

EXPERIENCES IN TITHING. IV.

"DEAR OLD RECORD," writes a friend from Wingham, Ont., "I am much interested in 'Tithing Experiences.' Two years ago, while Evangelists Crossley and Hunter were laboring in our town, they presented God's claims so forcibly, that I and some others were led to adopt the tithing system. To say that I am satisfied with the result is but a faint expression of my feelings upon the subject. I have been able to give more than twice as much as formerly, and it is such a pleasure to give in this way; I could not afford to give it up. If all God's children could be brought to see their duty and privilege in this matter, what showers of blessing, both temporal and spiritual, would there be."

A young lady from a village of Pictou Co., N. S., says,—“I am glad to be able to add my testimony to those who have found a blessing in laying aside one tenth of all their earnings for the Lord and His work. I would be glad if you could print at some time in the RECORD just what this tenth money should be devoted to. Sometimes when giving part of my tenth to charities and those whom I think are the Lord's poor, the question arises in my mind,—‘Should the tenth money be given even in this way; should not this be outside the tenth?’”

An "Ontario woman" says: "I began giving the tenth some years ago, being led to do so by reading that useful little pamphlet, 'Paying what you Owe,' by 'Layman' of Chicago.

Some object to the tithing plan by saying that 'It is far from being enough to give.' 'It is an old Jewish law, and why should Christians conform to it,' 'We are under the Gospel dispensation,' &c." Do not such people know that if professing Christians, ministers and laymen, men and women, were to devote the tenth of their income to Him who gives it, the treasuries of Churches and benevolent societies would never be empty. Further, the delight of giving in this way grows upon one and tends to lead beyond the tenth, to the full measure of Christian privilege, giving 'as the Lord hath prospered.'"

"About five years ago," writes another, "I became convinced that laying aside at least one-tenth of all one's earnings was the only Christian way of giving of our means for the Lord's work. My salary is not large, but the one tenth of it is more than I would feel I could afford to give, if I did not set it aside and consider it the 'Lord's money.' I feel that I have been blessed by the Lord in the little I have been able to do for Him with this one-tenth. The same rule applies to rich and poor, for 'to whom little is given, of them little will be required.'"

"For some years we have given the tenth," writes a Colchester, N. S., lady, "and like it very much indeed. We were led to adopt it in the following way. We were giving systematically every Sabbath for the support of ordinances, while other calls of the Church were responded

to according to what we had when the call came, and we were often quite short of money when asked for it. After a time we kept an account for a year to see how much we gave, and were amazed and ashamed, we had not been giving half enough. From that day to this we have given our tenth, laying it away every week. Now we feel that we are giving. Formerly, I don't think we could claim the blessing promised to cheerful givers. The Lord has blessed the nine tenths more than when we gave such a pittance. The tenth laid aside for the Master affords us more pleasure than I can express."

An Ontario lassie says:—"If it would be of interest to you to know how a country girl managed to give her tithe here it is:—I was a farmer's daughter without a stated allowance of spending money, so I used to add up my personal expenses on my return from shopping for the household (dear mother was an invalid) and divide the sum by the figure nine and the quotient was the amount I laid by as tithe with mother's permission. Father gives me an allowance now, and it is both my duty and my pleasure to first take from the sum the tenth for Christ and the church. I do not bind myself to the tenth merely but never give less. I do enjoy giving and by ten years experience have proved it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Another correspondent sends the following:—"I have been a tither for several years and believe the system to be Scriptural and as obligatory upon the Christian as the observance of the Sabbath. I find myself now giving more to God's cause, over and above the tithe than I formerly gave altogether, before adopting the system. As a result, I have more to give and more to live on. But the best of all is that the more stock we have in the Kingdom of Heaven the more will we be interested in its progress, and I don't think we can go into the Lord's work with our whole heart unless we take our money with us.

In a congregation of 70 families, a collection was recently made for the schemes of the church; two tithers gave \$16.00, the rest of the congregation gave \$22.00, total \$38.00."

"You ask for a word from those who tithe," writes a Berlin lady. "It has been one of my chief joys, my delight, to be able to set apart one-tenth of my income, (salary) for the Lord's work. This I have done for eight years, although for nine months previous I gave one tenth of my income, after paying my board, but I could not bear to do that any longer as I felt the Lord's portion should come first. I would just as soon think of not paying my board as not paying that, and in so doing I feel it is only my just debt. With it has come the recognition that it is all His own, and no part should be used without His sanction. It was my bible which showed me that for me, at any rate, this was right."

Will an "Ontario farmer" please send another letter, the first was lost in the printing office. Will others please give their experience.