

Letter 98: 13 July 1521, Halle, Capito to Girolamo Aleandro

Printed in W. Friedensburg, "Beiträge zum Briefwechsel der katholischen Gelehrten Deutschlands im Reformationszeitalter," *Zeitschrift für Reformationsgeschichte* 16 (1896): 497-499.

[*Summary*]: On 4 July Capito and Albert of Brandenburg arrived at Halle and received confirmation that the rumours of the disturbances at Erfurt. The counts of Mansfeldt, who till then supported Luther, have begun to intervene. According to Johann Voigt, placards announcing that 300 brave young men have joined arms to defend the Gospel were posted at Magdeburg. Violence ensued. Albert of Brandenburg sent Capito to the city council of Magdeburg to persuade them to track down the instigators of the riots through nightly patrols and undercover investigations. Capito, however, suspects that the violence was caused by students from Wittenberg. A master of arts was apprehended and jailed. Albert of Brandenburg has assembled his counts and vassals to repress the growing violence. Capito supports his efforts 'for they can be led with words where force would not easily drive them.'

Karlstadt held a disputation at Wittenberg against monastic vows and auricular confessions. Although Karl von Miltitz explained that the Elector Frederick had prevented the publication of a tract on confession, Capito has found out that it is for sale. Miltitz brought a copy for Capito but took it away again when he did not encounter him in person. Melancthon has written a response to the condemnation of Luther by the faculty of theology at Paris.

Albert of Brandenburg was informed that on 25 May four briefs were sent concerning the case of the provostship of St Thomas. He asks Aleandro either to send them on to Friederich Prechter in Strasbourg or give them to Laurenz Nachterhofer. Given his situation, Capito cannot abandon his duties at Albert's court. Valentin von Teteleben anticipates continuing litigation in Rome over the provostship of St Thomas.