

BOOKS Printed and Sold by *J. Downing* in *Bartholomew-Close* near *West-Smithfield*, 1710.

AN Essay upon the Execution of the Laws against Immorality and Prophaneness. With a Preface addressed to Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace. The 2d Edition enlarged.

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Propagation of the Gospel
in the EAST:

PART II.

Containing a further
ACCOUNT of the PROGRESS
made by some

Missionaries to Tranquebar,
Upon the Coast of
COROMANDEL,
For the Conversion of the

Malabarians;

Of the METHODS by them taken,
for the effecting of this great Work;
of the Obstructions they meet with in
it; and of the Proposals which they
make.

TOGETHER WITH
Some Observations relating to the *Malabarian*
Philosophy and Divinity: And concerning
their *Bramans, Pantares, and Poets.*

Translated and Extracted from the Original Letters
of the said Missionaries lately arrived: And
most humbly Recommended to the Consideration of
the most Honourable CORPORATION for the
Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. Downing in
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near Somerset-house in the Strand, 1710.

Propaganda of the Gospel
in the East

Part I

General Principles

Account of the Propaganda

Method of the Propaganda

Corromptions

Reformation

Misstatements

Of the Method of the Propaganda

for the purpose of this work

of the Propaganda and within

it; and of the Propaganda which they

make.

TOGETHER WITH

an account of the Propaganda

in the East

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T O T H E
R E A D E R.

WHereas God in his infinite Mercy hath been pleased, in these latter Days, to inspire some Souls, with a more than common Vigour, for carrying on the Work of Reformation; the happy Effect resulting from thence, speaks already loud of so glorious and charitable an Enterprize. Not to mention the noble Effect such Efforts have produced in several Parts of Europe, being obvious to every one that doth not wilfully shut his Eye against it; one can't but take Notice of that enlarged Charity, which hath mov'd some so far, as to go beyond the Borders of Christendom, and to scatter some Rays of Christian Knowledge, both in the Eastern and Western Paganism.

It can't be expected, that in a succinct prefatory Discourse as this is designed to be, I should set out the Usefulness of so generous a Design; much less, that I should go about to enumerate that christian Success wherewith it hath been bless'd already. However, I can't but mention in a few Words, what hath been done in the EAST, and what might be further effected, if the Design now in Hand should, under the gracious Influence of the Lord, meet with any favourable Encouragement from the Christian Nations in Europe.

In the Year 1705, the King of Denmark resolved upon sending some Missionaries to Tranquebar, upon the Coast of Coromandel, to attempt the Conversion of the Malabar-Heathens, inhabiting that Country. The University of HALL being applied to for furnishing Persons on so hazardous an Enterprize, Two young Divines, bred in the said University, were singled out for this Undertaking; who, after having embarked about the latter End of November 1705, arrived at last at Tranquebar in July 1706. What Progress they have made hitherto, what Impediments obstructing their Design, they have met with, together with the

To the Reader.

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ingular Providence that hath attend-
d them, hath been publish'd from their
own Letters, for an Edification of the
English Reader, in the Year 1709.

But the Design did not end with those
Two Missionaries. They soon perceived
how great the Harvest was in these Parts,
and how few Hands, to carry on a Work of
so great an Importance. Therefore at their
earnest Solicitation, Three more have been
sent after them. These arrived at the
Cape of Good-Hope, in the Month of
April 1709, and from thence gave an Ac-
count to their Correspondents in Denmark
and Germany, of what might be helpful
to them for furthering the Errand they
were going on in the East. The Knowledge
of the Portuguese Language, and a new
Edition of the NEW-TESTAMENT in
this Tongue, are recommended to such, as
perhaps in Time might follow them, as
MEANS highly conducive for Propaga-
ting the Gospel in the East. But this
latter being now very scarce, or sold at least
at a very high Rate, a new Impression will
be required, whereby to answer the Expe-
ctation of our Missionaries. And 'tis hoped,
some will be moved to lay to Heart so chari-
table a Design, and thereby support a Work
so

so happily begun in these Parts. By such a Return of a spiritual Benefit, the temporal Riches our Europeans have drawn hitherto from the Heathen World, would prove a greater Blessing to the Christians themselves, and our most holy Religion would thereby in some Degree appear again like a City that is set on an Hill, and may be seen at a Distance.

Certainly, there is nothing more susceptible of melting Impressions, than the Religion establish'd by CHRIST. It softens the Heart into most tender Inclinations. It is of a communicative and overflowing Nature; whereas "Wicked Men (to use the Words of a very worthy Writer,*) are of most narrow and confined Spirits; they are so contracted by the pinching Particularities of earthly and created things, so imprisoned in a dark Dungeon of Sensuality and Selfishness, so straitned through their carnal Designs and Ends, that they cannot stretch themselves, nor look beyond the Horizon of Time and Sense". Truly, a Soul that is made Partaker of this divine Amplitude will expose her self to Hazards and Difficulties, to prevent the eternal Ruin of others.

* Mr. Smith's Select Discours. p. 394.

others. And if it makes those that are rooted in it, lay down their Lives for the Brethren; then without doubt, such must be utter Strangers to it, as stick to lay down a little Money for these that are in the way to come over to it.

We see how eager those of the Romish Party are, to push on their Designs up and down the Heathen World, extending themselves from the East to the West. Nothing is more frequently, or loudly objected by them against us, than the Conversions they have made amongst Heathens, both in the East and in the West, and of the extreme Readiness and Zeal of great Numbers of their Clergy, to expose themselves to all manner of Perils, both by Sea and by Land, for the Propagation of the Christian Faith in the Infidel World. And it is well known, that some of 'em have boasted, when they are maintaining theirs to be the Catholick Church, that their Loss in Europe, by what they call the Northern Heresy, has been more than made up to them, by the Accession of such vast Numbers to their Communion, as within these Two last Centuries have been added to them,

them, from among the Heathen Nations.

I know, what the common Evasion of Protestants, in Relation to the Popish Missionaries is, viz. that they do not act upon a good Principle; that they have no other End in what they undertake, than to promote the Interest of their Party, which at last would prove an undermining, rather than an advancing the Gospel of Christ. But as on one Hand, I don't design at all, to justify the Conduct of the Roman-Catholick Missionaries; (their Method being generally too slight and unbecoming, the Gravity of a Missionary of Christ;) so on the other, I can't see, with what Reason, Protestants should act nothing because they observe others act irregularly. Certainly, if the Roman Missionaries act upon a selfish Foundation, Protestants ought to act on a more solid One. If they act upon a partial Principle, Protestants ought to act upon a Principle more universal, more favouring of the Spirit of Christ, more attended with universal Love and Benignity. If the Method of Roman-Catholicks seems too shallow, deadish, and superficial to us; Protestants ought then to carry

CONVERSATION the fittest Vehicle to convey down the most unwelcome Truths. He will wipe off thereby that dismal Stain, where-with the luxurious and vicious Lives of many professing themselves *Christians*, but not answering their Profession, have bespattered & disgraced the Religion of our Lord. The Complaints about the corrupt Manners of such degenerate Christians, are repeated over and over again in the following Collection of Letters, and the main *Hindrance* thence resulting, set out as almost impregnable and insuperable. The same hath been complained of by other Writers and Eye-Witnesses of these horrid Villanies of the Christians, so far besotted with the Pursuit after Pleasures, and hoarding up of Riches in the heathen World, that even the Name of a *Christian* has been rendered on this very Account, scandalous to a Proverb.

§. 21. The Gentleman that attended Sir *Thomas Roe*, in his Embassy to the Great *Mogul* in the Time of King *James I.* and about the Year 1615. confirms in his Description of the Territories of that Prince (b) what hath been complained of by our Missionaries in their Letters. "It is a most sad and horrible Thing, says he, "to consider, what Scandal there is brought upon the Christian Religion by the Looseness and Remissness, by the Exorbitancies of many which come amongst them, who profess themselves *Christians*; of whom I have often heard the Natives (who live near the Port where

(b) *Voyage to East-India*, p. 418. added to the *Travels of Pietro della Valle*, and printed in English at London. 1665.

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“ our Ships arrive), say thus in broken *English*,
 “ which they have gotten: *Christian Religion*,
Devil Religion; *Christian much drunk*, *Christian*
much do wrong, *much beat*, *much abuse others*.
 Where he also takes Notice of the exact Justice
 and Honesty of the *Hindooes*, or Heathens tra-
 ding with the Christians: These, after having
 set the lowest Rate to the Goods exposed to
 sale, and being yet offered far less by the Christians
 in these Bargainings, were apt to say: *What*
doest thou think me a Christian, that I would go a-
bout to deceive thee? Where this Author at last
 concludes: “ Truly, it is a sad Sight there, to
 “ behold a drunken Christian, and a sober *Indian*:
 “ a temperate *Indian*, and a Christian given up
 “ to his Appetite: An *Indian* that is just and
 “ square in his Dealing, a Christian not so;
 “ laborious *Indian*, and an idle Christian; as if
 “ he were born only to fold his Arms, &c. O
 “ what a sad thing is it for Christians, to come
 “ short of *Indians*, even in *Moralities*! come
 “ short of those, who themselves believe, to come
 “ short of Heaven!

§. 22. Alas! how would it be possible, to
 propagate the Soundness of Religion by Words,
 whilst the Life spreads nothing but a general
 Contagion of spiritual Distempers? To set out
 the Lustre and Nobleness of Christianity, whilst
 the Life and Conversation darkens its Serenity
 with Filth and Sensuality? To declare the
 Worth and Dignity of Christian Religion, and
 yet abandon the Life to the base Government
 of the Senses? To fasten the Mind of others
 upon the invisible Rewards of a future World;
 and

and yet at the same time be entirely taken up with the Concerns of what is present?

§. 23. This most obstinate Prejudice will never be removed, but by a *LIFE* suited to the Doctrine. 'Twas St. Paul's Exhortation to Timothy 1 Epist. IV. 12: *Be thou an Example of the Believers in Word, in Conversation, in Charity, in Spirit, in Faith, in Purity.* And the same Apostle bids Titus, Ch. II. 7. to be a *Pattern of good Works, &c.* — *that he that is of the contrary part, may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.* Truly, the Power of Religion burning within, and shining through the Life and Conversation of a Christian, carries a secret Sting of Conviction with it; being the fittest Means to soften the most obstinate Sinners into some Degree of Approbation of a divine Life. Good Examples, where they appear, use to stir up a Spirit of holy Emulation: And are generally accompanied with some attractive Charm, to awaken others to Imitation. “ It is a certain and experienced Truth, (to express my Mind in the Words of the excellent Lord Chief Justice *Hales*) (c) that Virtue and Goodness, especially that of Humility, hath a secret Party and Interest, even in the worst of Men; and Men secretly love, or at least approve it in another, though they practise it not themselves. For Virtue, Goodness and Humility, hath a secret Congruity to the true and genuine Frame of the humane Nature; and though Men's Lusts and Passions may in a great Measure obscure the Consonancy to it, they can never extinguish

(c) *Contemplat. part I. p. 162.*

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“ it ; but the Mind and Conscience will give a
“ secret Suffrage to it, wherever it finds it.

§. 24. There is another *Qualification* of a true Missionary and Ambassador of Jesus Christ; which we cannot here altogether omit, whereby every one that takes on him this Office, ought first to try and examine himself: And that is, the *Spirit of Martyrdom*. For without this, there can be no great Advantage here expected: since, had not the Prophets and Apostles been ready, on all Occasions, to seal their Testimony with their Lives, and boldly confessed the Truth without Fear; they would have gained but few Profelytes for certain, if any at all. And we should have been in as gross Darkness at this Day, as the most ignorant of Heathens, whether in the *East* or the *West*, that we, it may be, pretend to have a Charity for. But if indeed we have a *true* Charity for them, and seek, as we ought, the eternal Salvation of their Souls, benighted and lost in so thick a Darkness, we shall not be unwilling to lay down our Lives for them, and for so glorious an End; being our selves herein as secure as it is possible to be, that we also shall be no Losers by it; but, on the contrary, Gainers to the highest Degree.

§ 25. Wherefore a true Missionary, both for the Enlargement of the Kingdom of his Lord, and for the Joy that is set before him, will endeavour above all, to finish the Warfare committed to him, with Patience: and looking stedfastly to Christ, both the Author and Finisher of his Mission, will, after his Example, and the Examples of that great Cloud of Martyrs, with which he stands compassed about, offer up his Body upon such Considerations

the Character of a Missionary. xxi

siderations as these ; and with him, and them, *endure the Cross*, without being wearied, or faint, in his Mind, cheerfully resisting unto Blood, and not accepting Deliverance that he may obtain a better Resurrection, and receive that Crown which is laid up for him against *that* Day. He will know of a Certainty, that he cannot in such a Cause *lose* his Life, without *finding* it : As also, if he would here *save* it, that this would be the most ready and certain way of *losing* it. He will wisely consider, that there is *no other* way, especially under such Circumstances as his are, for him to find Life, but by voluntarily losing it, and in the Cause of God and Truth, presenting his Body to be a Sacrifice. He will be sure to remember the Saying of his Lord, that *the good Shepherd giveth his Life for the Sheep*, (John X. 11, 13.) and so will labour to distinguish himself from the *Hireling* ; and conform himself to that great Exemplar of Patience and Love that is set before him, by resisting, in like Manner, even unto Death, for the Sake of the Souls that are most dear to him, and not leave his Charge through Fear, when he sees the Wolf or the Bear coming. For he knows, that by overcoming Death thus gloriously, his Life shall be hid with Christ, so that he may be *made alive* : And that to him, after this Victory obtained, it will be given to *eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God* : And that Christ will not fail, to crown him with the *Crown* which he promised to the Angel of the Church of *Smyrna*, and as many as should imitate his heroick Patience.

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§. 26. Let him fear then none of these things which he shall suffer : but remember continually what his Lord has said to him for his Encouragement : *Be thou faithful unto the Death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.* Let him go on courageously, keeping the *Word* of Christ's Patience, and copying after his *Works* unto the End ; holding that fast which he hath, even the Grace that is given him of God for the Calling in of the Heathens, and the Commission of Life to the Prisoners of Death ; That so, by reason of his Deserting, no Man may take from him his Crown. In a Word : they that would be found true *Missionaries* of Jesus Christ, let 'em seek to approve themselves as the Apostles did heretofore, and in particular, as the Angels of *Smyrna* and *Philadelphia*, with whom no Fault was found, because they fainted not under the Cross, but through Love, triumphed over all things.

§. 27. This may suffice to have been here hinted concerning some of the more common *Obstacles*, against the Propagation of the Gospel of our blessed Lord, and the Enlargement of his Kingdom, by bringing the *Fulness of the Heathens* to the Knowledge of his Name : As also concerning the properest *Methods* to be considered of by all that are any wise engaged, either at Home or Abroad, in this most pious and charitable Work ; with the *Qualifications* that are needful for those that are to be sent with such an *Apostolical* Commission. Which it was thought necessary, to premise to these *Historical Letters*, that have been lately sent from the *East-Indies*, by Persons whose Veracity cannot be questioned : And which do abundantly confirm, not only

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the Character of a Missionary. xxiii

the Want of true and faithful Missionaries in these Parts; but also the Scandal that is brought to our holy Religion, by such as outwardly there profess the same, being utter Strangers to the inward Power and Life thereof within the Soul, and by a Conversation altogether unchristian, or antichristian, crucifying to themselves afresh the Lord of Life.

§. 28. And further, it manifestly appears from these Relations, that a *supernatural* Assistance is here of absolute Necessity; and so to be waited upon, without putting any Trust in the best and most probable Methods, For let *Paul* be never so good a *Planter*, or *Apollos* with never so much Care and Diligence *water* what is by him planted; yet is neither *Paul* any thing, nor *Apollos* any thing, but God is *ALL*, and to God alone must *all* the Glory be given, it being He only that *giveth the Encrease*. Marvellous are the Footsteps of Divine Providence, which have always attended the Conversion of Nations to the Faith; That it might appear to be of God, not of Man: and that nothing less than a Divine Power be able to awaken the Souls that sleep in spiritual Darkeness, and to give them a true Knowledge of Jesus Christ; whom to *know after the Spirit*, is Life everlasting, and whom to serve, according to this Knowledge, is both the highest Nobility and most perfect Freedom.

§. 29. Wherefore, if God hath put into the Hearts of any an earnest Desire of advancing the Glory of his Name, by *propagating Christian Knowledge*, whether at Home or Abroad; let them not doubt, but God will also assist his own Motions in every one, and perfect his own Work,

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through

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through all manner of Difficulties, and the united Opposition of wicked Men and Spirits. How wonderfully God hath already appear'd for his own Honour, in the Foundation of this Mission, and the Prosecution thereof hitherto, will be here evidently seen, from the Relations that are given in these Letters, particularly in what relates to the Conversion and Conduct of that *Indian*, who at first met them. (See Letter 6th.)

§. 30. Whatever Discouragements therefore they may meet with from the Part of Man, if this be indeed the Work of God, and they abide *Faithful* unto the End, (as it is hoped) not sinking under the sundry Trials, which in an undertaking of this Nature they are to expect; there is no doubt, but God will, of his abundant Mercy, continue to them his Gracious Assistance, and gloriously crown his own Work so happily begun, let the prejudices be never so strong raised hitherto by the Heathens, against the TRUTH of Christianity, from the *disorderly and worse than Heathenish Behaviour* of such Christians, as deny Christ *before Men*, and can expect no less, than to be deny'd by Him again *before the Angels of God*. For most certain it is, that in the Colonies and Factories the Christians have abroad, to the greatest Scandal of our Faith, Christ is as much deny'd by the wicked and dissolute Lives of those that are call'd by his Name, as if he were openly deny'd by express Words. Since this denial of Christ is not only in Words, when by the Mouth we renounce Him, and our Faith and Interest in Him; but much more, and indeed more powerfully, when in our *Actions* we crucify the Son of God, and in our *Lives* resist his Spirit; thereby not only playing the Heathen

under

under the Name and Mask of Christians, but doing all that is possible, to keep the Heathens and other Infidels from coming into the Pale of the Christian Dispensation; and furnishing the Adversaries of Christianity with Arguments against the Divinity of its own Institution.

§. 31. All which will, I think, be made to appear manifestly from this *Collection of Letters*; which gives us a just Idea of the Sentiments and *Prejudices* of Heathens, with respect to the Christian Religion and its Professors; with proper Hints to be observ'd by as many as are inspir'd with a Zeal for *propagating the Gospel* of our Lord in *Foreign Parts*. And indeed, it must be acknowledg'd, that both the *East* and *West-Indians* have some *Rational Prejudices* against the *European* Christians coming to them, and the *Methods* generally taken for planting a Form of Christianity among 'em. These are worthy of the Consideration of all that are any wise employ'd in so laudable an Undertaking, as the spreading of the Gospel of Truth, and recovering of Souls out of Darkness into Light; as without which all their Designs, both at Home and Abroad, will certainly prove Abortive; and very few, if any Conquest will be made upon the Kingdom of Satan, for the Enlargement of the *CATHOLICK* Church. An Account of some of these prejudices was not many Years ago, given by a Letter of one of the *Three Swedish Missionaries*, from about the River *Sasquahanah* in *America*: "as particularly concerning the State
" of the Heathen World, the Common Reason
" of Mankind, or the Light of Nature, and
" the Quakers Light; the Nature of Divine
" Reve-

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“ Revelation, and the Authority of the Scrip-
“ tures of the Old and New Testament; the
“ manifold Dispensation of God’s Providence,
“ and his Method in Rewards and Punishments,
“ whether Temporary or Eternal; concerning
“ Prescription, or Tradition, and the pretended
“ Humility of submitting one’s Judgment to his
“ Elders: And lastly, concerning the direct
Contradiction of the Lives of Christians to the Doctrine
they profess, as has been already said.

§.32 This *Swedish* Mission was undertaken in the Year 1697. But it soon appear’d, that there could be but little Hope of an Harvest among the Heathens of those Parts, so long as so many strong Prejudices were remaining, unanswered by the Christians; and without a special Assistance of the Divine Grace and Power, bearing Testimony to the Truth of a Religion trampled upon by its own Professors. The discouraging Accounts, which both they and others have given of this matter, may serve abundantly to convince us, as of the Insufficiency of all *Humane* Methods, tho’ carry’d on with sincerity, so of the the Necessity of the *Divine* Interposition, in order to effect what is here propounded. The Account that was given by the *Swedes*, was indeed of very Melancholy Consideration. An Abstract whereof was in *English*, Printed in the *Memoirs for the Curious* of the Year 1701. (d) And that what is given by these *Danish* Missionaries will doubtless also afford several Reflections in all true Christian Hearts, as to the exceeding great Difficulty of this Glorious Design, as well as to the Power of God, manifesting it

(d) *Num. I. Art. VI, Printed for A. Baldwin.*

self

through weak and inconsiderable Instruments.

§. 33. But here it will be expected, that something should be said, as to the *Persons* themselves, that were moved to go, in confidence of the Divine Aid, on so unpromising a Mission. Now then for these, by whom the *Letters* here Publish'd were written, and sent to their Correspondents in Europe, the Reader is to know, that they were both Natives of *Germany*: One of them, viz. Bartholomew Ziegenbalgh, being born at *Pulsnitz* in *Misnia*; and the other, viz. Henry Plutschka at *Vesenberg*, in the Dutchy of *Mecklenburg*. They were both Protestants, according to the Confession of *Ausbourg*. They were Educated at *Berlin* under the Inspection of the Reverend Mr. Joachimus Langius, that hath a Cure of Souls there, and is besides Rector of one of the Publick Schools in that Royal City. And this is the Gentleman who has successively Publish'd this Collection of Letters in *High-Dutch*; some of them being address'd to him by the said Missionaries, from whom probably they receiv'd also the first Directions for laying a sure and firm Foundation in Piety, as well as in Learning.

§. 34. After they had imbib'd here, while they were under his Care, the Principles, at least, of a more solid and substantial Learning, and got a *Tast* of true Theology; they were sent to the University of *Hall*, and committed to the further Care and Education of the Divinity-Professors there. Under whose Conduct they made no small Proficiency, being day by day more and more form'd to a Virtuous and Religious Life, and inspired with Generous and Chri-

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Christian Resolutions, from a sound sense begun ten in them of the Things of Religion, and of the present State of Christianity in the World

§. 35. When in the Year 1705. the King of Denmark resolved upon sending some Missionaries to *Tranquebar*, upon the Coast of *Coromandel*, to attempt the Conversion of the *Malabar-Heathens* inhabiting that Country; the University of *Havre* was applied to, to furnish such Persons as were thought proper, for undertaking a Design of so great an importance. And thus it was the lot of the two Candidates aforesaid, to be pitched upon for this Work; who being sent to *Copenhagen*, readily ingaged in this Function, after having been for that End ordained by the Bishop of that place. What Progress they have made in this Work after their arrival, and what Difficulties they have struggled with, to lay the first Foundation towards it, is in part related in the Letters here following.

§. 36. The Work hath met with an universal Approbation wherever it hath been known hitherto. Those that at first look'd upon it as an Undertaking too *Hazardous*, and attended with insuperable Difficulties, seem now to be more favourably dispos'd towards it. And since we are credibly inform'd, that according to the desire of these two Missionaries now in the *East-Indies*, (e) two more have been sent over from *Denmark* to assist them in so weighty an Enterprize; we may hope from the Goodness of God, that he will second the Work once begun, and revive in some of our *European* Christians, a

(e) See the Letter pag. 74.

of Catholick Love and Charity, generously to employ part of their substance, to advance thereby the Good of the Church Universal, and the Propagation of our Holy Faith among Infidels.

§. 27. For as in the the first plantation of the Gospel by the Apostles of our Lord, there was even notwithstanding the miraculous Powers attending them, occasion for *stirring up the Charity of the Brethren* for this very End, as from St. Pauls Epistles is evident: So in the present Dispensation we are under, and that low Ebb of Religion we are come to, much more must we stand in need of outward Helps and Subsidies for carrying on successfully a Work of this Nature; which it is not doubted, but some charitably-disposed Persons and well-Wishers to the Church Universal, will readily afford, as laying up thereby in store for themselves a good Foundation against the time to come. Whence they may not only be ready, but even *glad*, to distribute of their temporal Substance towards such a Work as this: As well knowing, that it will then be most eminently *sanctified*, whenever it comes to be laid out for edifying of the mystical Body of Christ, and promoting His Kingdom among Heathens; that so the ancient glorious Prophecies concerning the Ex- tent hereof, may have their full Completion in Time. Of this we are not this Day left without all Hope; it having pleased God in these very Dregs of Time, to excite many Souls, both in this and other Nations, to form Designs, and to make Attempts, for the Increase of Christs Kingdom, and the spreading of it in the remotest Parts of the Earth: Which may be as little Beginnings, or Preparations, to what may be expected yet to come to pass,

out

xxx *A Preliminary Discourse concerning*
out of the exceeding abundant Grace, and Love
of God towards the Work of his own Hands.

§. 38. Truly, any one that is himself a true
Member of Christ, must needs be melted in
most tender Inclinations towards the poor de-
luded Pagans, by such endearing Marks
God's overflowing Goodness as he has had conferred
on him: And will feel a yearning of his Bowels
for so many Millions of Souls remaining still un-
der the Power of Satan, unto whom the Light
of the Gracious Gospel hath not yet appeared.
Verily, whosoever brings a *Willing Offering*, to-
wards the Release of these Captives, be it either
by hearty *Prayer*, or by good *Advice*, or by
outward *Supplies*, or by any other Means, tending
to the Enlargement of the Church, will not lose
his Reward in that Day, wherein even a Cup of
Cold Water shall not be forgotten. Every Gift (whether
Temporal or Spiritual) that is bestowed on
each Member, is given to *PROFIT* withal: that
so the whole Body may be edify'd in Christ Je-
sus. 'Tis LOVE makes the Circulation.

§. 38. When these *Letters* appear'd first in Ger-
many, they left up and down a very good Impres-
sion upon Peoples Minds, abundance being exci-
ted by them, heartily to wish well to so Christian
an Undertaking, and to favour the same according
to their Ability. The Request for being supply'd
with some charitable Relief by the Christians of
Europe, for the Maintenance of such *Malabarians*
as have left all they had, to follow Christ, and
could not be 'deter'd from entering even naked
into the sacred Lists of Christianity; has
produced already a most noble effect. The Sum
which was hereupon at several times transmi-
ted to the Reverend Professor *Franck* at Ha-

the Character of a Missionary. xxxi

for this End, by well-disposed Souls, did amount to *Twelve Hundred Rix-dollars*: The which has been made over, for the Use aforesaid, by the Fleet that sail'd lately from *Denmark* to these Parts. Now, as this shews, that there is still a remainder left of that true Christian Love, which is *Universal*, influencing at this Day some Souls that are hidden from the World ; so it is the more here to be wonder'd at, if we consider the Circumstances of a Country exhausted by many and continued Wars. However, *LOVE*, we know, is a Stock never to be exhausted.

§. 41. I cannot but gratefully acknowledge upon this Occasion, the Readiness of the Honourable united *East-India Company* at *London*, in generously offering their Assistance, so soon as they came to hear of a Project set on foot for the Conversion of these Heathens. Nor were they only willing to commit to their Ships a Parcel of Books sent from *England*, by some Well-wishers to these Missionaries ; but freely also offer'd their help for settling of a more fixt Correspondence betwixt *Europe* and those Parts of the *East-Indies*. Which, under the Blessing of God, may in time prove of very great Advantage, for advancing the Work of *Propagating Christian Knowledge among Infidels*.

§. 42. *May the Lord have Mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels and Hereticks ! And take from them all Ignorance, hardness of Heart, and Contempt of His Word : and so fetch them home to his Flock, that they may be saved among the Remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one Fold under one Shepherd JESUS CHRIST our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, World without end. Amen.*

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the Character of a Missionary.

for this land, by which the people are brought to the knowledge of the Lord, and to the love of his name. The which is the greatest blessing that can befall a people. And for this purpose, the Lord has called forth many faithful servants, who have laboured in this land, and have sown the seed of the word of life. And now, O ye people, let us consider the character of a missionary, and let us see how we may become like unto him. A missionary is one who is called of God to go forth into the world, to preach the Gospel, and to bring forth the people to the knowledge of the Lord. He is one who is willing to leave his home, his friends, and his kindred, and to go into a strange land, to live among a people who are ignorant of the Lord, and who are in bondage to sin. He is one who is willing to endure all manner of hardships, and to suffer all manner of persecution, for the sake of the Gospel. He is one who is willing to give up his life, if need be, for the sake of his Master. He is one who is full of love, and who is ready to lay down his life for his brethren. He is one who is full of faith, and who is confident that he shall overcome all his enemies. He is one who is full of hope, and who is looking for the day when he shall see the people whom he has laboured for, brought to the knowledge of the Lord, and living in peace and love with him. He is one who is full of joy, and who is rejoicing in the success of his mission. He is one who is full of humility, and who is acknowledging that he is but a servant of the Lord. He is one who is full of meekness, and who is gentle towards all men. He is one who is full of patience, and who is waiting for the Lord to work in the hearts of the people. He is one who is full of kindness, and who is ready to forgive the sins of his brethren. He is one who is full of compassion, and who is ready to help the poor and the needy. He is one who is full of mercy, and who is ready to show forgiveness to all who repent. He is one who is full of grace, and who is ready to give of himself to all who seek him. He is one who is full of the Spirit of God, and who is able to do all things through the strength of God. He is one who is full of the love of God, and who is able to love all men as himself. He is one who is full of the love of his brethren, and who is ready to lay down his life for them. He is one who is full of the love of the world, and who is ready to be a blessing to all who come into contact with him. He is one who is full of the love of the Lord, and who is ready to obey his commands with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength. He is one who is full of the love of the Father, and who is ready to glorify him in all things. He is one who is full of the love of the Son, and who is ready to follow him wherever he goes. He is one who is full of the love of the Holy Spirit, and who is ready to be led by him in all truth. He is one who is full of the love of the Church, and who is ready to build up the body of Christ. He is one who is full of the love of the Kingdom of God, and who is ready to bring about the reign of God on earth. He is one who is full of the love of the world, and who is ready to be a blessing to all who come into contact with him. He is one who is full of the love of the Lord, and who is ready to obey his commands with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength. He is one who is full of the love of the Father, and who is ready to glorify him in all things. He is one who is full of the love of the Son, and who is ready to follow him wherever he goes. He is one who is full of the love of the Holy Spirit, and who is ready to be led by him in all truth. He is one who is full of the love of the Church, and who is ready to build up the body of Christ. He is one who is full of the love of the Kingdom of God, and who is ready to bring about the reign of God on earth. He is one who is full of the love of the world, and who is ready to be a blessing to all who come into contact with him.

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A N
Account of the Success
O F T W O
DANISH Missionaries,
Sent to the
EAST-INDIES,
F O R T H E
CONVERSION
O F T H E
HEATHENS *in* MALABAR.

L E E T T E R I.

*Containing an Account of the Journey from
Denmark to the Cape of Good Hope.*

Dear Friends,

TH E further we find our Selves re-
moved from you, by the wonderful Pro-
vidence of God, the more fervent and
sincere grows our Love to you ; being
assured, that as we remember you both before
B God,

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God, and in our daily Conversation, to our mutual Joy and Comfort; so you, according to your wonted Love, will be no less mindful of us, and consequently gladly receive any account concerning our present Circumstances. Seing then we are by the favour of God safely arrived in this long wished for Harbour, and now lighting on a fair opportunity to convey Letters to *Europe*; we thought it our Duty, to send you the first News of our surprising Preservation and Happy Voyage to these Parts; to the Praise of God's Goodness, and Edification of many well-disposed Souls.

The 29th of *November* 1705. We imbarqued with great joy in a Ship call'd the *Princess Sophia Hedwig*, being dismissed by the well-wishers to our Undertaking with Tokens and Presents convenient for our Expedition. This we look'd upon as a pledge, that God had not left our Acquaintance contracted in *Denmark* without a Blessing. Thus attended with many hearty wishes we cheerfully went on board, hoping that the Presence of God would go before, and lovingly incline unto us the Hearts of that barbarous People we were designed for.

The 30th of *November* we set Sail, and arrived the Night following at *Helsingoebr*. Here a Mariner of our Ship tumbling down from the Main-Mast, miserably broke his Neck, to our great surprise; and another falling into the Sea, was narrowly caught by the Hair and saved. The wind being contrary, we could not move hence, till the 4th of *December* and the 6th Instant we reach'd in stormy weather a *Swedish* Harbour, not far from *Gottenbourgh*, surrounded with pleasant and delightful Rocks. Here we lay Wind-bound
for

Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope. 3

for eight Days together. The 14th of *December* we sailed again, and came the next Day into the North-Sea, where we both fell Sea-sick, but soon recovered by the Help of God. The 16th we left *Norway* on the right, and *Hitland* with other little Islands on the left; near which a Boy dead of the Small Pox was on the side of our Ship buried in the wide Sea, having before a Funeral Sermon Preach'd for him. The 22^d we sailed by the Western Islands call'd *Orcades*. After this we left *England* and *Ireland* to the left. The 27th we enter'd the *Spanish Seas*, whose towring Billows received us very stoutly, the Ship seeming as if it were carried through a deep Vale, betwixt two lofty Mountains. The sight we had of the marvellous Works of God, did not a little chear up our Spirits. And the more the Storms and Roarings of the Seas broke in upon us, the more increased the Joy and Praise of God in our Mouths; seeing we have such a potent and powerful Lord for our Father, whom we may daily approach unto, and as confident Children, put up our Prayers and Petitions to him.

The 1st of *Jan.* 1706. We met two Ships bound from *America* for *England*. At the first sight, we took them to be *French Privateers*, and our Men fell a charging their Guns, expecting to be attacked. But they perceiving our Preparations in order to receive them, suspected us likewise, none trusting to the Colours put up on both sides. At last they sent one to inform us who they were, and hearing from whence we came, we parted after a discharge of some of our Cannons. We sailed here commonly in Day and Night about forty or fifty Leagues, and pass'd at length the

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Azoran Islands, which we left on the right Hand. The 9th of *January* we drew near the Coasts of *Africa*, where the Weather began to be a little warmer. From thence sailing by the *Turkish Barbary*, we were in danger of *Pirates*; but under *God's* Protection we happily touch'd the *Canary-Islands*.

The 15th passing under the Tropick of *Cancer*, to the *Torrid Zone*, we perceived the Heat to be very excessive, attended with *Lightnings*, and terrible *Thunder-Claps*. The 20th we came to the *Souds-Islands*. The 15th we left *Cape of Verde* on the left Hand. Here we had continually, till we came to the *Equinoctical-Line*, a small side-Wind. The Heat grew so piercing, that our Crew, to get a little refreshment, would often throw themselves into the Sea, and stay therein all the while the Ship was becalmed.

The 9th of *Feb.* we pass'd at last the Line very successfully. After this we had a contrary Wind for a matter of eight Weeks together, and were quite driven upon the Coasts of *America*, and forced to Sail all along the Coast of *Brasil* towards the South, being but a few Miles from it. Under the 18th degree on this side the *Equinoctial-Line*, near the Coast of *America*, lies an Island, that is sunk into the Sea, called *Ambrothos*; and we finding our selves very near striking upon it, our Seamen were not a little afraid, that they should be obliged either to Sail back to the Line, with the side-wind that attended us, and to steer their Course up higher to the East; or that they might suffer Shipwrack unawares, as had happen'd to many before. But by the Help of *God* we safely got over this difficulty; which caused such an extraordinary joy in the whole Company, that the next

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Day was not only kept as a Day of Thanksgiving, but we had also a considerable Collection made for the Benefit of the Poor.

The 5th of *March* we passed the Tropick of *Capricorn*, being tossed up and down in the huge Ocean, according as we were driven by contrary Winds, and having passed some degrees, by Sailing forty, seventy and more Leagues. At length, we came sensibly again into the Cold, and so far towards South, as perhaps no *East-India* Ship has ever reached before. The whole Company was desirous to put in at the *Cape*, partly to take in some Refreshment; partly because we knew not, whether we should from hence find out so strait a Passage to the *East-Indies*, as from the *Cape*. We steer'd therefore our Course hither with as much Expedition as possibly we could. The 31st of *March* we came to an unknown and uninhabited Island, call'd *Tristante Conto*; from thence sailing towards the North-East, we at last happily arrived here the 23^d of *April*, after we had plyed from *Coppenhaguen* to the Equinoctical Line 1300, but from thence to this place 1500 Leagues; of which the Pilots by their Mathematical Instruments can make a pretty probable guess.

And this is a short draught of our Journey thus far finish'd, and of the Adventures attending us hither. As to the manner of spending our time all this while, we would have ye know, that never a more convenient opportunity has been offer'd us, than even this, for gathering in some true and substantial wisdom so much pleasing to God. For the nearer we touch'd upon the very brink of Death, the more we endeavoured thoroughly to

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acquaint our selves with the Great God, and to adore him in Spirit and in Truth; that so we might be readily prepared, whenever the Lord should be pleased to bury us in the merciless Waves of the Sea. And this consideration must needs have been a cause of much Good on our side. The Faculties of our Souls became hereby more and more purified, and consequently fit, to receive the gracious Operations of Divine Wisdom. Our Meditations, and whatever we read, saw or heard, in things both *Spiritual* and *Natural*, we could now, under this disposition of mind, deeper penetrate into, and improve to its main and genuine scope. In the Morning, at Noon, and at Night we had usually some Exercise of Piety in the Ship, handling the Word of God, Praying, Singing and Praising the Lord for all his wonderful Mercies vouchsafed unto us. And this proved an excitement to many others that were about us. The rest of the Day we employed likewise in reading and pondering some Scriptures, with such Discourses, as might stir up the mind to contemplate the Wonders of God in the Works of the Creation, which were now the daily objects of our Senses. Sometimes we endeavour'd to Praise God with a Consort of Musick, both Vocal and Instrumental, and by some melodious Hymns awakened the inward Harmony of our Souls to Praise and Magnifie God.

Thus we passed our precious time, both with great advantage and delicious repast to our Minds, so that the same seemed rather too short than too long under such useful Exercises. Nay, we should now count it a small matter, if it was our Lot to live a Sea-faring Life for some Years together,

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ther, provided the Lord did grant us our Health. For this very Voyage has been hitherto an Experimental School, wherein we are not so much taught the bare Letter of Divinity, as the lively and practical Sense of the inward power and sweetness thereof. At this rate has the Lord, under various crosses and tryals, opened unto us more and more the Mysteries of Salvation hid in the Letter, and lively impressed the Divine Truth on our Minds, to the end we might be able to deliver it unto others again, with the greater Boldness, from the stock of our own Experience. All which makes us intirely rely upon the paternal Assistance of God in the discharge of that Office, wherewith he has entrusted us, and not to be terrified at all by any Sufferings, Perplexities and Persecutions, that perhaps might attend a Work of this Nature. And tho' in the beginning we should meet with many lets and impediments, obstructing the Work of Reformation among Heathens; yet we hope God will bestow a Blessing on our Conversation with the *Christians* residing there, of which we have had several Proofs in our Expedition hitherwards.

In the mean time we trust to you, dear Friends, you will not cease to put up your hearty Prayers to the Lord on our behalf, to the end, that, as we have hitherto enjoyed his blessed influence upon our Souls; so we may be further encouraged, humbly to wait for a good Success of our Labours, after having safely overcome the Difficulties, we still are to pass thorough before our Journey's end. We cannot sufficiently express what comfort we felt within us, whenever we remembred you and other Friends, allied to

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us in the Spirit of Love, being mindful of your incessant Prayer for the enlarging of the Kingdom of Christ. Therefore we would have ye know, that as you have been with us, so we have been with you, when you were offering up your Supplications on our behalf. May the Lord unite our Hearts in this Bond of Love to all Eternity! May He graciously hear whatever we desire in one Mind and Spirit, for the increase of his Glory and the Propagating of his Truth.

Besides this, you must know, that the Lord has also supported our Bodies hitherto with things needful for our outward subsistence. The Captain of the Ship, in whose Affection we had but a small share at first, soon after proved so kind, that he made all things common with us. God inclin'd his Heart with the rest that were in the Ship, in such a manner, that he rejoiced in lending us a helping Hand, whenever it did lie in his way; he being within himself, by the means of our Ministry and daily Conversation, convinc'd, that we were sincerely disposed for promoting the good of their Souls.

Some other things and Curiosities which you might be willing to hear, we cannot at present, for want of time, give you a full account of. However, from what has been said, you may probably infer, that God is with us of a Truth, and that he perhaps is about to blow up a fire of his Knowledge through our Ministry, chiefly amongst the Christians dispersed here and there; *and how glad would we be, if it was already kindled!*

Further: We found not a little Satisfaction in viewing the Wonders of God, gloriously display-

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ed in the Seas. The various Sorts of Fishes have afforded us many an innocent sport and diversion. It often seemed, as if a whole multitude was gather'd together in the Sea, with intent to storm the Ship. Some marched in great Pomp and State, accompanied with a large train of lesser ones. We catch'd a great many of those that are call'd *Hayen*. Some of 'em are above six Yards long, having six Rows of Teeth in their Mouth, which is under the Belly. Their Skin is of the Thickness of a Finger, and their Brain is said to be useful in Physick. Their strength exceeds that of many Men, and they together with their attendance are very pleasant to look on, being never left by em, till they be drawn up by Ropes into the Ship. In warm Weather we saw every Day Flying-Fishes, hovering about us in great numbers. It is impossible, to mention particularly all the several other Sorts, that came within the reach of our sight. Near the Line, a so call'd *Sea-devil* swimming up to us, roved all day long about our Ship, but we could not take him. He had great Horns, in thickness and length equally proportioned, and was for the rest very ghastly to look on. We saw Birds of many differing sorts. In fair Weather we sat down on the Deck of the Ship, and gave Vent to our Mind, rejoicing in the Contemplation of the pleasant Scituation of the Skies and Seas, and from thence took an Opportunity, to entertain ourselves with Discourses, concerning the Glory of the World to come, and the lively Hope of those that have a Share in it. But besides this, we had a particular Cabin in the Ship, left to our own Use,

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Use, and very convenient for our Studies and Exercises of Piety.

To sum up the whole, we cannot sufficiently thank God for the signal Benefits conferred upon us, in relation both to Soul and Body, in this otherwise so dangerous Expedition. And we write this to you in a deep Sense of Humility, for no other End, than that you may join with us in Prayers and Praises; nay, that all such as know us, and sincerely seek God, might see with what Glory, Wisdom and Providence the Lord leads those that are of his Household, if they do but fully and resignedly depend upon his Paternal Goodness. We hoped we should have met with, among the Christians here, such Souls, as might have a true Hunger and Thirst after the Word of God; most of them being *German Lutherans*, left without a Minister: but hitherto we find little among 'em, besides a Religion raised on Maxims of State and Policy, void of all substantial Piety and Truth that is in Jesus. Every one pretends, he cannot serve God so well in these Parts, as in his own Country; and so they think they had rather put it quite off, till they come home again. On the contrary, we can't but own, that we found the *Dutch* here in a far better Condition as for matters of Religion. They have set up a very useful Exercise for the Catechizing of Children. They had their Bibles always ready at hand, and loved to hear us talk of Piety and Religion. Their Minister is a learned and wise Man, and very kind to the *Lutherans* here. We found with him many good Books of some of our best Divines, and hope our Conversation with him, will not prove altogether useless. We pre-

sented

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sented him with Mr. Freylinghausen's *Fundamental Principles of Divinity*, lately published. We were overjoyed, to hear the Children of the Blacks answer so prettily to all the Questions of the Christian Religion; but were much amazed to see, that the Christians use their Slaves so hard, and (as it was said,) deny 'em the Benefit of *Baptism*, whereby they might be initiated into the Christian Religion.

As soon as we landed, the *Hottentots* received us very kindly, in Hopes of a Present. They are truly a wretched and miserable People. They have no divine Worship at all; live in little Cottages, such as with us are the baking Ovens; they have Sheep-Skins hanging about them, the Head and other Parts of the Body being every where left naked. The Women twist Sheep-Guts about their Legs, and wear all sorts of Metal in their Hair and Neck. They are very civil to Strangers, and make odd and ridiculous Postures. They have a Captain, who leads them; but God is called by 'em the *Captain-General*. Most of 'em speak pretty well *Low-Dutch*. We have been several times in their Huts, giving every one a Piece of Money, or some other little thing; which made them love us so affectionately, that they cried after us in broken *Dutch*: *Good Christians, good Christians, fine Christian Men. We also such Christian Men, &c.* They observe many Ceremonies among them; but being asked, why they do this or that? They can give no other Reason for it, than that it is the Manner of the *Hottentots*. When the Moon is full, they express an extraordinary Joy all the Night long with Hollowing, Shouting, and Dancing. Their Language is very uncouth and

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and a sort of Gibberish which no Body can learn. They are otherwise of a Temper good enough and a suitable Proportion of Body; but stink terribly, greasing themselves daily with Fat. They are a People overfond of their Liberty, and not to be induced to subject themselves to the Christians. However, they make us Christians ashamed in many Particulars. They are very kind one to another, and so communicative in their Love, that if one has something that is good, he shareth it among all the rest. They are content with very little; if you would give them a *Ducat*, they will hardly take it, requiring only a *Groat*, by Reason they don't use to spend more a Day; and being for the next unconcerned. They are very ready to serve one: If one giveth 'em a *Groat*, they will run as many Miles for it as you please. They are very faithful in things committed to their Care, and never pilfer the least Farthing from the Christians, tho' they should see a Store of Money about them. They are not seized with the Plague of *Ambition*, *Covetousness*, and *anxious Cares* for the Belly, like our Christians in *Europe*. Every one is solicitous for the present Day. There is no Precedence or any Degree of Dignity observed among them, save that the Captain sits always in the Middle of them, and is the first that falls to Eating or Drinking. We can truly say that their Condition moved us to an hearty Compassion, giving us at the same time a fair Opportunity, to thank God the more fervently for the great Mercies conferred upon us Christians beyond these Wretches.

We found here Mr. *Colben*, a Student from *Hall*, sent hither from *Berlin* by the Lord Privy-Counsellor *Crosek*, to make Astronomical Observations in

this

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this Place through the whole Year. We took up our Lodging with a Student from *Coningsberg*. The 25th of *April*, we were upon the so called *Lion-Mountain*, which is extraordinary lofty. And because we got up quite alone, we sung some spiritual Hymns to the Praise and Glory of God, in Consideration of his manifold Goodness. The *Taffel-* and *Devil's-Mountain*, as they call it, being excessively high, we forbore to ascend. Truly, we think, one has a World of Reason, to be surprised at the marvellous Works of God, so conspicuously display'd in Nature. The *Dutch East-India* Company has here an extraordinary fine and spacious Garden, stored with all Manner of rare and precious Plants. We saw in it strange kinds of Beasts; as a *Sea-Cow*, resembling much the Description given by *Job* of *Behemoth*; a *Rhinoceros*, almost as big as an Elephant; an *Elk*, a *wild Horse*, being in part white and red-streaked; a *Mouse-Dog*, *Badgers*, *wild Goats* with crooked Horns; likewise *Harts* quite differing in Shape from those in *Europe*: *Lions*, *Fishes*, with strong sharp-edged Prickles instead of Fins. One of them had a Bump under the Body, which when blown up, the Pricks rose up to that Degree, that no Body durst touch him. There was also at the same time a Fish caught in a Net, of so diffusive a Poison, that if one touched him only with his Shoe, he could not walk for some time upon that Foot, feeling a sensible pain struck thro' the whole Body. The Seamen could not remember that they ever saw such another. Besides this, the Country affords very good Corn with other Fruits, but their Crop was already gathered in *January* last. Their Winter had now begun; but it was even then so warm, as

it

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it useth to be with us in the hottest Summer-days. The whole Country with all its product is very healthy.

We hope to sail from hence in a few Days, to move near to the *East-Indies*. The Lord be with us, as He has been hitherto, and accompany us with the Protection of his Holy Angels! May he keep us in his fear, and grant us to walk constantly in the Way of Truth! May he give us a holy Boldness to spread the Good Savour of his Knowledge every where, that his Name be Praised in and by us, his Kingdom enlarged, and his Will be done wholly and perfectly! And now, dear Friends and Brethren, be ye also heartily committed to the Grace and Love of God. The Lord support you by his Divine Power in the daily discharge of that Function, he has intrusted you with. May he inspire you with Courage, and an unshaken presence of mind, to push on the Work of Reformation, without fainting! and reward at last your fidelity with temporal and eternal Blessings! Remember us to your Families, and to all them that are united to us in Love. The Lord Jesus be with your Spirit, *Amen*. We remain

Yours, &c.

*Dated in Africa, from
the Cape of Good Hope
April the 30th, 1706.*

*Bartholomew Ziegenbalgh.
Henry Plutsch.*

LETTER II.

The Missionaries set out from the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, and safely arrive at Tranquebar in the East-Indies, on the Coast of Coromandel.

Dear Friends,

SINCE the Lord in his infinite Mercy has been pleased to bring us hither safe and sound, we find our selves in Duty bound, most humbly to return Thanks for so signal a Favour, and likewise to encourage our Friends to join with us in so noble an Exercise ; being fully assured, that your Prayers and Good Wishes have all along attended us hither. After what manner we arrived at the *Cape of Good Hope*, has been declared to you by Letters, sent by way of *England* and *Denmark*, which we hope are come to your Hands. From this place, where (after the mouldy Bread, dead Beer, and stinking Water we had lived upon for some while) we were refreshed with good and wholesome Cheer, we sailed the Eighth of *May* well victualled, and soon after met with great Cold. Returning under the 30th to the 39th Degree or thereabouts, towards the South, we had almost nothing else but Thunder, Lightning and Hail, with such a violent Storm, the like we never perceived beyond the *Cape*. One time the upper-part of the Main-Mast was split into

into Three Pieces, and in the Cabin every thing was broke with a prodigious Violence, which might have proved very fatal to us, if the Lord had not been pleased to prevent it to our no small Astonishment. The 24th of May we reached the great Island of *Madagascar*, and shortly after *Mauritia*. Afterwards we fell sensibly a second time into the warm Climate, where our Men went again to Fishing. Having passed the Tropic of *Capricorn* on the 13th of June, we came the 24th to the *Maldiv*e-Islands. Our Ship was daily stored with abundance of Birds, of so dull a nature, that they of their own accord flew into our Hands, or lighting down near us, would play with us. Nay, they would by no Means be turn'd off, till they by force were driven away.

The 27th of June we happily passed the Equinoctical-Line a second time. After having plyed a few Days, and getting no Sight of the Island of *Ceylon*, we begun to be somewhat uneasy, being afraid we had taken the wrong Course of sailing. We sounded the Depth with the Plummet every Day, and at last found our selves near some Land. Soon after perceiving we were got into the Tract of *Camerin*, we sailed back again. And now certainly supposing, we should come in Sight of *Ceylon*, and yet still frustrated in our Hopes, we were not a little concerned, knowing that but a few Years ago a *Danish* Ship had unfortunately been cast away hereabouts: The Captain and the Pilate climbing up the Main-Top-Mast, look'd about. In the Stern of the Ship they kept the Lead going, and so took every where the necessary Precautions in so critical a Juncture of Time. The

Wind

To the East-Indies.

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Wind blew so violent, that the Ship, like an Arrow, cut its Way through the midst of the Waves. And it was then, when our Men cry'd out all on a sudden, that large Sand-banks were just before us. This we shou'd not at all have been sensible of, if the Wind had not been so boisterous, and with its vehement battering and beating back of the Waves, had not made such a prodigious echoing and roaring Noise. Here we seasonably remembered the Words of the 139 Psalm: *Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy Presence? If I should take the Wings of the Morning, and dwell in the uttermost Parts of the Sea, even there would thy Hand find me.*

But the Lord happily delivered us out of this Danger, and soon after granted us to come in Sight of Ceylon, which Island we touched very near, being refresh'd in our Passage with a delicate Fruit come from thence called *Anas*. In calm Weather we could spy the Elephants walking on the Shoar.

At last all these Toils and Fatigues ended in a happy Arrival, and on the 9th of July we cou'd say: *Hitherto the Lord hath helped us!*

Contigimus Portum, quo mihi cursus erat!

We arrived in good Health, and were received with great Joy. Whilst we were aboard, we pass'd our Time among other Things, with taking down in writing such *Meditations* as we made upon certain Subjects, and particularly upon the Nature of *true Wisdom*, and the *Harmony betwixt the Kingdom of Nature and Grace*. This Place lies under the 11th Degree this Side the Line, and is altogether stocked with *Malabarian Heathens*; so that we shall find Work enough cut out for us here,

C

with-

without being obliged, to go further up into the Country for the present. We converse daily with them, and allow every one a free Access to us. Which is the Reason, that they begin to love us heartily. So much for the present: Our hearty greeting to all our Friends. Mr. *Plutshow*, my dear Brother and Fellow-Labourer in the Work of the Lord, wishes you with me the Blessing of the Lord upon your Function. I rest

Tours

In the East Indies, at Tranquebar, on the Coast of Coromandel July the 12th 1706.

Bartholomew Ziegenbalg

Minister of the Gospel among the Heathens.

L E T T E R III.

Of the Gross and Blind Idolatry of the Malabarians.

An Account of their several Idols.

Their Notion of the Sun, and other Celestial Bodies.

HAVING made some Enquiry into the Principles both of the *Divinity* and *Philosophy* now in vogue among these Heathens, and finding a vast Difference betwixt their Divinity, and that which God has conferred upon us *Europeans*; I could not forbear to impart to you some account thereof; to the end, that by comparing one with the other, we might learn thus to set a right value upon the Grace vouchsafed unto us by the Goodness of God.

First then, As for the *Divinity* of the *Malabarians*; (This is the Name whereby they are commonly known in the Tract of the whole Country.) I have observed, that the same is interlaced with a World of Fables and Idolatrous Fictions. They have many Hundreds of Gods, but own nevertheless but one Divine Being, to be the Spring and Original Source of all other Gods and Things. It is called by them *Isparetta*, which in their Language imports as much as a Deity. This *Isparetta*, I say, before any thing was created, transformed

20 *Idolatry of the Malabarians.*

med himself into an *Egg*: Out of which the whole System of Heaven and Earth, and all that is contained therein, was afterwards produced.

From this Divinity, as their Tradition runs, did originally spring forth something, which they call *Kiwelinga*, which is worshipped in their Temples like God. From this *Kiwelinga*, they say further, three other Great Gods took their Rise, viz. *Bramma*, *Wischnum*, and *Ispara*. *Bramma* said to create and make all things: *Wischnum* to rule over things created; and *Ispara*, to destroy 'em again. They are all three set up here in large *Pagodes* or Temples. Perhaps this poor People may have once heard, that there is one Divine Being, but made manifest in Three Persons, they ascribing in many Things such Characters to *Bramma*, as we appropriate to J E S U C H R I S T. They say, he has a humane Nature, but four Heads, and that he has given to Mankind four Books. The *First* of these do treat of Divinity, and of the First original Principle of all Things. The *Second* of Powers, and the Various Metamorphoses or Transmutation of all Things. The *Third* they say, contain Good Morals; and the *Fourth*, the Duties to be observed in their Idolatrous Worship.

I was some Days ago with an Old Teacher of theirs, and desired him to transcribe for my use, the Three last of these Books in their own Language, offering him ready Money for his Labour; but I could not prevail with him, he pretending it to be contrary to their Laws, to communicate them to a Christian. However, he promised to copy out for me such Moral

Idolatry of the Malabarians.

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and Customs, as were usually observed among
em. *ISPARA* is the Top of all the *Malabarrian*
Gods, and worshiped accordingly. He is erected
a large *Pagode* or Temple, having Three Eyes;
one of which is fix'd in the Forehead, and by
them believed to burn up all whatsoever it looks
on. On each side he has Eight Hands, making
Sixteen in all. In each of these he holdeth some-
thing particular; but I have not been able as yet,
to learn the Mysteries figur'd out by these
Things. On his Neck hangeth a little Bell, as
the Cows use to wear in our Country. On his
Forehead is seen a half Moon, and is for the
most arrayed with Serpents and Tygers. His
Bigness they say, encompasses all the Seven Heavens
above, and all the Seven Worlds beneath. There goes
a Story among 'em, that this *Ispara*, making once
merry with his Heavenly Spirits, and looking
on his Bigness, fancied he had none like to him-
self. *Bramma* and *Wischtnum*, much netled at
the excessive pride of their Fellow-God, pick'd
a Quarel with him, which at last arose to such a
heat, that *Bramma* lost one of his Heads by *Ispara's*
valour. The latter being soon after convinc'd of
the false step he had taken in this, fell a repent-
ing for his disorderly doings, and rambled about
begging, for twelve Years together. What strange
Adventures he did meet with, during that inter-
val, would be too tedious, to relate here at
large. *Wischtnum* seeing his poor Brother-God
wander about in such a beggerly Condition, at-
tempts to rescue him; and for that purpose me-
tamorphoseth himself into a Beautiful *Virgin*.
But this Account is attended again with a long
train

train of Tales and Fictions, too prolix to rehearsed here. However, these and other pertinent Stories are set out by the *Malabarians* in such fine Florishes of Wit, and adorn'd with such a poetical Air, that it may be pleasant enough to read em; tho' they refuse to impart them at large to any Christian, let there never so much Money bid for them. I keep present a particular School-Master in my House, whom I hope to prevail with, to transcribe for me the Stories and Transactions of their several Gods, in the Knowledge whereof he is extraordinarily well versed.

ISPARA has got three Sons; all which are worshipped here as Gods in three Temples. He has also one Daughter, whom they give out to be a great Princess among the Heavenly Virgins. She is as Black as a Cole, with three huge Sow-tushes in her Mouth. Our Governour lending me one Day his Horse, to take the Diversion of riding a little about in the Country, I had the good Hap, to see this Dame set out in all her Fineries, and riding in a handsome Chariot.

The third God, who is greatly esteem'd among the *Malabarians*, is *WISCHTNUM*; whom they report to be quite Black, with one Head and four Hands. They'll tell you a World of Stories of his Life and Actions. Among other Fictions they pretend, that he is subject to tenfold Transmutation, the last of which is still to come. And this perhaps may be the chief Cause, that hath given birth to the Notion of the *Soul's Transmigration* after Death, now generally believed among these Heathens. The First Trans

A PROPOSAL

For Printing the
NEW-TESTAMENT
IN
MALABAR TUGUESE;

In order to be

dispers'd among the NATIVES at
MALABAR, and other Parts in the
EAST-INDIES; and also for
furnishing some other Helps to the Mis-
sionaries sent thither to Propagate the
GOSPEL.

WHEREAS the Reverend
Mr. Bartholomew Ziegenbalg,
and Mr. Henry Plutschow,
who were educated under the Dire-
ction of Professor Franck, at the Uni-
versity of Hall in Germany, were sent
in the Year 1705. to Propagate the
Gospel among the Malabarians in the
East-Indies, where they arrived in
July 1706. And whereas since their
Arrival in those Parts, they have, by

A God's

God's Blessing on their Endeavour
 been very successful in their Mission
 having built a Church at *Tranquebar*
 on the Coast of *Coromandel*, where
 they constantly Preach, Pray, &
 either in the *Malabarick* or *Portu-*
guese Language, to a Congregation
 of Persons actually baptized, and
 Catechumens, amounting to a Hun-
 dred and Sixty, besides great Num-
 bers of others, who flock thither to
 hear the Sermons and other Parts of
 Divine Worship; and have likewise
 erected Two Charity-Schools, for the
 Educating and Instructing the *Mal-*
barian Children in the Principles of
 the Christian Religion; besides which
 they have begun to Translate the
New-Testament into *Malabarick*, and in
 January last had nigh finished the
 Four Gospels; and God be prais'd, there
 are no small Hopes of a much greater
 Success from the indefatigable Labour
 and Zeal of these Two Missionaries, and
 of Three others, (Two whereof were
 bred at the same University) that
 have been since sent to assist them
 as appears by their Letters which have
 been printed here, intituled, *The Pro-*
pagation of the Gospel in the East: Part
I, II. printed by Mr. *Downing*, in
 1709, and 1710.

And whereas it is too plain from the
 Letters of these Missionaries, that the
 Support they have hitherto had, has
 been much too small for so great an Un-
 dertaking, and that the said Missionaries
 labour under very great Difficulties for
 want of a *Printing-Press*; it is there-
 fore proposed by the Reverend Mr.
 Hume, late Chaplain to His ROYAL
 HIGHNESS PRINCE GEORGE,
 and by several other Pious and Cha-
 ritably disposed Persons, That some
 thousand Copies of the *New-Testa-*
ment shall be printed in *Portuguese*,
 being a Language commonly un-
 derstood in the *East-Indies* in a neat
Script Character, and be distribu-
 ted among the *Malabarians*, *Chineses*,
 and other Nations in those Parts,
 which, through the Blessing of God,
 (his hop'd) will very much tend to
 promote the true Christian Religion
 among those ignorant and idolatrous
 People. Besides which, it is also pro-
 pos'd, that the said Missionaries may
 be supplied with some Money, for
 the better enabling them to carry
 on their pious Design of Erecting *Chap-*
lain-Schools, and prosecuting that glo-
 rious Work, which they have so hap-
 pily begun.

We

WE therefore, whose Names are
underwritten, have subscribed
and paid, for the Purposes abovementi-
oned, the several Sums to our several
Names annexed.

Subscriptions are taken in by

The Reverend Doctor King, at the Char-
ter-House.

The Reverend Doctor Woodward, at Poplar
John Chamberlayne, Esq; in Petty-Franchise
Westminster.

Daniel Dolins, Esq; at Hackney.

Peter Lavigne, Esq; in Henrietta-street
Covent-Garden.

The Reverend Mr. Whitfeld, in Warwick
Court.

The Reverend Mr. Boehm, at the Surgeons
Arms near the May-Pole in the Strand.

The Reverend Mr. De la Mothe, in St.
Martins-Lane.

The Reverend Mr. Shute, in Bartlett's
Buildings.

The Reverend Mr. Mayo, at St. Thomas's
Hospital in Southwark.

Mr. Ludolph, at Mr. Hart's, near Bernard's
Inn, Fetter-Lane.

Mr. Henry Hoare, Goldsmith, in Fleet-street.

Mr. John Hodges, Merchant, in Token-
House-Lane.

Mr. John Trollope, Merchant, in Alder-
manbury.