

might lead to greater peace among the people, and better knowledge of the real motives under which they had acted. Some of the inhabitants waited upon the Reverend Gentlemen, soliciting their attendance, to which they assented, and the meeting was advertised to be held on Tuesday the 20th of May, in St. Andrew's Church, Galt, under the presidency of the Rev. James Strang, the venerated Minister of the Secession Church, in the same place.

Long before the hour of meeting, the ground around the Church was crowded with a mass of people from all parts, even from very distant places in the Province; and the interest was intense. A small sum was intended to be demanded from each person on entering the Church; but when the doors were opened, the rush was so excessive that all previous arrangements were set aside, and the Church was instantly crowded in every corner, with upwards of twelve hundred people, forming a most intelligent and anxious congregation.

The Reverend Speakers having taken their places at a table in front of the Precentor's desk, the Discussion began of which the following is a Report. It lasted for upwards of five hours. During the whole of that time, the most devout attention was paid to every word that fell from the Speakers. No symptom of applause or disapprobation,—of weariness or desire to leave,—of dissatisfaction or delight at what was uttered,—escaped the audience; but with a solemn composure that denoted the warm interest they had in the subject, the people sat throughout the whole period, absorbed in the arguments.

The interest of the Debate did not cease with the meeting; on the contrary, it appeared greatly to increase; and as a Report of the Discussion had been promised in the ensuing number of the Dumfries Courier, the applications from all parts of the Province for copies were very numerous. It soon became apparent, however, that the extent to which the Report reached, would put it out of the power of the Editor to compress it into even half a dozen successive Newspapers; and he resolved to publish it in the shape it now appears; taking such precautions to insure its correctness, by laying the Notes before the Speakers, as would give it a proper title to authenticity; and having undergone their revision, it is now placed before the public, in the earnest hope, that its contents will tend to the conviction and peace of the people, and the welfare of the Universal Church.

Galt, June 17th, 1848.