

Letter 13: 13 March 1518, Louvain, Desiderius Erasmus to Capito

Printed in Allen III, pp. 252-253, #798 and CWE 5, Ep. 798.

[*Summary*]: Erasmus thanks Capito for not showing his letter (i.e. Allen Ep. 730 or 734) to Baer. He relates an embarrassing incident involving Capito's former teacher, Matthaëus Adrianus. Apparently Capito had sent a letter to him, care of Erasmus. Adrianus, visiting Erasmus' house, asked him to read the letter to him since he had not brought his spectacles. As Erasmus did so, it became apparent that the letter was not flattering. Adrianus angrily defended himself and threatened to expose errors in Capito's Hebrew grammar.

Erasmus encourages Capito to spend more time on Greek than on Hebrew studies. The Jews, he says, are 'a nation full of most tedious fabrications' and do more damage than the scholastics. He wishes that Christians would not spend so much time on studying the Old Testament.