

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Auszug aus dem Tagebuch von John Wesley

Wesley, John

Savannah, Ga., 09.02.1736

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Febr. 9.

In the afternoon y^e Boat not being yet come, which was to carry Mr: Spang: and his people to Savannah, we took a walk on y^e Shore, in which Time I had an opportunity of Learning several particulars both with regard to himself and y^e Church at Herrnhut, the account he gave of Himself, was this:

I was left without Father and Mother when I was but 10 years old, from that age to 18 I lived without the fear of God. I was send to y^e University of Jena, where I spend some Time in learning y^e Languages and the vain Philosophy, which I have been labouring ever since to forget, here it pleased God by some, who preached his word with power, to overturn my Heart. I threw away all learning but what tended to save my Soul, I shunned all Company, I retired into a desert and resolved to spend y^e remainder of my Life there. For 3 Days I found great Comfort here, but on y^e 4th it was otherwise. I then went to ask ye advice of an experienced Christian, when I came to him, I could not speak, but he saw my Heart, and advised me to go back to my house and follow ye business, providence should assign me. I went back to my House, but was fit for nothing. I could neither do any business nor join any Conversation, all I could say to them, who spoke to me was but yes or no, many times I could not say that nor understand what they said to me, all my friends and acquaintance looked upon me as dead, came no more to me nor spoke or thought of me. When I began to recover, I set upon teaching some poor Children, others join'd with me, till there were about 40 of us and 300 of the Children. I was now desired by several Universities to accept of the place of Professor of Divinity or Philosophy, but I utterly refused it, and begged of God with my whole Heart, that I might not be famous, but very little and unknown. After I had spent some years in this Employment, Professor Breithaupt at Hall died. That University earnestly pressed me by their Letters, to accept of his Professorship. I thought, God call'd me thither, and therefore went. I had not been there long before the Director of ye University

found many Faults with my Behaviour and Preaching, they grew more and more dissatisfied and after $\frac{1}{2}$ a year wrote a Petition to ye King of Pruss: to displace me. He send an Order to ye Commander of Hall, in pursuance whereof I was warn'd (without any hearing) to leave the City in 48 hours. I ret^{ed} to Herrnhut to Count Zinzendorf, whom I had known for several years. I wrote to ye Directors, that I desired to know my Crimes, but they never send an answer. I could easily have cleared myself by a Publick Defence from all the Imputations, they had cast upon me, but I feared, it might lessen the Success of their Ministry, and therefore chose to be Silent. Count Zinzendorf is about 36 years old, he hath been full of ye Love of God from a Child, inso much that he hath sometimes own'd, he never felt the Love of ye World one quarter of an hour in his Life. The Church in Herrnhut consists of near a 1000 Persons, gathered out of all parts in Germany, they all hold fast the discipline as well as the Faith and Practice of the Apostolical Age. I was desired by the Brotherhood last year to conduct about 15 of them to Georgia, where one Lot of Land was assign'd them near ye Town of Savannah and another in the Country, and with them I have stay'd ever since.

I then asked him whither he was going next.

He answer'd, I have some Thoughts to go to Pensilvania, where are about 100 of my Countrymen, driven by Persecution out of their own Country, who have neither means of Subsistence where they are, nor Money to transport them to Georgia, if it pleases God that I shall be usefull to them, I shall be glad, and if not, I shall be glad also. What he will do with me, I know not, or whither he will send me next, I know not. I am blind, I am a Child, it is all one to me, my Father knows, and I will go wherever he call's me.