

WHAT EVERY CHURCHMAN OUGHT TO KNOW.

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I.—CONCERNING INCOMES OF BISHOPS AND CLERGY.



1. **That** on the foundation of the English Church in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, provision for the maintenance of the Bishops and Clergy was in the first place, for the most part, made by irregular voluntary offerings and contributions.

2. **That** subsequently—following the example of the Jewish Church, as

well as the custom of most countries which had a national religion—the members of the Church in England imposed upon themselves the obligation of a fixed payment for the support of their Bishops and Clergy, as well as for other pious objects, in the shape of a tenth portion or tithe of the direct and indirect produce of the soil, as well as of the gains derived from various trades and occupations.

3. **That** this payment for Church purposes of the tenth portion of the produce of the land, though in the first instance not created or imposed by the civil law of the land, but voluntarily offered and voluntarily paid in fulfilment of a recognized religious obligation, did in time become a customary payment, subject to which land was inherited, bought, and sold, or otherwise acquired, and this customary payment became in the course of time recognized and enforceable by the laws of the different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

4. **That** land which for any legally recognized reason remained or became tithe free, when sold always secured a proportionately higher price, while land that was charged with the payment of tithe, when sold fetched a proportionately lower price, thus clearly showing that in such cases the tithe on the land was neither sold nor bought, but was left out of the sale altogether, as a first charge on the produce of the land which had become legally due to the Church.

5. **That** in the same way, for farms and other lands which were tithe free, there was charged by their owners to their tenants a higher rent, while for such as were chargeable with tithe there was charged a lower rent, thus showing that the tithe in such cases stood out of the rent just as in the

case of purchase of land it stood out from the purchase money, and was neither sold nor bought.

6. **That** tithe in the first instance was payable to the Bishop of a cathedral or diocese for distribution by him amongst his Clergy for their maintenance and for application to other specified religious objects; but when parish churches were built and consecrated for public worship throughout the kingdom, the tithes arising from the lands included within the areas of their several parishes ceased to be payable to the Bishop, and were assigned to their several parochial Clergy as permanent endowments for their support, to whom alone they afterwards became legally payable.

7. **That** originally and for many hundreds of years tithes were paid in kind only, except in cases in which it was agreed between the tithe-owner and the tithe-payer that a fixed money or other payment should be given and taken instead. In the year 1836, however, under the provisions of the Tithe Commutation Act, all payments in kind were abolished, and payments in money supposed to be equal in value to payments in kind were substituted in their stead.

8. **That** a prevalent popular error is, that the tithe now payable to the parochial Clergy amounts in value to the tenth portion of the produce of the soil, whereas the real tenth portion of the produce of the soil, or the tenth portion of the value of the produce of the soil, while professedly payable to the Church, has in but comparatively few instances ever been paid at all.

9. **That** the tithe-rent charges now payable to the parochial Clergy, and indeed to the whole Church of England, are in their value very far from being a tenth part of the value of the produce of the soil, will at once be seen from the fact that while the value of the produce of the soil in England and Wales was, in 1889, one hundred and fifty-eight millions two hundred thousand pounds sterling, according to a Parliamentary Paper, No. 287, 1891, the amount of tithe-rent charges, corn-rents, etc., payable in that year to the Bishops and Clergy and to the whole Church was only two millions five hundred and ninety-two thousand two hundred and eighty-one pounds sterling?

10. **That** it is not generally known that the incomes of the Clergy derived from this comparatively small amount of tithe-rent charges are not only, like the incomes of Nonconformist ministers and various professional men, subject to the payments of the Queen's taxes, but, being derived from the land, they are chargeable and are, in fact, charged with all the ever-increasing parochial rates as well, thus constituting a most unfair and grievous impost, which it is hoped by legislation may be speedily removed.

"ALL Hail the Power of Jesu's Name." The dying words of Edward Perronet, the author of this hymn, were, "Glory to God in the height of His Divinity; glory to God in the depth of His humanity; glory to God in His all-sufficiency."