

our substance is not ours but His. There is no charity in our recognition of this. It is a debt in the truest sense, our tribute in recognition of God's continual love for His children. In this spirit Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God; in this spirit Jacob vowed to God the tenth of all his wealth, actual and prospective; in this spirit all Israel kept the law, lest eating bread to the full and with heart uplifted they should forget the Lord their God. So the first act of Nehemiah on the return from the captivity was to re-establish the law of tithing, even while the people were poor and their city unbuilt.

"Under this law, carried over into Christian times, the old Church of England received the magnificent endowments which still enable it to do its splendid work, and all Christians, everywhere, of our communion reap to-day the fruits of the loyalty of the generations gone by.

"If, therefore, the common usage of to-day is different, it is not because the ancient obligation has been cancelled, but because of the growing selfishness and indifference of those who call themselves Christians.

"Let us never forget that Christianity, with the offence of the Cross removed, is no Christianity at all. If your religion has no Cross in it, it may be anything else you like, but it is not the religion of Christ. If you give, exercising no self-denial, *your gift is not a sacrifice*. It is worth little or nothing as a part of your life, an expression of your devotion.

"This then is the question I want you to put to yourselves personally and individually: **WHAT DOES MY RELIGION COST ME?**

"Accept the challenge of the Almighty as thrown down by the prophet Malachi: 'Prove Me now herewith.' Make a business-like estimate of your income. Deduct first of all from your expenditure everything harmful or vicious. Then consider the *necessaries* of life, for the maintenance of physical, intellectual and spiritual life. *This* is the place for your church expenditure. If you can't find room for it there, then, in God's name, *don't put it among the luxuries*. It is an insult to the very name of Religion for a man to put his church expenditure in the same category with his cigars, his theatres and his holiday trip. **GOD IS NECESSARY OR HE IS SUPERFLUOUS.**

"Prove Me now herewith!"

"Blessing will come richly to the life which honors God in trusting Him. It will come indirectly to him through the increased activity and vitality of the church of which he is a member.

"It will come directly to him in material blessings.

"It will come in better business habits assured through a quickened sense of responsibility for wealth.

"It will come in saving our life from the hell of covetousness. And above all it will come in a *character* made more conformable to that of our Blessed Lord and Master, Who, though He were rich yet for our sakes became poor, that we, through His poverty, might be rich."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Church in B. C.

Editor Church Record:

DEAR SIR:—The letter of "Legality" in August RECORD, touches the question of the ecclesiastical standing of an English churchman