

upon the altar and the rest set before the guests.

2. *Look at a difficulty.* Have one of the scholars state the problem, or elicit it by questions,—whether a Christian might, or might not, without sin, eat meat that had already been offered to an idol. Show in how far the question, May I, or May I not, use strong drink? corresponds with this. In how far does one owe a duty to his neighbor, in considering what he himself may do or may not do?

3. *Bring out Paul's solution of the difficulty.* Vs. 25, 27 show what one is at liberty to do. Vs. 24, 28, 31-33 and the Golden Text show what one should do for the sake of those who are weaker—put all temptation out of

their way. The following story quoted by Peloubet from the Youth's Companion, illustrates this point, and one or two other points as well.

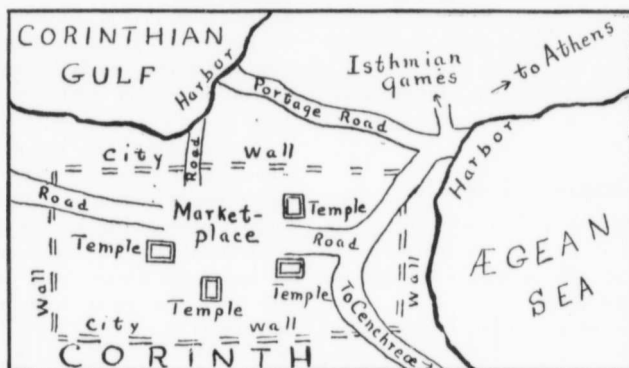
A little girl's brother set a trap to catch birds. She knew it was wrong, cruel, against the laws of kindness, altogether inexcusable from her point of view.

She wept at first; then a little later her mother noticed that she had become cheerful once more, and inquired as to the cause. "What did you do?" asked the mother. "I prayed for my brother to be made a better boy." "What else?" "I prayed that the trap would not catch any little birds." "What else?" "Then I went out and kicked the old trap all to pieces."

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 Cæsar, 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 settle-

ment 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.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Some Test Questions

1. Where and at about what date did Paul write First Corinthians? Of what does this

Epistle for the most part consist?

2. What were the rights of Christians as regards the use of food offered to idols? On what grounds might it be their duty to abstain?

3. From what Psalm does Paul quote?