

The Sacred Tenth: Or Studies in Tithe-Giving, Ancient and Modern, Vol. 1 of 2 (Classic Reprint)

Henry Lansdell



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Studies may be briefly indicated as follows. The opening chapters are intended to show, apart from, and before the existence of, the Bible, that man, from the beginning, recognised it as a duty to offer a portion of his substance to his God ;and that the portion so dedicated, throughout the ancient pagan and patriarchal world, was almost invariably a tenth. From the Jews, indeed, payment was required of two tenths in addition to Gods tithe, and to these the Rabbis added a fourth, as appears from our studies in the Old Testament, the A pocrypha, and the Talmud. Nor did the Founder of Christianity repeal this Jewish tithing, but, on the contrary, He expressed distinct approval of it. When Church history on this subject begins, our sections on Catholic or Universal Teaching, Practice, and Legislation testify that the principle of tithing was taught and observed for sixteen centuries throughout the Christian world, including England, until the time of Henry VIII. This monarch instigated parliament to seize tithes from about a third of the parishes of England, and to hand them over to the Crown, the Crown forth with rewarding this perfidy by at least 367 grants of tithes, now traceable, to lay members of parlia ment alone; besides which Henry VIII. and his royal successors, down to William III.

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