THE CATHOLIC RECORD

the child got in his pocket ?" She thrust her hand into Joey's pocket and drew forth a ball of string, an old barlow knife and -a large piece

She sank down upon the bench with a look upon her face that made Joey tremble violently. Then she held up the place of tobacco to view.

"Do you see this, Solomon ?" she fairly gasped. "I reckon I do. What is it—an infernal meechane?" "None of your foolishness, Solomon Bugford : this sin'r no time for sich

Bugford ; this ain't no time for sich. I found this piece of tobacker in this child's pocket. Think of it, an' him only eight ! Almost a babe an' chaw in' tobacker ! What did I tell you about takin' Jim Skinner's child to bring up? Like father, like son ! It's jist one step from tobacker to drinkin', an' one step from drinkin' to the gallus. Joey Skinner, have you got any of that stuff in your mouth ?" -I dunno," stammered Joey,

trembling violently. You don't know?" gasped his t. "What did I ask you?" aunt.

"Ast me if I had any in my mouth. Any what ?"

"Gallus !" sobbed Joey, bursting in-

to tears. "No, I didn't. I said tobacker.

Has the boy gone crazy? Have jou got any tobacker in your mouth?" "No-'m," sobbed Juey; "I-" "That will do. I don't want no talkin' back. Can you remember

that ?" "Yes sum."

" Then come right away an' git the dust washed off your face. You are a sight to be seen. She led him through the front room

toward the kitchen, and stopping, she placed the piece of tobacco on the man tel over the ficeplace. I'm goin' to put it up there," she

eaid, "an' if you offer to touch it I'll skin you alive ! Do you under-

"Yes-sum," blubbered Joey.

When the boy had been washed she made him sit on a bench under the shed while she went out and sat on the front porch. I do wonder what the world is

comin' to," she remarked, " when the very babes are usin' tobacker. I was readin' in a book the other day that it destroys the nerves an' mecks ijiuts of people that use it."

Solomon leaned over and sat looking at a bumblebee that was buzzing on a holivhock.

I've chawed 'er a good while," he observed, " but I reckon she hain't hurt me a bit."

"Of course not ; nothin' ain't goin' to hurt a born ijlut !" snapped his wife. "I don't want you to be havin" wife. sich talk before the boy. It would be the ruinashun of him."

Joey would have found life on the Bugford farm much happier had he not stood in such dread of the wrath of his aunt. longingly at the piece of tobacco on the mantel, and her wrath flamed up.

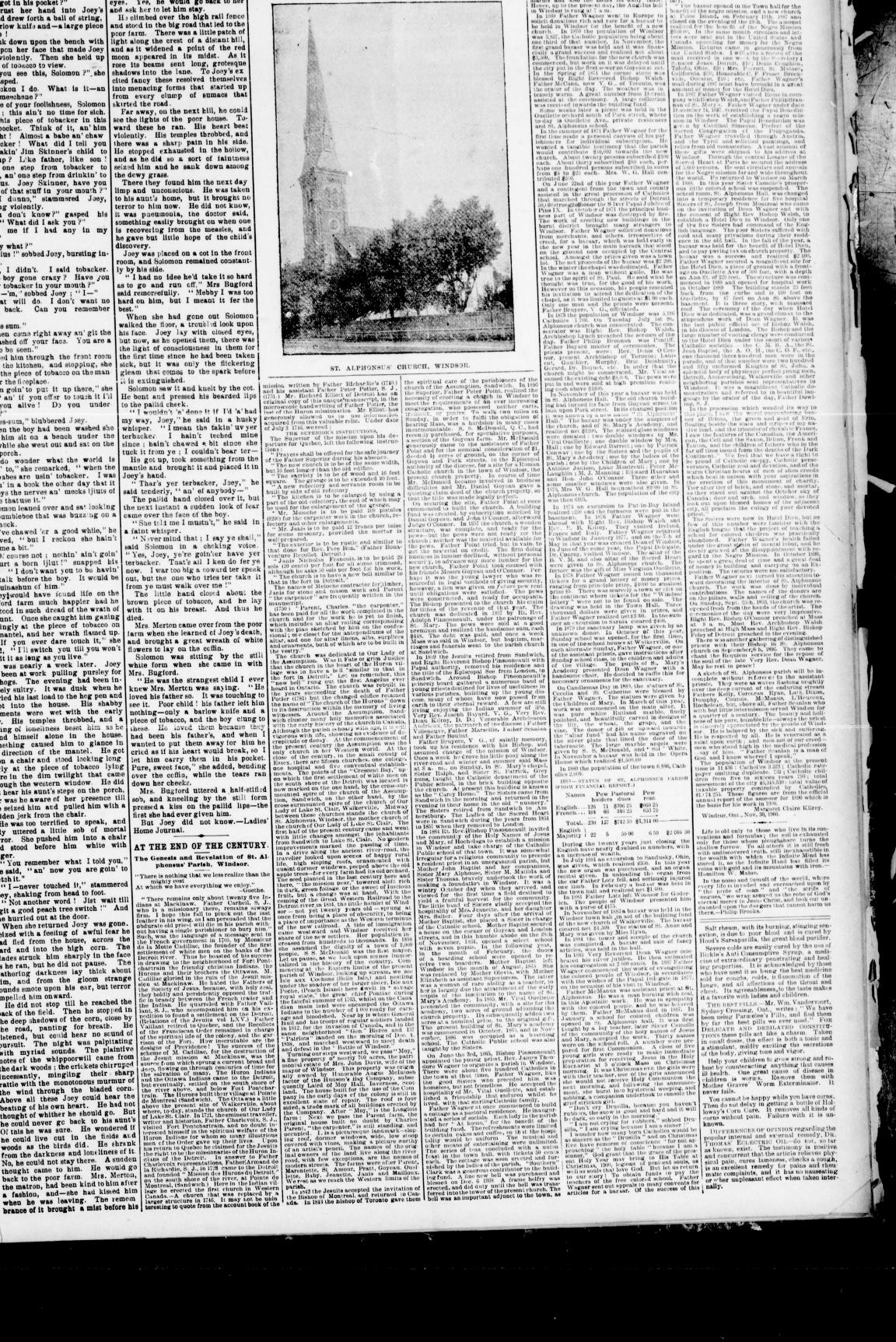
"If you ever dare touch it," she led, "I'll switch you till you won't cried, forgit it as long as you live.

forgit it as long as you live." It was nearly a week later. Joey had been at work pulling pursley for the hogs. The evening had been in-tensely sultry. It was dusk when he carried his last load to the hog pen and crept into the house. His shabby gaments were wet with the early dew. His temples through and dew. His temples throbbed, and a feeling of loneliness beset him as he found Something caused him to glance in

eyes. Yes, he would go back to her and ask her to let him stay. Ho climbed over the high rail fence and stood in the big road that led to the poor farm. There was a little patch of light along the crest of a distant hill, and as it widened a point of the red moon appeared in its midst. As it rose its beams sent long, grotesque shadows into the lane. To Joey's ex shadows into the lane. cited fancy these resolved themselves into menacing forms that started up rom every clump of sumacs that

skirted the road . Far away, on the next hill, he could see the lights of the poor house. Toward these he ran. His heart beat violently. His temples throbbed, and there was a sharp pain in his side. He stopped exhausted in the hollow, and so did he did so a sort of faintness and as seized him and he sank down among the dewy grass.

There they found him the next day



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well as to the parish. It was used ringing for harms and side the norms for daily labor. The based as the back lab balance, up to the present day, the Aufclus balance in the initial is the structure of the back of the b

the direction of the mantel. upon a chair and stood looking long. ingly at the piece of tobacco lying there in the dim twilight that came through the western window. He did not hear his aunt's steps on the porch, nor was he aware of her presence till she seized him and pulled him with a sudden jerk from the chair.

He was too terrified to speak, and only uttered a little sob of mortal terror. She pushed him into a chair and stood before him white with anger

she said, "an' now you are goin' to ketch it."

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