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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 03.01.1742-27.12.1742

16. Februar 1742

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urn:nbn:de:hbz:ha33-1-187671

February.

In the Evening some Mahomedans visited us, and mentioned of the New Testament in Arabic which we lately had lent to one of their Religion. They told that one of their Priests had read it and disapproved some things, with a design to communicate his objections, if we would converse with him. This was spoke in such a way that one could not well know what to make of, and therefore we gave our answer in general Terms. They begun afterwards to talk of one of the most famous Malabarian Histories, which some Ages ago has happened in East India, and told us what remains relating to the ^{Some they had found upon the Island of Ceylon & of} Coast of Pegu. They likewise told us, that According to a Tradition, this country, the Island of Ceylon and Sumatra had in very old times been one, and the Separation caused by a great deluge. However this wants proof and Confirmations.

After the dispatching of our Letters and correspondence to Europe we took care to return to our daily Business.

Our Sermons have been the same as last Month and in the Portuguese School the explication of the Epistle to the Ephesians has been ended.

About the end of this month news came from the North, that the Two Ships Kent and Scarborough (the first of which had on board the things designed for the Protestant Mission,) were arrived in Bengall, had unloaded, and had been dispatched immediately from thence to Europe again. The Things for this coast would be put on board some of the Company's country Ships, and might arrive shortly in Madras.

It had been designed these three Years past, that one of the Cuddalore Missionaries would visit the Brethren at Tranquebar, and it had likewise been recommended from Europe as such a visit could not but have several good effects, chiefly a firmer Tie of Friendship and Love betwixt the Labourer in the Protestant Mission. but there was always some impediments or other, that came in the way, even a few months ago, when the Missionaries at Tranquebar, earnestly desired that one of us would come

To them, of which we have mentioned in our Journal, in November 1711. However not to make longer delays, after a deliberation we resolved that Gu. should go, before the hot season of the Year, because the Travelling seemed to be pretty secure. As for going by Sea, the season was to much past, the Southerly winds setting in commonly after the middle of Feby, therefore it was thought best, to go by Land in a Palaguin. The most material Circumstances of which Journey are containeth in the following.

Account of Guiersters Journey to Tranquebar.

16. I sett out from Cuddalore early in the morning, at half an hour after two, it being Moonlight, passed the river in about about 3, and having a pleasant Travelling along the Sea Shore, arrived at Porto novo at half an hour after Six, where I breakfasted with Wijn Heer Oflerharen, the Second of the Dutch Factory, who was gone there for a few days on Account of business. I took my leave from thence about 8 passed another river, called the white river, which was fordable, going almost Southwest to a place called Sidambaram, which is a Government and Fort of the Moguls, where I arrived at 10. Here we rested, it being the heat of the day, and leave being to be obtained first to pass through the place. I had a discourse with few People, who where there, whom I acquainted with my business, place of abode etc, we set out again at 3. passed the Town, and about 4 came to Coleram rivers, which divideth the Moguls dominion and the Kingdom of Panjaur. This river is one of the greatest in these parts and very broad and deep, in the rainy time, though now it was fordable. Here I was obliged to give one Pagoda passage money to the juncaneers or receivers of Toll belonging to the Government of Sidambaram. They insisted upon two Pagodas, but I slept in and harangued them a little upon the Topics of Right and wrong, which together with the novelty of hearing a European, in their Language, made them abate their demands. after this we went on with all possible expedition, and came at 7 of the Clocks to a place, four or five Miles from the Seaside, called Siarth which is one of chief Towns.

in Tanjore, pretty large with regular Streets, and a Government.

The Missionaries at Tranquebar had desired one of the chiefest Merchants of their place, to send a Letter of Recommendation to a Substantial Linendrapers and Merchant in Tiarhi, who is his Partners and Correspondent, which was readily complied with. Accordingly I went to the Merchants house, who receives me with a great deal of Compliments, and desired me to Lodge and sup with him. Of my discourses and other Circumstances happening there I shall mention afterwards. It had been likewise recommended to him, that he should speak on my behalf to the head Juncaneer who resides in Tiarhi, that those under him in different other places might not abuse me and extort more, than what was settled. Though the Merchant did his best, the Juncaneer could hardly be contented with three Pagodas.

17. Next morning with sunrise I left this place, and though I flattered myself to see Tranquebar at noon, I found the road very bad, and the Palagunboys being much fatigued, I come about noon to a Town called Tirucadour, where the Juncaneer made me pay another Pagoda. A little after Two we went on, and came about 4. to one of the Missionaries houses without Tranquebar, where I was very friendly received by some of them, who were come there on purposes to meet me. After a short interloaction and refreshment, we went to Town, where I first of all pay'd my Compliments to the Commendant, M^r. Bonsac, and afterwards saw the others Missionaries and the Doctors, who was my Companion in the Voyages to East India.

The time of my staying at Tranquebar I endeavoured to spend to the best purpose. I had the pleasure of conversing with the Missionaries there, and they used me with all possible Friendship sincerity and Openheartedness, giving me an opportunity to acquaint myself with all the Particulars of their Business and Circumstances relating to the same. I was present at their general and particular Conferences, I heard them Preach in publick, and instruct and exhort in Private the members of their Congregation.