

Letter 378: 13 February 1529, Basel, Johannes Oecolampadius to Capito

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[*Summary*]: There has been an uprising. The people occupied the main plaza and guild offices after the city council refused to give in to the requests of the preachers. Two councillors fled. Johannes Irmi spoke on behalf of the people. While the council deliberated about the reinstatement of [the cathedral preacher] Tilman Limperger, armed members of the public entered the cathedral and began destroying the images. Ignoring the warnings of the councillors, they moved on to other churches. At last the council gave in to the demands of the people and removed twelve councillors: [the mayor, Heinrich] Meltinger, [Lux] Ziegler, Bernhard Meyer, [Hans] Egloff Offenburg, [Hans] Oberriedt, [Hans] Lucas Iselin, Hans zum Brunn, Franz Baer, Andreas Bischoff, [Hans Murer] Silberberger, Johannes Stoltz, and [Kaspar] Thurneysen. Afterwards it was decreed to remove the images from the churches and to abolish the mass. Peace was restored. The people did not steal money; they vented their fury only on the images. They heaped them on nine pyres and burned them. Representatives from Zurich, Bern, and Solothurn are present in the city. Oecolampadius fears more tumults. His enemies call him the source of the evil. [Heinrich] Glareanus is preparing to leave and take his students to Freiburg [he left on 20 February and obtained a position of teacher of poetry at the university]. Ludwig Baer has already left [for Freiburg]. Oecolampadius sends greetings to Bucer and Hedio. He fears for the life of his son Eusebius [d. 1541], who is in poor health.