

is part of our duty to think of these weaker ones and of the influence of our example upon them. We may not do anything in our strength and security which might possibly harm others. We must be willing to sacrifice our liberty if by its exercise we endanger another's soul. This is the teaching of St. Paul in the words: "It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth;" and "If meat

maketh my brother too offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

How can we make sure of an influence that shall be only a benediction? There is no way but by making our life pure and good. Just in the measure that we are filled with the Spirit of God and have the love of Christ in us, shall our influence be holy and a blessing to the world. — *Westminster Teacher.*

EFFECTS OF SOCIALISTIC LEGISLATION.

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IT is not easy to measure the change which has taken place by statistics, but it may be illustrated by the following figures: Mr. Giffen, our most eminent living statistician, made a careful enquiry some time ago into the rate of wages at different periods, and he found that in the last fifty years they had advanced from 50 to 100 per cent. In the same time the hours of labour have been reduced on an average by 20 per cent. In very few trades do they now ever exceed ten hours, while in the majority they average nine hours, and in many they have been reduced to eight. The means for an innocent and profitable use of the leisure which has thus been afforded have been supplied by the action of the municipal and local authorities. Not only have the wages improved, but the cost of living has diminished. Bread is 20 per cent. cheaper on the average; sugar is 60 to 70 per cent. cheaper; tea, 75 per cent. cheaper; clothing, 50 per cent. cheaper. The cost of fuel, as represented by coal, has been diminished by one-half. Light, in the shape of gas or petroleum, is infinitely better and very much cheaper than in the time when tallow rushlights were the only illumination

within the reach of the poor. Locomotion has become easy and is placed within the reach of all; while the postage of letters, which averaged a shilling a piece, is now reduced to a uniform penny, or, in the case of postcards, to one half-penny for each communication. Only one article of commerce of great importance has increased in price, and that is meat in the shape of mutton and beef. Fifty years ago, however, mutton and beef did not enter into the ordinary consumption of the working classes; and if they tasted meat at all it was only in the shape of bacon. House rent has also risen, and in the course of the time of which we are speaking it has probably doubled. But house rent is a test of prosperity; and it is just because the working classes can afford to give themselves better accommodation that we find this great increase in the rate of house rent. On the whole, it may truly be said that not only have the working classes more to spend, but that they are able to get more for the money which they do spend. This is confirmed by the extraordinary increase which has taken place in the consumption of the chief articles of food. Thus, for instance, the consumption of