

their conscience V. 21 should settle for us the question whether we should use strong drink. Is it a thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended (caused to sin), or is made weak? In such a case, Paul, by precept and example, bids us abstain.

**III. OUR CONSCIENCE.**—22, 23. The faith which thou hast (Rev. Ver.); the assurance that the Christian is set free from Jewish regulations as to food and the like. **Have it to thyself.** Rejoice in your liberty before God, but be willing to refrain from using it, for the sake of others. **Happy, etc.;** if he does not use his Christian liberty so as to injure others. **Doubteth...condemned** (Rev. Ver.); guilty of doing what he does not believe to be right. **Not of faith...sin.** What we cannot do, remembering that we are Christ's, is wrong.

### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

ROME was the capital of the mighty Roman empire, which, in Paul's day, extended from the Atlantic to the Euphrates and from Central Europe to Central Africa, with a population of nearly 120,000,000. The



city stood on seven hills on the banks of the Tiber. It is not certainly known how the gospel first reached Rome, but some think it was through Jewish pilgrims (Acts 2: 10), who heard Peter preach on the Day of Pentecost.

**CORINTH**, on the isthmus of the same name, with its two ports, Lechæum on the west and Cenchreæ on the east, was called "the bridge of the sea." To the south of the city was the Acrocorinthus, a bold rock in height over 1,800 feet above sea level.

### LESSON QUESTIONS

From what city did Paul write the Epistle to the Romans? What two classes of converts were there

in the church at Rome? What question was in dispute between them?

12, 13 To whom alone does Paul say each of us must give account? To what two things is temptation likened in v. 13? What did Jesus say of one who should cause a weak disciple to stumble? (Matt. 18: 6, Rev. Ver.) Show that we are responsible for others. (1 Cor. 10: 24.)

14-21 What Mosaic regulation is referred to in v. 14? Did Paul think that this regulation was binding on Christians? When was food "unclean" to a Christian? What sacrifice has Christ made for us? What should we be willing to sacrifice for others? (1 John 3: 16.) What reason does v. 21 give for abstaining from strong drink?

22, 23 When should the Christian refrain from using his liberty? What great test of right and wrong in v. 23?

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. When to insist upon our rights; when to yield them.
2. What is the best way of dealing with the drink traffic?

### A LESSON FOR LIFE

A few years ago, a party of visitors were walking across one of the bridges at Niagara Falls. A lady of the party in some way fell through the railing of the bridge, but was caught on one of the lower girders. In an instant, a young Irish minister climbed down at imminent peril of his own life, and held her till help was brought and both were drawn up in safety. The chance to do such a heroic deed may never come to us; but we can often, by word and example, keep others from falling into sin, which is the worst danger

**Prove from Scripture**—That we should make sacrifices for others.

**Shorter Catechism**—Review Questions 76-78.

**The Question on Missions**—8. What is the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society doing for the Indians? This Society, together with the mission bands of children, provides all the money for work amongst the Indian women and children, and the ladies also provide bales of clothing to protect the destitute Indians from the cold winters of the Northwest.

### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How, according to some, did the gospel first reach Rome?.....
2. What question was in dispute in the church of that city?.....
3. What great reason does the Lesson give for abstaining from strong drink?.....