

those countries where it has had the sanction of tradition and custom.

Instruct the class concerning the economics of prohibition. The Belgian economist, Professor Laveleye of Liege University, has said: "True economic science is in complete agreement with true morality." To illustrate, trade in men or women may create certain forms of employment, and even wealth, but it is not hard to see that the eradication of such a business makes for the economic prosperity of a country; slavery is bad business. Whatever wealth and employment the vast opium interests, through the cultivation of the poppy and the distribution of the drug, created in China, the continuance of the trade meant eventually the economic ruin of the land, for it rendered the Chinese inefficient workmen through stupefaction and idiocy. This same Belgian authority classes liquor with opium as an economic millstone about the neck of every people who permit traffic in it.

Prepare the class to meet the common arguments against Prohibition: (1) Prohibition interferes with personal liberty; (2) Prohibition does not prohibit. What is our experience with local option? (3) Prohibition increases taxation. The liquor traffic takes out of a community eight times what it invests, plus the increased cost of the administration of justice, and of the maintenance of means for the care of those who suffer directly or indirectly through it. (4) Prohibition reduces wages. The saloon has been the recruiting ground for the "scabs" who have frustrated many honest demands of labor. The sober man requires a higher standard of living than the drinker,—a fact which reacts against low wages.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Although the great war has brought unparalleled and unspeakable desolation, and has plunged the whole world in mourning, note some of the good things which have come out of it, such as the weaning of the world from extravagance and luxury, and the breaking down of denominational and social barriers, and a revival of serious thinking, and in a most outstanding way a revival of temperance. It has been the means of spreading the great temperance wave over the whole world. Bring out that the temperance

cause has made more real progress during the last two years than during generations before. Dwell upon what has been done in Canada and what has been done in other lands. Without going into the obsolete question of the eating of meats offered to idols which agitated the apostolic church, discuss some temperance thoughts suggested by this passage.

1. *Intemperance Is the World's Great Stumblingblock*, vs. 13, 21. Quote one of the great leaders of the Canadian church who said recently, when preaching upon this subject: "The bar-room is a bank where you deposit your money and lose it; where you deposit health and lose it; where you deposit your good name and lose it; where you deposit home comforts and happiness and lose them; where you deposit your soul and lose it, for no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." The world has come to realize as never before that the liquor traffic is the great stumblingblock in the way of better things. It is an economic, and physical, and social, and moral, and spiritual menace. Nations are crippled by intemperance, and churches are weakened, and the world is wasted, homes are blighted, and souls are ruined.

2. *How Can this Stumblingblock Be Removed?* What suggestion has Paul to make about the matter? He says that it is a good thing (v. 21), a beautiful thing,—the word for good which Paul makes use of means beautiful—to be total abstainers for the sake of others, who have less self-control than we have, who are being weakened physically and morally and spiritually by the use of strong drink. No one can afford to have anything to do with this traffic who wishes to make a good investment of his life. Show how the temperance question has to-day become a national issue, and that nothing short of complete prohibition will satisfy the Christian conscience.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Help the class to understand something about this epistle,—that Paul wrote it to people he had never visited, and the section (chs. 12-16) containing our lesson passage is Paul's answer to questions the Romans asked about proper conduct in certain matters.