardly add any thing. Because in the publick conferences, though a person might be moved, yet he will find reasons perhaps, to keep it to himself, at least he will not think it proper to discover his mind, to a foreigner before company. And in private conversation we have found now and then, that they have been attentive and seemingly moved, but we cannot yet know, how far it has been working on their minds.

We cannot omit mentioning one great Difficulty, the removal of which has cost us much time and pains, and lyeth yet heavy upon us, viz: to avoid all manner of mistakes in qualifying ourselves in the malabarian language. Our predecessors have done very much that way, and we should be in the wrong, to charge them with any thing to their prejudice. But it has been with this as with all other cases, that he that begins never so well leaves something to his Successors to be added, so that after several attempts to go through with the malabarian language, there have been found so many deficiencies yet, that M^r Sartorius (whose name cannot be mentioned by his Successors without a particular regard) proposed a new plan to come to the knowledge of a plain, easy, practical malabarian Style. He has done so much that way, and wrote so many books and collections, that it has in part happened his death. It has been thought fit to

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pursue this scheme, and his manuscripts have been and will be of a very great advantage to us. We have read jointly and separately very many malabarian books, affixing one another, and several things have been wrote, collected and drawn, which are indeed not of a great bulk but have been the product of many a busy hour and serious application of mind. Though we must acknowledge divine Goodness even in this particular, and we flatter ourselves, that our endeavours have not been in vain, but will be of use to us and our Successors.

In the Portuguese School are five boys at the end of the Year, besides two malabarian boys who come to the English lessons. The former go on pretty well in understanding the true Portuguese Language, in writing and in Arithmeticks.

Out of the malabarian School the christian boy has been dismissed and sent to his parents, being big enough to use his limbs to work. So one christian Girl is yet in the School. The number of other Children is about 30. Though this School has not yet answered our main Design viz: to draw the parents of the children to a nearer acquaintance, yet we will try further, and endeavour with all possible care, to do every thing fairly and prudently, expecting Gods blessing.

John Ernest Gueister.
John Zach Kiernander.