

Letter 414: 7 July [1530, Augsburg], Capito and Martin Bucer to the Strasbourg preachers

Printed in CorrBucer 4, pp. 124-32, Ep. 308.

[*Summary*]: The emperor has not yet pronounced on the [Confessio Augustana]. [Philip of Hesse, referred to in code as “Candidus”] was reproved by the emperor for not enforcing the Edict of Worms. The emperor was in the company of [the vice-chancellor Balthasar Mercklin], and [the imperial secretary] Alexander Schweiss. Philip noted that other principalities shared his views and demanded scriptural proof that they were wrong. The [Edict of Worms], he noted, had never been applied rigorously. Discussing his views on the Eucharist, Philip of Hesse assured the emperor that he believed in the Real Presence. The emperor in turn admonished him to obey his final decision in this matter. Afterwards Mercklin hinted that a favourable decision concerning “the Nassau affair” [i.e. the contested region of Katzenelnbogen] might be forthcoming if Philip severed his relations with the Lutherans. He stood firm. Philip also spoke with [Matthäus Lang], bishop of Salzburg, the papal legate Cardinal Campeggio, and others. Capito and Bucer fear that the conciliatory attitude of Philip Melancthon will merely strengthen the hand of the Catholics. The Confessio Tetrapolitana has been signed (with the article on the Eucharist revised) by Constance, Memmingen, and Lindau. They will shortly present the Confession [i.e. on 9 July 1530] to the emperor, who is being advised by the theologians [Johannes] Fabri, [Johannes] Cochlaeus, [Konrad] Wimpina, [Konrad] Köllin, and [Balthasar Mercklin] who has just been installed as bishop of [Constance]. [Christoph von Stadion] tried to persuade them to make further changes. They feel embattled. The Lutherans are inimical towards them. They admonish their brethren to remain strong. Urbanus Rhegius will go to Lüneburg. Johann Agricola has reportedly left for Nürnberg. Michael [Cellarius] has been prohibited from appearing in public. Capito wrote to [Albert of Brandenburg], the archbishop of Mainz, and was granted an audience, but when the appointed hour arrived, the archbishop excused himself. Capito will attempt to set up another meeting. They asked Philip of Hesse to arrange for a meeting with the Lutherans, but he could achieve nothing because “they clearly regard him as a Zwinglian.” Matthis [Pfarrer] and [Jacob] Sturm are acting with all diligence. Michael [Cellarius] is in danger.