

A TENTH FOR THE LORD.

BY BLIND HOHANNES,

THE "WALKING CONCORDANCE."

MISS WEST, of Harpoot, preserved the following notes of a sermon which she heard from this blind preacher—a graduate of the Harpoot Seminary, in connection with the American Missions in Turkey, and called, from his knowledge of Scripture, the "Walking Concordance."

"The preacher commenced his discourse by repeating that striking passage in Malachi, 'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me: but ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings,' &c. He then told us that he proposed to show from the Word of God that the giving of a tenth to the Lord was a primitive institution, attended with great benefits and blessings to the givers, and perpetuated and enforced under the *new dispensation* no less than the old. 'Open your Bibles,' he said, 'at the 14th chapter of Genesis, and let some one read the 18th and 20th verses.' Bibles were instantly opened all over the house, and the passage read, in clear tones, by one of the congregation. 'Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek,' said the preacher, 'more than 400 years before the giving of the law to Moses:—Abraham, the father of the faithful, whose children the Jews gloried in being—Abraham, whom even Moslems honour and call the blessed.'

"Now turn to the 28th chapter and read the 20th, 21st, and 22d verses." Jacob's vow was read, concluding with the words, "And of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth to thee." He then rapidly drew the contrast between Jacob's *going* to Padan-aram—alone, and in utter destitution—and the *return*, with his flocks, and herds, and camels, men-servants and maid-servants. "And now," he said, "open at the 27th of Leviticus, and read the 30th verse. 'And all the tithe of the land is the Lord's,'—nine-tenths for yourselves, but one-tenth is holy unto the Lord. Open at Numbers xviii. and read the 20th, 21st, 26th, 28th and 29th verses." Hohannes then said, the Levites who ministered in the house of the Lord, were to have no part or inheritance in the *land*, for the *tithes* of the people were to be their inheritance; and of these tithes, *they* were to offer a *tenth* to the Lord, "even of all the best thereof!" "Read Deut. xiv. 22, and xxvi. 12. See the abundant provision made, not only for the Levites, but also for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Read also 2 Chron. xxxi. 4, 10, where the people are described as obeying the command of God, and bringing in *abundantly* of the increase of the land. And the chief priest answered king Hezekiah, when he questioned him concerning the *heaps*—'Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we