

he would dedicate a portion of all his worldly goods to the Lord—"a tenth," which was the same proportion Abram fixed upon. Are we to suppose for a moment that the two patriarchs settled upon the same amount by accident? I should think not. Indeed it seems to me that the reason which justifies our citing his earnestness in prevailing prayer as an example, holds good in reference to this case, for both are recorded for our instruction. I think if young merchants and professional men just entering on business acted on Jacob's plan, we would see most glorious results follow. God says in His word, "Them that honour me I will honour;" and again, "Honour the Lord with thy substance." "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth," and "there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty." "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my 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 to receive it; and I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground, neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts." There are many in the world that can testify to the fulfilment of these gracious promises, even in their business relations in life, and illustrations crowd upon me, but it is unnecessary to enlarge. The teaching of the passage in Malachi is so much in point that I cannot refrain from offering a few remarks upon it. The condition of the Jews at the time of Malachi was poor indeed. For it is generally considered by the best Bible students that Malachi prophesied during the time of Nehemiah, and the mass of the people was so poor that they mortgaged their lands and vineyards to procure food for their families and money to pay their taxes, yet they were held as robbing God in withholding their tenth even in their depressed circumstances. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." "For how shall men believe in whom they have not heard, and how

shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?" and how can they be educated and sent without money to support them?

Association for the Maintenance of National Religion.

The recent disestablishment agitation has led to the formation in Edinburgh of an Association for the maintenance of National Religion, with an enrolled membership of upwards of 2000. The association originated in a conference of a few gentlemen, who afterwards sent circulars containing a statement of their principles, and inviting the co-operation of those who agreed with them. Hitherto no public meeting has been held; but the following resolutions were unanimously adopted at a meeting called by circular, and held in the Freemasons Hall, Edinburgh, Admiral Sir W. J. Hope Johnstone, K. C. B., in the chair:

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Phin, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Smith, North Leith (in absence of the Rev. John Barclay, of the Tron Church, and the Rev. James Smellie, of the United Original Secession Church)—

That in view of the threatened agitation for the separation of the State from religion and the Church in Great Britain, the association shall, so soon and so far as may be necessary, set itself to diffuse information, by means of public meetings, tracts, lectures, deputations, the formation of local and auxiliary committees, and otherwise—

1. As to the disastrous consequences which would result from the abandonment of the duty of maintaining *National religion*; and

2. As to the benefit of proper National countenance and help to religion and to the Church of Christ.

Moved by the Rev. William Balfour, of Holyrood Free Church, seconded by John Dick, Esq., Minto Street, Edinburgh—

That the Association shall be called the Association for the Maintenance of National Religion; that its membership shall consist of the individuals whose names are recorded in a list now laid on the table of the meeting, and of such other persons as shall hereafter join it; that the Association shall be managed by Presidents, Vice-Presidents, a General Committee, a Treasurer, and Honorary Secretaries; that the General