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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

**Geister, Johann Ernst
Kiernander, Johann Zacharias**

Cuddalore, 03.01.1742-27.12.1742

November 1742

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

To the Corinthians, according to a resolution in our Conference.

In the Malabarian Congregation we have preached hitherto partly on some Psalms and partly on Gospel Lessons.

November.

2. In the evening arrived from Madras at Fort St. Davids
Mr. Monson, being sent down as Commissary and Provisional
Deputy Governor, and at the same time Mr. Burton's Commission
was declared void and of no effect.
3. We went over to Fort St. Davids and payed our respects to the
● New Governor.
7. Some time ago a Dutch Gentleman, Myn Heer Nieuwenhaysen,
Resident in the Dutch Factory at Dewanapattam Town (to the North
and within the limits of Fort St. Davids) had desired us to Christen one
of his Slaves who had hitherto been instructed by a ^{Country} Portuguese who serves
amongst the Dutch as a Schoolmaster. As the slave on an Examination,
was found to have a Tolerable knowledge of Christian Religion, he was
Christened to day with the name of Salander, according to his Masters
● desires. His Age is about 16 Years.
19. A Highgerman born in the same provinces with one of us, visited
and acquainted us with his Circumstances in the following way. he had been
in East India about 20 Years, and first served the Dutch Company as a
Military man, but a hasty unlucky accident, for which he dreading a severe
Punishment, happening, made him desert and engage afterwards with the
French. He carried with him a Woman of the Gentou cast whom he had
kept only, not being permitted in his Station to marry, according to the orders
of the Dutch Company. Having served the French for some time at
Pondicheri (about 5 Leagues to the North of Fort of St. Davids.)
and having had two Children by her, he desired to have her Christened and

Marry her in a Christian way.

Applying himself on that behalf to the French Clergymen there they ^{con-}sented, and began to instruct the woman in their way, but told him afterwards, that in order to be married with her, he must turn Roman Catholic, which he plainly protested against. As he found after some endeavours, that it was impossible to help the thing otherwise, and knowing that there were Protestant Clergymen in this place, he resolved to desire his discharge from the French, (as having served them above the times of his engagement) and to enter himself in the English service as a Soldier. And was chiefly on a Religious account, that he came to this place, he desired our Assistance to instruct and Baptize the Woman, and afterwards marry him with her. We told him that we were always ready to do what belonged to our Function and the Woman being present, and upon asking her Opinion, likewise expressed her desire that way, we Promised to take care that things should be done Accordingly, and that she might come to our houses as often as could conveniently be. She Manrepresents, that she was Big and near her delivery, and desired we might instruct her only in what was most Necessary, that she might be Christened before her Lying in. We engaged to take care afterwards of sending her to hear Sermons &c. in order to be further instructed. We promised him to do all, what could be fairly be done.

15. A day arrived here. M^r. Fabricius from Tranquebar, being appointed to succeed M^r. Schultze in Madras. He resolved to stay few Days with us.

17. A Slave Boy of a Gentleman at Fort S^t. Davids was on his Masters desire admitted to our School.

19. M^r. Fabricius departed.

(11)

21. The before mentioned Woman, was Christened to Day with the name of Magdalena, and afterwards the bands of Matrimony were published, a Certificate from the Secretary having been Produced, that the Governor had given leave for the same. And on the

28. The Matrimony was Confirmed.

About the end of this Month a servant of one of the Dutch Gentlemen from Portonovo (who on Account of new Troubles in the Country have been Necessitated to come again to this place) asked leave to come now and then to our School, to learn Portuguese, which was granted him.

Upon the intercession of the Corresponding Gentlemen in Madras the Hon.^{ble} Governor Benyon has consented, to pay the Protestant Missionaries such a Quantity of Spanish Silver as according to the Invoices is kept for them in the Company's Storehouses at Policattip. This was agreeable News to us, and we had desired already M^r. Fabricius before his departure, to do his best that the Silver might be Sold the sooner the better.

Though we have endeavoured hitherto under Divine blessing to carry things so far, as to Baptize at least some of our Catechumens, yet we have found weighty reasons, to be cautious, and it has been an exercise of patience to us, to see new Difficulties arise, when we had taken all possible care to remove old ones, and to condescend in every thing to the utmost. We rely therefore upon the gracious assistance of God Almighty, who is the only true Promoter of our Business.

December.

1. Died one of our Malabarrian Congregation. John, who served the Hon.^{ble} Company as a Soldier, and was interred in the English Burying place in Cuddalore.
9. We had a Letter from Madras, that by the care of M^r. Schultze the Silver is now sold, which the Hon.^{ble} Governor Benyon has been pleased