

sirous to unite for the spread of those glorious universalities, for which they had been deprived of ecclesiastical caste. A meeting was therefore held in the vestry of Clerk's Lane Church, Kilmar-nock, at which the four deposed ministers, with delegates from the Churches, were present. The brethren present agreed to form themselves into a union to be called, "the Evangelical Union of Scotland." This meeting was held in the month of June of the year, eighteen hundred and forty-three. The Rev. James Morison was appointed Professor of Exegetical Theology, the duties of which office he has discharged, with much benefit to others, and much honour to himself, down to the present day. The Academy of the Union was opened with four Union students,—the Rev. A. M. Wilson of Airdrie, Scotland, the Secretary of the Union, and editor of *the Christian Times*; the Rev. Robert Hunter of Forres, who discharged the duties of the Hebrew Chair, during the last session of our Theological Institute; the Rev. James McMillan, now in glory; and Rev. Henry Melville of Toronto. But this sketch would be incomplete without some notice of those brethren who were cast out of other religious denominations for holding a too liberal theology. A young minister, who was at the time of the atonement controversy, pastor of a Congregational Church in the town of Hamilton, Lanarkshire, was no uninterested observer of the doings of certain ecclesiastical cliques. This young man was the Rev. John Kirk, whose praise is in all our Churches, and, whose name is like a household word among all true temperance men in Scotland. The denomination to which Mr. Kirk belonged was all right in regard to the atonement. That body held, with the late Dr. Wardlaw, that Christ died for all men without exception and without distinction. But, they held in connexion therewith a special and irresistible influence of the Spirit by which the benefit of Christ's death was secured to the elect. Here was a serious difficulty. It mattered little as to where the speciality lay, whether in the atonement, or in the means of its application.

But Mr. Kirk made the important discovery that the influences of the Spirit are poured out upon all flesh; and, that as these influences are mediate and moral, they are therefore resistible; and that many resist an influence, and perish, by yielding to which others believe and are saved. This view of the work of the Spirit was brought out in one of a course of lectures, which Mr. Kirk delivered at Hamilton. These lectures were published as they were delivered. Mr. Kirk's ministerial brethren took alarm at this