

Letter 271: 1 January 1526, Zurich, Ulrich Zwingli to Capito

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 487-8, Ep. 434.

[*Summary*]: A traveller reports that a rumour is circulating in Strasbourg about Zwingli either having been banished or having gone into hiding. Zwingli confirms that he is alive and well, and ready to take on the Catholic opponents. The Zurich city council imprisoned Balthasar Hubmaier on his arrival in Zurich [see above, Ep. 267] for fear that he might cause a disturbance. Since, however, he had spoken against the city council when he was in Waldshut, it was decided to meet with him and, on his own request, discuss the beliefs of the Anabaptists. On the day following the meeting he recanted in the presence of two hundred people. Later, however, he took back his recantation and called upon the Swiss Diet, falsely claiming that the recantation was extorted from him. The Zurich council did not turn Hubmaier over to Ferdinand I, although he requested it repeatedly. He was sent back to prison and tortured. His case will be heard on 2 January. Zwingli asks Capito not to forget about the pharmacist [see above, Ep. 267] and [Johannes] Burckhard.