

set forth by the hiding of the soul under the shadow of the Almighty wing. It not only reveals the secret of spiritual peace, it also reveals the secret of spiritual power. No power is self-generated. Even the best-equipped locomotive is a useless piece of mechanism until the ignited coal acts upon the boiler, and starts the piston. We only receive power by putting ourselves under God's power. That man who brought his paralyzed arm into the synagogue, would have carried it out again withered to the shoulder, if he had stopped to reason and to ask questions and to raise objections. He simply obeyed; he was submissive; he just put himself into the power and under the power of the Almighty Christ; and immediately the arm was made as whole as the other. What was the actual phenomenon witnessed in that upper chamber at the time of Pentecost? Simply this: a few scores of earnest believers gathered together under the shadow of the Omnipotent wing. They sat under the broodings of the Divine Spirit, in devout supplication, waiting for the power from on high. It had been promised; they asked for it; it came. The wonderful baptism of fire gleamed upon every brow, and penetrated every heart, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost!

So it was on creation's morning when God brooded upon the face of the waters. So was it in the early Church when the Divine Spirit brooded over the praying souls in the upper room at Jerusalem. So has it ever been from the days of Augustine, and on to the days of Oberlin and Payson and Finney; the only place of spiritual power has been beneath the shadow of God's wings. Peace is there, and security is there, and there our lives are hid with Christ in God.

„Saviour, let Thy love for me
Keep me ever near to thee;
I will fear no evil thing
Near the shadow of Thy wing.

When the storms of sin or doubt
Toss my troubled soul about,
Then I flee for sheltering
To the shadow of Thy wing."

MULTIPLYING FEEBLE CHURCHES.

For the Mar. Pres.

Dr. Washington Gladden in the United

States has lately set forth the folly of the unnecessary multiplication of feeble church organizations in rural towns. Among other instances given he shows that in one locality with a population of 600 there are six Protestant churches. On a pleasant Sabbath the congregations average about sixty hearers. Other examples are given of different localities having several places of worship where one or two churches would accommodate the people.

The evil complained of by Dr. Gladden also exists to a certain extent in these Maritime Provinces. There are small villages and rural districts with more than one church and two or three ministers supplying them on very small salaries. One perhaps could do the work and receive a competent support. For example in Walton in the County of Hants there are four churches Presbyterian Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal. Could not one clergyman, of an evangelical denomination, give his whole time and attention to this one locality, be well paid, and the spiritual wants of the people better attended to.

Might not this subject engage the attention of the leading denominations in these Provinces. Why not confer with each other before another church is erected. If a locality is well supplied with religious ordinances why should another denomination plant a feeble church because they have a few adherents. And is it not unseemly and unbrotherly to encourage a few malcontents, and organize another church to gratify a feeling of malice. Surely when the heathen are perishing we should sink our minor differences and concentrate our efforts in the home field that we may be able to do more for those perishing for lack of knowledge.—Com.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN JAPAN.

One of the missionaries in Yokohama writes:

"In all our work we have much cause for encouragement, mingled of course with some discouragement, such as every man has in this world. As far as any interference of the Government is concerned, every one may worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. . . .

"You will be glad to know that more than half of the Old Testament is translated and printed. Our missionaries,