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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 01.01.1743-27.12.1743

9. März 1743

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place hearing of it freely offered me their hopes, which kindness I accepted, and found a remarkable benefit by it. And being a little better, I ventured to preach three or four times a Portuguese sermon, which requires not so much application of mind, as the Malabarian, but it had once such an effect upon my body, as to cause almost an entire relapse, so that I was obliged of again till I shall find myself more recovered.

March

With the beginning of this month we began according to our resolution to fit up another room for the Portuguese School.

The Son of a catechumen was taken into the Malabarian School. We see now with pleasure and thankfulness to God that our business goeth on better & better, even in our Portuguese School and congregation, so that some times our Hall is just big enough for the Auditory.

Some of our Catechumens have been hitherto hindered from coming to the catechizing, because in this climate is now great harvest which requires their

Daily attendance.

9. Ju. taking a walk this evening for exercise met in the Cuddalore Ferryboat several inhabitants, who after crossing the River went towards the Fort. I accompanied them, and began the discourse upon an affair which had happened few days ago in these parts. There is to the Southwest from hence in the Tanjaur country a famous Holy Place called Kumbagonam, about 20 leagues from Cuddalore, where there is every twelfth Year a great Feast which happened to ~~be~~ be this Year, to which a vast number of people go on pilgrimage and a great many Cuddalore people went likewise. They have at Kumbagonam an extraordinary renowned Sanctifying pond, though as I heard afterwards, there is more mud than water in it at this season. In this muddy water they wash themselves and every one according to his abilities or inclination leaves something behind him, some people Coconuts, Plantains &c. others money or other things made of Gold or Silver. ~~to be~~ The Bramans pick up the eatables but the Gold and Silver belong to the King of Tanjohaur,

of whom some people farm it. According to common report, this year the farm amounted to 20000 Pagodas, and it was thought that the farmer would sell up to the value of near 30000, though for this report there is no proof. I asked my Companions, if these people who had visited that Place had reaped some benefit by it, and if after their return they had appeared more virtuous than before. I told them what some of their own people in a satirical way speak against these things, viz: that once one of their Pilgrims had carried a sort of a bumpkin (which outwardly looks like an eatable one, but is so bitter that it cannot be eat) to Bengal, to dip it with the usual forms in the river Ganges, but that this caused no change at all in the bumpkin. They had hardly any thing to say, but began to be merry upon one of the Company, who had been lately at Kumbagoram. But I told them, that railing would not mend the matter, and therefore asked what they thought, how much money might have been carried out of the Place on that occasion, to which they answered: about 400 Pagodas, which however was spoke only at random. I asked further

further, why this money must be carried to the Tan-
jaur Country and if the inhabitants here found them-
selves disposed to be charitable, if they could not
spend that money within the limits, where there were
helpless people and opportunities enough for true cha-
rity. They could not give a direct answer but spoke
only in an evasive way. On though to vindicate
himself with their usual evasion, that there must be
several ways of worship and devotion according to the
difference of nations, their temper &c. To which I gave
the proper answer, and added a simile that as we
were going together towards the Fort, we must necessa-
rily go to the North, and it would be a very idle
thing, to say, that as I was a white man, and they
of another complexion, in going from Cuddalore to
the Fort, one party must go to the east and another
to the North. As we were going on in this manner, I
met a Gentleman coming from the Fort, with whom
I had something to talk, which separated me from
my companions.

17 Mr Nohhoff and Zeglin came back again from Madras
and stayed with us till the 19th and then set out for
Tranquebar. We have endeavoured to make our conversation

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