



Rebels.

THE SACRED TENTH, OR STUDIES IN TITHE-GIVING, ANCIENT AND MODERN, by Henry Lansdell, D.D., 2 vols. (S.P.C.K.) The personality of the author, his vast travels in many distant lands, his learned works *Through Siberia*, *Russian Central Asia*, *Chinese Central Asia*, and other books, would alone commend these volumes to the studious, but the subject upon which he has bestowed eight years of careful labour is so important and interesting, that the work cannot fail to attract many readers, and stimulate the study of an obscure and untrodden field of enquiry. Dr. Lansdell's object is, however, not merely to interest, but to awaken and stimulate the consciences of Englishmen with regard to the duty of devoting a tenth of their income to charity. With amazing industry he has ransacked the records of the ages, and the antiquary will find in the book an exhaustive treatise on the archaeology of tithe-paying, tracing the custom back to the times of ancient nations, Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, Phœnician and Roman, as well as to the ages of the Patriarchs, recorded in the volumes of the Sacred Law. The Egyptians seem to have surpassed all Christian nations in the amounts of their gifts to the gods, one-sixth, not one-tenth, being the proportion bestowed. The results of the labours of Sayce, Maspero, Pinches, and many other scholars are all made to yield their testimony to the truths which the author endeavours successfully to prove. From Abraham to Joshua, from Joshua to Malachi, the same results hold as to the universality of the custom. The Apocrypha, the Talmud are examined, the New Testament is searched, the customs of the Eastern and Western Churches shown, and then a very complete exposition is given of Tithing in England, from British times to the present. Dr. Lansdell fearlessly exposes the abuses which crept in at the time of the Reformation, when the Church was robbed by unscrupulous courtiers, and the lay impropiator sprang into being, and plainly shows from Grove's schedules of alienated tithes that £3,000,000 of tithes have been appropriated. Spelman in his *History of Sacrilege* collected a large number of instances of the misfortunes and dire punishments that had fallen upon the possessors of abbey lands and tithes. The instances given are remarkable, and though we know of several families who have apparently escaped this fate, having perhaps averted it by timely bequests or the creation of schools, almshouses, or colleges, Spelman's work is uncomfortable reading for the lay impropiator. We cannot follow Dr. Lansdell through all his arguments, but enough has been said to awaken the interest of many readers in these learned and excellent volumes, and we congratulate their author upon the accomplishment of a difficult task. The work is well illustrated, and is likely to become the standard work on this subject.

MEMORIES OF OLD HAMPSHIRE, edited by the Rev. J. E. Jeans (Bemrose and Sons.) Hampshire is scarcely an alien shire to the inhabitants of the three counties of Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire. Just over the Berkshire border lies the lovely county which claims to be the premier shire of all "the real, original nucleus of the British Empire," as Grant Allen calls it. It is one of the most interesting, too, from the importance of its early English history of its charming capital, the architectural value of its Cathedral, the stability of which is now creating much anxiety, and of three of its other churches, its beautiful combination of woodland and sea, its possession of more genuine forest than all the rest of England put together, and its chief place in the naval position of England, owing to the two great harbours afforded by its fortunate coast-line. Its history, therefore, is full of varied charm, and the most recent work devoted to the subject is the latest volume of the *Memorials of the Counties of England Series*,

This volume is fortunate in its learned Editor, Mr. Jeans, who with an able band of colleagues has told again the story of the shire, recounted its chief attractions, and illustrated it with many charming pictures of the beauties of Hampshire. No prettier picture could be devised than the forest glade printed in colours, from the charming sketch of Mrs. Rawnsley, who also describes the Abbey of Beaulieu, and whose husband writes an excellent and learned chapter on the New Forest. The Editor gives a general sketch of the history of the county and describes its churches. We are glad to see a chapter by Mr. C. E. Keyser on the wall paintings in the county, a subject which he has made his own. Southampton by Professor Hearnshaw, Basing, some of the last scenes in the life of Charles I. Old Portsmouth, by the Rev. Dr. Godwin, Romney Abbey, by Mr. Yarborough, Netley by Mr. Chevalier, Wolvesey by Mr. Nisbett, who also writes on the Hospital of St. Cross, are some of the most attractive features. Old Wykehamists will turn with pleasure to the account of their famous school. Cricketers will delight in the chronicles of the Hambledon Cricket Club, admirably told by Mr. Horace Hutchinson, and Berkshire readers will like to read the account of the old house at Bramshill, just beyond the borders of their county, an excellent illustration of which is given in this Journal, by kind permission of the publishers. Other volumes of this series of the Memorials of the Counties of England are in preparation, including Kent, Somersetshire, Shropshire, Wilts, etc. Only 4 copies of the Buckinghamshire volumes are left, and a few copies of the *Memorials of Old Oxfordshire* can still be procured from the publishers.

HOME COUNTIES MAGAZINE, edited by Mr. Paley Baildon, F.S.A. (Reynell and Son.) This Magazine has recently been transferred to new publishers, and is now under the charge of a new Editor, Mr. Paley Baildon, whose reputation as an antiquary is such that under his care the periodical will be sure to prosper. He proposes to carry out the policy of his predecessor, Mr. Hardy, "to treat accurately and usefully matters topographical from a popular stand-point." In the January number Mrs. Henry Wood discourses pleasantly on the charming features of Ham House and its owners. The story of Gravesend is told by Mr. A. C. Jonas and the number contains other interesting papers. There is, however, a decided improvement in the April number, which has come more immediately under the care of the present Editor. Mr. Gerish's account of a Hertfordshire Witch, one Jane Wenham, the "wise woman" of Walkern, is full of interest, and Viscount Dillon's description of the Tower of London in 1810, like all his writings contains a vast amount of expert knowledge. Episcopal visitations of East Kent throw some amusing light on the manners of our forefathers. Mr. Meiklejohn follows Taylor's *Words and Places* in his study of *Place Names of Northwood*, and does not always find that work a safe guide. The Editor gives a delightful sketch of the Chronicle of Paul's Cross, and there is much else that will interest antiquaries.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ST. ALBAN'S AND HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. 2, Pt. 1. This volume contains an excellent account of some ornamental carvings in Herts Churches by Mr. A. Whitford Anderson, an important chapter on the connection of St. Wulfram with St. Alban's Abbey by Mrs. F. B. Henderson, Early Pigeon Houses by Dr. Mowat, a learned history of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, and an account of the Great Gateway of the Abbey. The volume is enriched with many illustrations, and is an important addition to the works published by this venerable society which the Editor, Mr. Wilton Hall, tells us began its life in 1846. With much industry he has compiled a list of papers read before the Society during the last sixty years.

THE APRIL ANTIQUARY has many interesting articles, amongst which are a Pilgrimage to St. David's Cathedral, by Dr. Fryer, the connection of Mary, Queen of Scots with Art and Letters, and the Editor's notes are always exhaustive. He seems never to omit any discovery or note of importance.