

people was very great. "I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts." "Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation." "Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." Then they are graciously invited to "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

*5. The reasons on which the tithe law was based, from the first, continued in undiminished force.*

These reasons were:—

(1) That the worship of the true God might be preserved among men.

(2) That God's sovereignty over property, and consequently, that man's stewardship of it, might be suitably acknowledged.

(3) That gratitude for Divine mercies might find a ready and ample means of expression.

(4) That an efficient restraint might be placed upon the innate selfishness of the human heart.

(5) That means might be provided systematically, and in due proportion to everyone's ability, for the