

this book published and knowing the attack which the dominicans and others were making against Reuchlin issues a book anonymously which ~~xxxxxxx~~ other humanists wrote. I won't burden you with his name, ¹⁶⁻⁶ . A book which he called "Letters of Obscure Men". Everybody knew it that heard of the letters of eminent men. These were all the humanists who wrote Reuchlin. Now he wrote one called letters of obscure men. Naturally that would be the monastery. So this humanist wrote the book, letters of obscure men, which pretends to be letters to Ortian, the professor at Cologne, the one humanist who was taking the side of the monk. These letters claim to be written ^{to} by him by these different monks. on all sorts of subjects. The one thing that amused the scholars was that they wrote these letters in the sort of barbarous Latin that most of the monks used in their correspondence so there would be mistakes in the Latin which would be very amusing to the scholars. Then in the writing of it they filled them with attacks on Reuchlin and the cause of learning. Most of them made such a satirical attack upon the ~~attack~~ type of attack they were making. They ~~gossiped~~ gossiped about their drinking bouts, exposing their ignorance and inability, asking absurd questions whether it was a mortal sin to salute a Jew, whether the worms eaten with beans and cheese should be considered as ~~meat~~ meat or as fish, and ~~hence~~ hence whether it should be lawful to eat them in length or not, and at what stage of development did a chicken in the egg become meat and become prohibited on Friday. Such questions as these they discussed at length and then the humanists began to pass around stories about how some of these monks had thought that these letters were really written by other monks and thought they were very good and brought copies to give to their friends. If that is true or not we don't know. At least the well educated among them recognized them immediately as a slam and an attack upon them written in the satirical form. There is another book written by another author even more accostic than the first which was also published anonymously in the next few years, a second volume of "Letters of Obscure men". Well, now these were ~~read~~ read all over Europe and they increased the dislike