

Letter 63: 4 December 1520, Mainz, Capito to Martin Luther

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[*Summary*]: Johann Eck has written a boastful letter to Hoogstraten declaring how much the business of Christ has succeeded at Leipzig. Luther [by his *An den christlichen Adel*] and Hutten have sounded the war trumpet, and a battle seems imminent. Although Luther and Hutten are not defenceless, their opponents seem to have the advantage. Most people side with Luther, but some support the Romanists. Someone in Cologne has written a dialogue entitled *Hochstratus ovans*, reproaching Eck and Aleandro for burning Luther's books, and has wrongly cast aspersions on Capito as well. Eck has replied. Aleandro is hiding his anger, but he is keeping a weary eye on Capito. Thomas Murner published two anti-Lutheran books: *Ein christliche ermahnung* and *Von Luthers Lehren und Predigen*. Capito reiterates his fear of the violence that accompanies war. Using scriptural references as examples, Capito advises Luther to be moderate and to make concessions for the sake of peace. "I am not saying that Christ's business should be put aside, but one must indulge the common people in many things. ... Do not preach the word of Christ contentiously but with charity."