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another—generally a tenth of increase—were customarily made, it was found that many persons came to enjoy all the advantages of the peace and harmony, and spiritual light, and sacred institutions of the Church; and yet dishonestly forbore bearing their just portion of the common hurthen; and accordingly laws were made by common consent, to lay the hurthen for the worship of God, equally upon all shoulders; and in that conformation of society, which the world then presented—a little different I admit, from the present, when arts and manufactures, and commerce seem to constitute much of the wealth of the world; this was the rule established, that “of common right tithes are to be paid for such things only as do yield a yearly increase by the act of God.”

So that our forefathers subscribed, through many generations, to this general principle, that it becomes a Christian man always to remember God and the poor at harvest time. The law was indeed a stern thing, and the tithe was in itself obnoxious to ordinary prejudices; and often made very offensive to individual feelings by unnecessary faults in the collection of it. Still, in spite of all, it bore with it the suffrages of a generous Christian nation through a long lapse of generations, till God had time, as he hath now had, in the slow majestic course of his Providence, to stamp their Christian love with his holy approval by rendering our mother country—principally by reason of their provision for the parochial Clergy, and for the onerous sustenance of the poor—the foremost among the nations of the earth. They did from generation to generation their duty at harvest time; and they often took even the morsel that wife and children longed for, and gave it with a sigh, but still they gave their share to God and the poor; and hence they came to learn that “the blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”

On a right interpretation of the principle of law, such as it would receive in the highest Imperial Courts, I fancy it would be found that the Church of Christ has, though not in exercise, the right to tithe in this territorial dependency of England, notwithstanding the Provincial Act, based or not on a false preamble, that was passed in the U. C. Legislature. But as I do not suppose that such a claim will ever be pressed—the question before our conscience, as Christian and voluntary agents, is this:—How ought we to act, with respect to God and the poor, annually, as the harvest comes round? How is religion to be supported among us? How are Churches to be built? &c.