

Letter 443: 7 July 1531, [Strasbourg], Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBw 5, pp. 505-522, Ep. 1235.

[*Summary*]: He is worried about the affairs of Zurich, but the emperor's court is ineffective and corrupt. In the opinion of Philip of Hesse they are safe. The strife between Solothurn and Basel [the "gallows war" over jurisdiction in capital cases] will delight their enemies. He assumes that Zwingli knows about the feud in Friesland between [Balthasar van Esens] and Ulrich [von Dornum], a patron of Karlstadt. There is a false rumour about 12,000 Spanish infantry having been raised. He has heard another rumour through Matthis Pfarrer that the emperor will depart for Spain in September. The emperor sent a reply to the Schmalkald League [on 30 June 1531] and is amenable to a truce. [Ludwig], Count Palatine, and [Albert of Brandenburg], archbishop of Mainz, are negotiating on his behalf. Strasbourg supports the peace efforts. A meeting has been deferred to 24 August. He hopes that it is not a ruse on the part of the emperor. There is no military initiative in Lorraine [cf. above, Ep. 442]. Metz is being harrassed by a robber baron, [Nikolaus of Heu]. The Strasbourg area is full of unemployed mercenaries, which would indicate that the situation is peaceful everywhere. Philip of Hesse is no longer regarded as unstable (*nullae nunc agitant intemperiae*).

In Augsburg, the Anabaptists have recanted. The council is divided over two preachers, Michael [Cellarius] who is on their side, and Stephan [Agricola], who is a Lutheran. The men they sent from Strasbourg [Musculus, Wolfhart, Meyer, cf. above Epp. 429b, 437] have no authority as yet. The affairs at Ulm are prospering. Martin Frecht [cf. above, Ep. 431], "the glory of the university of Heidelberg," preaches there. A Greek teacher [Wolfgang Bindthäuser] has been called to Ulm from Ingolstadt. The churches have been purged [i.e. the images removed] and the mass will be abolished or may already have been abolished – Capito last heard from Bucer eight days ago. [Georg Osswald; cf. above, Ep. 441] proffered Eck's *Confutatio* at the request of the council. The reformers answered him in their sermons. Dithmarschen [in the duchy of Holstein] has embraced the Reformation.

Capito expects Bucer to return [from Ulm] within five days. [Jacob Sturm], Bernhard Ottfriedrich, and Matthis Pfarrer send their regards. The reports about the Reformation instituted by the Swedish king [Gustav Wasa] are correct. He has forced the bishops into subjection. Ludwig, Count Palatine, received the *Landvogtei* of Hagenau as a reward for his support of Ferdinand's election.