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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1872.

The basis of their belief and action. The debate lasted three consecutive nights and excitement ran very high - tempers were lost and all bit blows were exchanged by the backers of each. Even these every night bit of course the debate "per se" made but a slight impression on any open minded brain. I mind of the terms "Voluntarism or Socialists" being hurled from "our side of the house". "Evangelists and State paid clergy" hurled from the other. "The lands in Justice" (the Woodside Weavers) who at that time were as intensely "Established" as they afterwards became "Free" gave a hearty shove, when the half Poetic half Prophetic Rhapsodies of Isaiah were quoted as proving the base on which rested our "State Churchmen". "Sing then the Chords & Strengthen the Stakes" - for Things & Queens shall be Running Father & Nourishing Mother (so they held to be the evident meaning of the passage) to this our "Established Think of Scotland". While a clapping of hands and a clapping of feet followed on Forest John Hazard laying down as an incontrovertible plank of his belief that "the Example of the Apostle Paul was of far more importance to us as Christians, "who laboured with his hands and was chargeable to our man". This much of the general drift of the debate I do remember but little else. The "Sword of the Civil Magistrate" and the "Spiritual Power of the Head of the Church", were to me also (in those days) a "Terra incognita" and I had no wish to explore. Satisfied, like many of my elders with what "our side" held was the truth and all else error. Strange forebodings however were played with these "Solid foundations" of belief during the next decade, and many a cherished opinion