

Letter 425a: [Between 6 and 11 September 1530], Strasbourg, Capito to the Committee of XIII<sup>6</sup>

Printed in BrOek 2, pp. 484-87 (first half) and E. Staehelin in *Basler Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Altertumskunde* 65 (1965), 179-81 (conclusion).

[*Summary*]: Capito arrived in Basel on 29 August [cf. above, Epp. 421, 424] and met with Oecolampadius. It was decided that Oecolampadius and a representative from Bern [Caspar Megander] should accompany him to Zurich. They arrived in Zurich on 31 August and stayed until 6 September. The city of Schaffhausen did not send a representative [cf. below, Ep. 426]. On 4 September Zwingli received a package with letters from [John], the Elector of Saxony, and Philip of Hesse, with replies from Philip Melancthon and Johannes Brenz concerning an agreement among the reformers. In the afternoon the preachers were joined by four city councillors. Capito presented Bucer's articles ["Ratschlag A", cf. CorrBucer Ep. 294], urging concord. Zwingli presented the papers he had just received, which showed the hostile attitude of the Lutherans. Although Capito pointed out that the attitude of the Lutherans had changed in the meantime, no agreement was reached. The meeting concluded with a request that each representative should put his views in writing. On 5 September, Oecolampadius, Megander, Jud, and Zwingli each presented their views on the Sacramentarian question. In Capito's view these position papers were too explicit (*zu ganz usgetruckt und zu vil heiter*) to be accepted by the Lutherans. Capito did not present a separate position paper and kept to Bucer's articles since they had been presented to and approved by Melancthon. In the end it was decided that Capito should write to Bucer [Ep. 426], enclosing a summary of what had been discussed, phrased in a manner acceptable to the Lutherans but not diverging from their own interpretation (*das si Luther mochten angenehm und der worheit unabbrüchlich sin*). They did not instruct Bucer to write new articles for presentation to the Lutherans, as Capito had requested. The letter and summary was sent to Bucer on 4 September. A copy is enclosed. Capito also encloses a letter composed by himself but sent in the name of Zwingli and the preachers of the four reformed towns to the five Catholic towns [Ep. 425]. A disputation is planned in Solothurn,<sup>7</sup> to which Conrad Treger has been invited. The preachers offered to send a representative and sent a message to this effect through [Urs Stark; cf. above, Ep. 426]. He pleaded [Johann Büchlin's] case, asking that he be allowed to travel in Switzerland [cf. Ep. 289n]. They discussed at length the question of imposing church discipline on the towns. Johann Eck has slandered them, saying that they dissolved monasteries and divided the goods among themselves. They will defend themselves, arguing that the original purpose of the collegiate churches was to support education [cf. Capito's proposals above, Ep. 404]. Zurich, Bern, and Basel were urged to look after their clergy. He hopes that Strasbourg will do the same for the local clergy.

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<sup>6</sup> See above, Ep. 280, note 12.

<sup>7</sup> The meeting did not come to pass.