

THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST.

“**B**UT ye shall receive *power*, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses to me.” So spake the one Divine founder of Christianity to the human founders of the Church. “And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up” to the throne from whence now, though no longer tangible to physical sense, He rules the Church and governs the world. Last words, founding words, words of intensest truth are they, greatest above many great and important words, words which are as a topstone on the building of spiritual truth which had been erecting and developing, receiving its pillars and ornaments through the years of discourse and parable and miracle and suffering which then came to an end. They are words which contained within their brief compass the “promise and potency” of the great Christianity which was just then to thunder its protests against sin and to proclaim its promise of mercy to the sinner. That promise soon became a possession, the wondering hope enkindled in its hearer’s hearts crystalized into grand demonstration, when the scenes of Pentecost burst on the astonished senses of the “dwellers at Jerusalem,” revealing phenomena entirely unprecedented even in the wonder-filled history of the Jewish capital and commonwealth. The narrative of that day, the history of all subsequent time justifies us in saying that the power of the Holy Ghost

1. *Is the one thing that the world does not understand*, in connection with Christianity. At its enunciation even the wide-awake and thoughtful Nicodemus exclaimed, “How can these things be?” At its realization and development the astonished crowd of Pentecost cried out “What meaneth this?” And the Nicodemus class of men—the reading, inquiring, reflecting, philosophising class—have uttered through the ages, and still are heard to utter the query, “How can these things be?” Some think they can analyze matter until the primitive atom shows itself as the original element of existence. One has his germ-cell and another his proto-plasm as the ultimate result of inquiry into the secret of life, and if we ask concerning light or sound or force, one shows you a spectroscope, and another enunciates a definition, but in the presence of this