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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 03.01.1742-27.12.1742

4. - 19. April 1742

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

April.

4. . . . As we are resolved, shortly to administer the Lords Supper to the Malabarian Congregation, a Sermon was preached to day upon the same doctrine.
7. . . . A native discovered to our Catechist his desire to embrace the Christian Religion. He is born at Tranquebar, where some of his Relations are Christians, but he did not join with them, because his Mother prevailed with him, to keep to the ways of his Forefathers. But his Mother being dead, and some external Circumstances bringing him hither, he addressed himself to us. We gladly took hold of this opportunity, and promised to take care that he might be instructed, but that he ought to look out, to find some employ for his maintenance, because though we would not be backward to recommend him to somebody or other for an employ, yet we could promise nothing and he ought not depend upon any such thing, much less must it be his design to turn Christian for worldly reasons. We ordered the Catechist to teach him the words of the Catechism, that we might take him afterwards into a closer Preparations.
11. . . . Three Highgermans who are here in the Companys Military service, had desired us some time ago to give them the Sacrament. As we could not well refuse it, we prepared them in a Sermon and in some private admonitions, and Administered to day the Lords Supper in the Highgerman Language.
19. . . . A Gentleman in this place had recommended his Foster Child (the Son of a European) to our School in order to learn Reading and Writing English. Accordingly he was taken in to Day. Likewise a Boy out of our Malabarian School has been admitted to the English Lessons.
- In the Portuguese Sermons we continued to Preach upon the Epistles to the Romans, and in the Malabarian Sermons we have preached upon the 24th Chapter of S. Luke.
- We have wrote to Madras about our Silver and Chests, and found it necessary, to recommend the whole affair to the Gentlemen who correspond with the Society. We have desired and empowered them, to make such a Disposition, that the Silver for our salary might be sold in Bengall and remitted to Madras in Bills of Exchange, and as for the other things, that they might be sent with the first Opportunity.

As we are quite out of Cash, we have wrote again to Madras for a Loan of Money. In the mean time a Gentleman in Fort St. Davids has upon our desire advanced 30 Pagodas for our present expences.

We take all possible care to improve in the Malabarian Language, and find the Season very Favourable for Study, because we have had extraordinary refreshing Showers, and the air has been cleaned by much Lightning and Thunder.

May.

9. We had the Lords Supper, in the Portuguese Congregation. Besides us the Communicants were our Schoolmaster, his Sister, and a Highgerman, who is a Gunner in the Company's Service.

14. In the afternoon we went out to see a Ceremony performed by some of the Natives, to the honour of certain Kings and Heroes mentioned in their Histories. These People had many Days their poor shews and noisy Processions through the Town, but to Day was the Consummation of the Solemnity, where near a dozen of them walked barefoot over glowing Coals. There was without the Town prepared a sort of a floor about 20 Feet long, and 10 or 12. broad, thinly covered with glowing Coals, over which they walked Six or eight Times, and at every turn cooled their feet in a puddle of Water next by. But this frightfull thing might be done by any body, that would take but a little Courage. Because the Soles of these Peoples feet are so thick and Callous, that about noon, when the Sun sometimes heats the ground exceedingly, they will walk barefoot over the sand, though so hot, that a European can hardly endure to do it with Shoes and Stockings.

When these People are about their Solemnities it is not the proper time to talk to them, because their mind is so engaged and inebriated with the sensual shew, that no other thing, can make an Impression upon them, and there is Commonly such a Crowd, Noise and hurry, that one must take Care how to come out again. But it is of service to a Missionary to acquaint himself as much as can be with all the Customs and ways of this Country, as it furnishes him with matter for Refutation and Instruction. And these peoples are so cunning, that when they find a European, unacquainted with their ways, they will talk in a very high Strain, and even,