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**Miscellaneous Articles.**

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UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY

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BY THE REV. DR. FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

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In concluding our notices of the proceedings of the United Secession Church, we come now to give some account of their correspondence with the Synod of Relief, and the Union which was at length effected with that denomination of Christians.

The original mover in this important cause, was the Rev. Dr. McKelvie of Balgedie. It appeared to him to be an incomplete extension of Christian charity, in the United Secession Church, to hold correspondence, by letter and delegation, with the Presbyterians of the American States and with the Congregationalists of England, when a large body of Presbyterians around them, holding substantially the same principles with themselves, were in a manner overlooked. With a view, then, to rectify this omission, this energetic minister brought in an overture to his Presbytery, at its meeting in Dunfermline, on the 8th of April, 1834, of which the following is the tenor:—

“That this Presbytery do overture the Synod to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to begin and maintain a friendly intercourse with the Synod of Relief, as a sister Church; and that this overture lie on the Synod’s table till next meeting, in order that all parties may become acquainted with it before its discussion.”

The overture does not expressly propose Union with the Relief Church, but only friendly intercourse. But Dr. McKelvie in supporting the overture, distinctly stated that Union was the ultimate object. Yet, in the meantime, he considered it expedient to seek no more than what had been proposed and sanctioned with the other bodies of Christians, being afraid that by proposing all at once, the long continued, and still lurking