

## CHRISTIAN GIVING

ILLUSTRATED AND ENFORCED BY ANCIENT TITHING.

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me.  
But ye say, wherein have we robbed Thee?  
In tithes and offerings.”

*Malachi iii. 8.*

Antiquity imparts great interest to any custom; it also invests it with a measure of authority. If you are able to add to antiquity wide-spread assent, you may claim for the custom or institution, a yet larger interest, and a yet higher authority.

For the payment of tithes as a sacred offering, you have very high antiquity. Confining your attention, for a moment, to the Biblical record, you are carried back to the time of Abraham, who took a tenth of the spoils which he had recovered during a successful war, and offered it to the service of religion and of “the Most High God,” in the person of Melchisedec, a royal priest. Jacob must have learned from his grandfather, whom he often saw, and from others, that giving unto the Lord a tenth of one’s possessions, was a recognized religious duty. You remember his vow, after his heart had been cheered on his sad and solitary journey towards Laban, by the vision of the glorious ladder: “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God; and this stone, which I have set for a pillar shall be God’s house; AND OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME, I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE.”