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THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH
UNIONS.

THERE has sprung up in many quarters an earnest feeling in favor of the reunion of Christendom. Thoughtful persons readily admit that the condition of the Christian world is by no means satisfactory. The numerous divisions in the visible Church, the frequent controversies and heart burnings which occur among Christian people, and the small progress made in the evangelization of the world, indicate that, in some way, full justice has not been done to the Gospel system. It is not surprising, in the circumstances, that some have been led to turn to the organic union of the Churches of Christendom as a panacea for the evils which are seen to exist.

Thirty years ago, there was organized in England, an "Association for the Promotion of the Unity of Christendom," by intercessory prayers. In 1868, some two years after this Association had been publicly condemned by the Roman Inquisition, it had 12,684 members, drawn chiefly from the Anglican, Romish and Oriental Churches, with a few from various Protestant communities. This society which, I presume, still exists, embodies largely the aspirations of those who long for the visible union of the Anglican, Greek and Roman Catholic Churches, and then look, perhaps, for the absorption of smaller Christian bodies.