

specks of dust on the bosom of the lake ; prayers innumerable are offered to the Most High, but few hearts are moved, or lives transformed. The teacher sits before his class in the Sunday school and speaks over and over again the truths which stirred so greatly the heathen populations in the first century, on both sides of the Mediterranean ; but they fall lifelessly around. The active and associate members of the Y. P. S. C. E. meet each week for a year, and frequently the maximum of influence is exerted by the "associates" over the "actives." The church thrusts herself forward into the industrial struggle, and raises her voice in the interests of justice and peace ; but the earnest fighters go on to a finish regardless of her wishes. Intemperance hurries its thousands yearly into drunkards' graves, and reaches out its hands successfully toward others to fill their places in the sad procession, just as if Christianity were not in the world, or, being in it, is not to be reckoned with as an opposing factor. Militarism builds its battle-ships, improves its guns, enrolls its recruits, and spends the treasure of the nations like water, regardless of Christ having preached peace and broken down the middle wall of partition. On every hand there is evidence of the great need of power resulting from the filling by the Spirit the heart of the individual and the church.

When, last autumn, the late Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, summed up the history of his pastorate of a quarter century, he attributed all his success to one fact. He said :

"God showed me that if I was filled with the Holy Ghost, and the members of this church were filled and directed by the Holy Ghost, then we must be led by God Himself to a larger service. I came to this pulpit, and gave you that message ; and you accepted it with me. And the signal success which this church has achieved, is owing simply to the fact that we have opened our hearts to the indwelling leadership of the Holy Ghost."

There ought further to be greater familiarity with the contents of the Scriptures, and ability to use these contents for the good of men. The means by which the contents of the Bible come to us, in their present form, may be of interest to us. But like moral evil, the moral teachings of the Scriptures, the character given of Christ and of man, with the need of the latter, and the fitness of the former, to supply the need, are here. When the names, placed at the head of each division, and the dates found on each page, were accepted as correct, the contents had just as much power over men's consciences and conduct as now, when interrogation marks are freely placed after the alleged author's names, and the dates when the writing was