

the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou may'st learn to fear the Lord thy God always." Deut. 14th, 23. This is a new demand and to be considered a religious duty. It was to be brought as an offering to the Sanctuary, and if the distance was too great its value was to be given in money. The Levites had no inheritance, and the Israelites were not to forget them, but honestly tithe their increase, which tithe with a certain proportion of the sacrifices gave them a comfortable and assured fund for their support. One tenth was God's demand at first, but with increased advantages and privileges, the responsibilities are also increased. And "to whom much is given, much will be required." By this second tithe it is evident the ancient Israelite was commanded to give a fifth of his living to God. And that a prompt obedience to this law was given we read "and as soon as the command come abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine, oil and honey and of all the increase of the fields; and the tithes of all the things brought they in abundantly." 2 Chron. 31st, 5. Noble example and hearty assent to the principal of acknowledging that all things belong to and come from God, and that it is His blessing which maketh rich and bringeth no sorrow therewith. "At the end of every three years, thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates, and the Levite (because he hath no part or inheritance with thee.) And the stranger, and the fatherless and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the works of thine hand which "thou doest." "The poor shall never cease out of the land." All the tribes of Israel became owners of property on the conquest of Canaan, except the tribe of Levi; from which came the Aaronic Priesthood. God in his providence foresaw the event and permitted it, partly as a punishment for disobedience, and partly for the exercise of benevolent and charitable feelings. "That the poor should never cease out of the land," and so it has been ever since. It is one of the highest privileges of Christianity to walk in the footsteps of Him "Who went about continually doing good." Whether this was a distinct tithe or blended with the second one there is not sufficient proof to decide, but be that as it may, it plainly shows the special care of and provision made for them. There were also several other offerings commanded; for Israel was required to give constantly a tenth to the Levites, Feasts, and poor every third year. To all pious purposes over and above what the law prescribed—to bring free will offerings as love might prompt. I would for a moment pause to consider the