

him to do what his conscience bids. **Eat not for his sake.** This is Paul's counsel: do not tempt the man to set aside the command of conscience. In vs. 29, 30, it is claimed for the Christian, that he is free to eat any kind of food, whether it has been offered to idols or not, so long as his own conscience approves; but he is urged not to use this freedom, if others will in any way suffer from his so doing.

**III. OUR LORD'S GLORY.—31-33.** All to the glory of God. See Shorter Catechism, Ques. 1. This rule settles the question as to the use of strong drink, in short order. **No occasion of stumbling** (Rev. Ver.). No one should find it dangerous to follow us. **Jews**; those among them still unconverted. **Gentiles**; heathen. **Church of God**; Christians. **Profit of many**; which Paul sought, even to his own loss, Rom. 9: 3. **Saved**; from loss and ruin. Any self-denial should be welcomed, if this will be its outcome.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



About 200 years before Paul's visit to Corinth, it had been completely destroyed by the Romans. The temples and buildings were leveled to the ground; the men were slain, and the women were sold as slaves; and the paintings and sculptures, in which Corinth abounded, were carried off to Rome. For a century Corinth lay in ruins. At the end of that time, it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar, and made a Roman colony. It was settled by veterans from his armies and freed slaves. The descendants of these coloni, as they were called, in Paul's time would form the aristocracy of the place. Besides the coloni, there were many Romans who came to live there for business reasons, as well as government officials; a large Greek population; a considerable settlement of Jews; and a sprinkling of many other nationalities naturally drawn to it, from its central position

on the highway from West to East. The Corinthians were the first to build war galleys or triremes. The arts of painting and sculpture attained the highest perfection at Corinth; the finest bronze was "Corinthian brass"; our small fruit, the currant, derives its name from Corinth.

LESSON QUESTIONS

What question, amongst others, had the Corinthian Christians asked Paul? In what chapters does he answer this question?

23 What are excepted from "all things", v. 1? Explain "lawful". From what Latin word is "expedient" derived? What is its meaning here? To what is the formation of a Christlike character here likened? Where does Paul urge Christians not to let go their liberty? (Gal. 5: 1.) What rule did Jesus give His disciples as to their eating and drinking? (Luke 10: 7.)

24-27 Who is our great Example in not pleasing ourselves? (Rom. 15: 3.) What Jewish "grace before meat" does Paul here quote? What right does this give the Christians as to the use of food?

28-30 When, do these verses say, the Christian should abstain from using meat offered to idols? Where are Christians told to "be servants one to another"? (Gal. 5: 13, 14.)

31-33 What should be our highest rule as to eating and drinking? What example does Paul himself set us?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. The evils of the treating system.
3. Does prohibition interfere unduly with personal liberty?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Some years ago a steamer load of people from a place quarantined on account of smallpox, came to a certain Canadian port. The health officer would not allow them to land, but kept them out in the harbor till all fear of contagion was passed. The personal liberty of these people had to be interfered with for the good of the whole community. So we should be ready to give up our own pleasure and enjoyment, if, by our doing so, others will be benefited.

Prove from Scripture—That we should live for God's glory.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What are the Christian's rights as to eating and drinking? .....
2. Why should he be willing to give up these rights? .....
3. What is the highest rule of Christian conduct? .....