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THE COMPENSATIONS OF UNION.

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AMONG the more permanent and gratifying gains to Christianity during the nineteenth century has undoubtedly been the growth of the spirit of unity between the different Christian churches. Nor has this gratifying progress been confined to a growth of spirit merely; it has resulted in several amalgamations of great omen for the future of Christ's Kingdom. The closing days of this last decade have been marked by what is perhaps in Scotland the most significant ecclesiastical event of the century—the blending of the United Presbyterian and the Free Churches together, the binding up of the old secession and the new secession, under the happy designation of the United Free Church of Scotland. So obvious are the advantages of such unions, that they can hardly fail to awaken in the more liberal-minded Christian a deep yearning to bridge even the broader gaps, not merely to be satisfied with closing up the ranks between sections of Presbyterianism and sections of Methodism, but to see even these grander divisions of Christ's army manœuvring towards closer unity. The old era of divergence when the different denominations repelled each other with mutual violence, gave place in the presence of the common foes of vice, infidelity and heathenism, to an age of parallelism when a higher sentiment of Christian toleration permitted each to tread its own path unmolested, with the generous hope that as mathematicians admit that parallel lines meet at infinity, so these Christian churches, however faithful they may