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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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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 Malabar 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,

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make Mystical applications, but they forbear, as soon as they find, that one has a Knowledge of their renowned Solemn Things.

23. . . . After several Impediments and delays we Administered to Day the first time the Sacrament to the Malabarian Congregation, Besides us the Communicants were three Men and three Women, partly of our domesticks, and partly Servants of the Company.

Likewise to day H. preached his first Malabarian Sermon upon the first Article of the Creed. So we had to day a double reason to acknowledge and thank Divine goodness for carrying us further in our Business, and are excited to hope, that we shall see yet more assistance and progress.

In the latter end of this Month, another Malabarian Boy was admitted to the English Lessons.

We continue to preach in the Portuguese Congregation upon the Epistle to the Romans, and in the daily Catechisations the literal explanation of the first Epistle to the Corinthians has been begun.

The Malabarian Sermons have chiefly been upon Luke the XXIV.

After some interchange of Letters, at last the Reverend Mr. Howard wrote us from Madras, that the affair about our Silver &c. had been recommended to Governor Benyon, and this his Honour had engaged himself to take care that every thing should be managed to our desire.

31. . . . We Received a Letter from Mr. Schulze, in which he promised upon our desire to procure us 200 Pagodas more. This was very acceptable to us, being reduced exceedingly at the end of this Month.

June.

8. . . . H. begun to day to Catechize in the Malabarian Language the few grown Children of our Congregation, to which Instruction the Catechumens are likewise Admitted. He intends with Divine Assistance to do this Thrice every week.

21. . . . The Matrimony of one of our Malabarian Congregation was solemnized, after the banns had been Published on Three preceding Sundays.

In the Malabarian Sermons one of us has begun to preach upon some Psalms of David, and the other upon the Articles of the Christian Faith.

After a mature deliberation we dismissed this Month the Old Man, who hitherto had served us a Malabarian Schoolmaster. It was a long Time before we could come to this Revolution, being very sensible that Things are not always the better for changing. But we found at last a