

Lesson IX. ABSTINENCE FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS November 26, 1905

World's Temperance Sunday

1 Corinthians 10 : 23-33. Commit to memory vs. 31-33. Read chs. 8 : 1-12 and 9 : 19-27.

GOLDEN TEXT—Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 Corinthians 10 : 12.

23 All things are lawful<sup>1</sup> for me, but all things are not expedient<sup>2</sup>; all things are lawful<sup>1</sup> for me, but all things edify not.

24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles,<sup>3</sup> that eat, asking no question for conscience sake :

26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

27 If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that

Revised Version.—Omit for me; each his neighbour's good; Omit that; one; biddeth; are; hath been; Omit unto idols; Omit for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the others; by another conscience; If I by grace partake; no occasion of stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God; also; the.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Principle, 23, 24.

II. A Practical Problem, 25-30.

III. A Noble Practice, 31-33.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Abstinence for the sake of others, 1 Cor. 10 :

23-33. T.—A stumbling block, 1 Cor., ch. 8. W.—

For the gospel's sake, 1 Cor. 9 : 10-27. Th.—Con-

sidering others, Phil. 2 : 1-11. F.—For the good of

others, Rom. 15 : 1-7. S.—A cause of stumbling,

Rom. 14 : 10-21. S.—Be sober! 1 Thess. 5 : 4-11.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 104. What do we pray

shewed it, and for conscience sake; for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

29 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other; for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

30 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God :

33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

for in the fourth petition? A. In the fourth petition (which is, Give us this day our daily bread) we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

The Question on Missions.—45. How is the school for blind children conducted? They are in school about four hours a day, during three and a half hours of which they are engaged in weaving. The wool spun in the Widows' Home at Indore is woven into blankets by the blind children at Ujjain.

Lesson Hymns.—Book of Praise, 438 (Supplemental Lesson); 216; 50; 7 (Ps. Sel.); 247 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 217.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—56 or 57 A.D.; Corinth, a city in Greece on the isthmus between the Ionian and Egean Seas.

Connecting Links—This being "The World's Temperance Sunday," we turn from our Old Testament Lessons to a passage in one of Paul's Epistles from which some important temperance lessons may be drawn. The Lesson is from a section of the First Epistle to the Corinthians (chs. 8 to 10) in which the apostle answers the question asked by the Christians at Corinth in a letter to him, whether they might lawfully eat food that had been offered to idols, a common practice in heathen cities like Corinth.

I. A Great Principle, 23, 24.

Vs. 23, 24. All things are lawful (allowable) for me. Our actions are of three classes : (1) those which conscience and God's law command; (2) those which they forbid; (3) those which they permit, but do not command. It is of this third class, such as eating, drinking, rest, social pleasures, the enjoyment of beautiful paintings and sculpture, and here particularly, eating

meat offered to idols, that the apostle speaks in the passage from which the Lesson is taken. All these are permissible to the Christian. All things are not expedient; from the Latin "*ex pes*," foot-free. If anything we lawfully wish to do entangles others in temptation, we should abstain. Love limits our liberty. Edify not; build not up. Everything that hinders the Christian's building up of a Christlike character in himself and others, and building up the kingdom of God in the world, he should avoid. No man, his own, each his neighbor's good (Rev. Ver.). The question is whether we shall please ourselves or be helpful to others. Christ's example settles this question (see Rom. 15 : 3).

II. A Practical Problem, 25-30.

Vs. 25, 26. Whatsoever is sold in the shambles ("anything that is for sale in the meat market," Weymouth), eat (Rev. Ver.). Before being exposed for sale, the meat might have been offered in sacrifice. Some Christians thought it was still a sacrifice when placed in the market, and using it for food