

credit side in your bank account. Soon some one will ask you to help a poor person, or to help the church or to give to missions ; you don't put your hand into your own pocket, you go to God's box and you take what you think a fair share for that object, and generally you will be surprised at the good sum you will thus have at your disposal. This is some attempt surely at honoring God with the first fruits of one's increase.

And what shall that proportion be ? This is a question that is settled for us in my opinion in the Bible. The *smallest proportion* is one-tenth. It was this that Abraham gave to Melchizedek, Priest of the Most High God. And it is from him that Jesus Christ derives his priesthood. He is a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek. We don't know who that mysterious person was, but he was some one for whom Abraham evidently had a very high regard. We do know, however, who Jesus Christ is. He is our Great High Priest, who to-day is making intercession for us in Heaven. And he is a great deal to us. All our spiritual strength has come from him. To him we owe everything. Never till the end of time shall we know how much we owe to him. What shall we render back to him ? In the light of his undying love for us, how little, how insignificant does even a tenth of all our increase seem ! To help missions, to build churches, to give children religious instruction, to aid Sunday schools, to relieve the distressed and suffering poor, surely demands at least a tenth of all our increase.

My friends, I need not enlarge upon this. No one would dispute the moral obligation that all Christians are under to give *at least* a tenth of their increase, were it not that there are enemies which raise their hard heads against it. Three of these I will now mention.