MAY 31, 1884

THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

WHAT HAVE I LOST ?

Mrs. S-had for a long time been praying, with tears, without ever yielding to discouragement, for the conversion of her husband, a retired officer, who had been distinguished for his courage and lovalty.

Raised by a pious mother, the life of the camps and of the barracks had blotted out his early impressions of religion. He still retained his courage and loy-alty, but doubt succeeded to faith, and then came that cold and miserable indifference, wherein a man is all the more to be pitied because he does not see his need of pity. Mrs. L.—.,who was allowed full liberty for herself and her little daughter to follow all the practices of religion, wept for the estrangement of him whom she loved, and from whom she feared to be separated in the other world. For a long time she had continued to address her prayers to her who will always be the refuge and the comfort of suffering souls. One day a new sorrow was inflicted on

her heart when she learned that her husband was a Freemason. This was no longer indifference, but real, downright, public, and avowed disobedience to the Church. In thinking over this, the good wife pressed her child to her bosom as if to preserve her from misfortune, or, perhaps, to appeal to the inno-cence of the child as a preservative against the danger that threatened the father. She happened to fix her eyes on a little statue of St. Anthony of Padua that was in her room, and a sudden im-pulse moved her: "My child," said she to her daughter, "you must pray much to St. Anthony to obtain of him that your father find what he has lost."

"What has he lost, mamma?"

"You will know it hereafter, my dear ; but pray, and do not say anything about

it to papa." The child raised her innocent eyes towards the statue, and she uttered this simple prayer: "O great Saint, make my father find what he has lost !"

Just at this moment the door opened, and Mr. S-told his wife that he was about to go out. He had heard the conversation, and he began to ask himself: "What have I lost? No doubt it is my wife herself that has mislaid something. I must tell her not to be uneasy, for if I had lost anything of value I should surely remember it."

As it was towards the beginning of June, Mr. S _____ came to the conclu-sion that the beautiful evenings would afford him more pleasure in the country than he could find in the lodge. "This is a good idee," he said to himself. "I will take my wife and child, and we will make an excursion into the country. But what can I have lost?" Mrs

Mrs. S_____smiled a happy smile and raised her eyes gratefully to St. Anthony when her husband mentioned his idea to her. She was silent, and felt the blood tingle in her cheeks when he added : "Tell me, have I lost anything ?"

"Why do you ask me that ?" "Because I heard our little girl pray-ing for me to find what I had lost."

The conversation went no farther on that occasion, but the embarrassment of the wife had not escaped the notice of the husband, and the question would return to his mind again and again : "What can I have lost?"

On another evening, some time after-wards, Mrs. S——and her little child were in the room together again, and the little one fervently repeated her simple prayer : "O great Saint, make my father find what he has lost !"

Mr. S-pushed the door open and

A Sad Story of a Wrecked Life.

The most thrilling and sadly suggest-ive temperance lecture is the sight of a once noble and talented man, left in ruins by intoxicating drink. A Washington paper tells of a ragged beggar, well known in the streets of that city, who once held an important command in the Army, having been promoted for personal bravery, from a cavalry lieutenant to nearly the highest rank in military service. One night, not long ago, when he had been too successful in begging liquor to sate his craving and while lying helplessly drunk in the rear part of a Third street saloon, some men thought to play a joke on him by stealing his shirt, and proceeded to strip him.

Underneath his shirt, and suspended by a string from his neck, was a small canvas bag, which the men opened and found contained his commission as Bre-vet Major General, two congratulatory letters_one from General Grant and one from President Lincoln-a photograph of a little girl, and a curl of hair—a "chest-nut shadow" that doubtless crept over

the brow of some loved one. When these things were discovered, even the half drunken men who found them felt a respect for the man's former greatness, and pity for his fallen condition, and quietly returned the bag and its contents to where they found them and replaced the sleeper's clothes upon

When a reporter tried to interview the man, and endeavored to learn some-thing of his life in the past few years, he

declined to communicate anything. He cried like a child when told how his right name and former position were ascertained, and with tears trickling down his cheeks said :

"For God's sake sir, don't publish my degradation, or my name, at least, if you are determined to say something about it. It is enough that I know myself how low I have become. Will you promise that much? It will do no good, but will do my friends a great deal of harm, as, unfortunately, they think I died in South America, where I went at the close of the war."

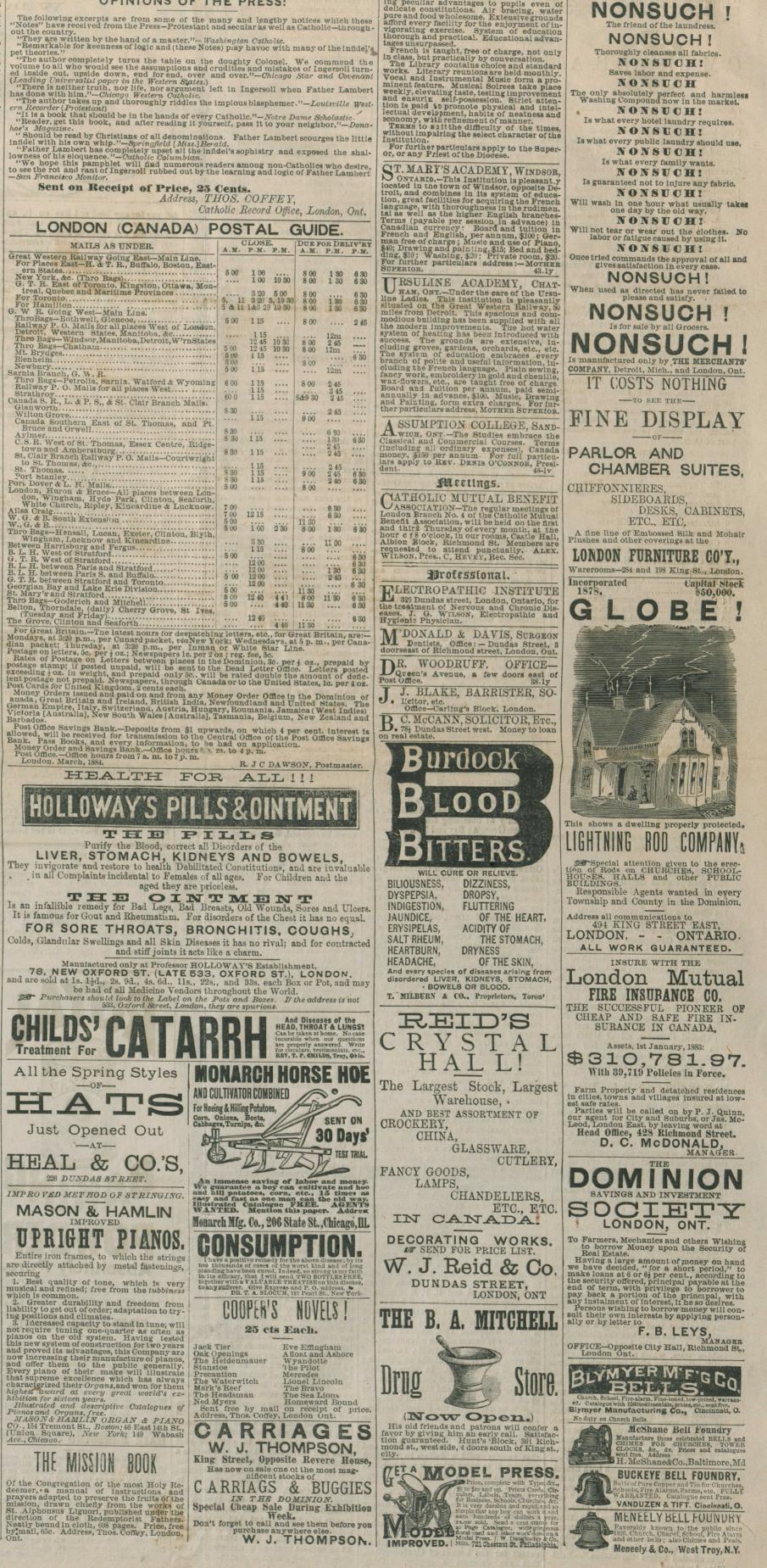
Intemperance and the gambling table had wrought his ruin.

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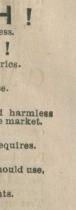
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came in excitedly, saying: "Tell me at last, in the name of common sense, what I have lost ! For these eight days I have been asking myself the question : I have been haunted by it. You make the child pray for it, but it would be much better to tell me what it is, so that I can know whether it is worth the seeking."

Mrs. S arose, and looking at her husband seriously, said : "My dear, would you be content to be separated from us forever ?"

"What a question !"

"And yet, my dear, if you do not find what you have lost you will one day have to leave us, and forever."

"What is it, then ?—what is it that I have lost?"

"Faith—the faith of your mother You must find that faith again." And And the good woman wept, whilst Mr. S_____, without uttering a word, left the room. "Faith!" he said to himself; "the faith of my mother! the faith of my wife and child !"

During the whole night, whilst Mrs. continued to pray, she heard her husband walking in his room, and sometimes exclaiming to himself: "Faith ! the faith of my mother !" Next day Mr. S——silently entered his wife's room, and, as if awaking to a

sudden idea, he asked her: "Is this a

feast day?" "Yes," she answered : "the Festival of St. Anthony of Padua."

"Ah !" the little Saint on the chimney-

"An ! the little Saint on the chimney-piece. St. Anthony, I thank you !" And as Mrs. S——looked at him inquiringly, he said, opening his arms : "Yes, yes, wife ; it is done. I have found what I had lost. We owe a candle to the Saint. Let us bring it to him at once !"

And shortly afterwards the porter of the Franciscan Convent called one of the Fathers to the church to hear the con-fession of Mr. S———. He had found his faith again, and was happy. Many a one reaches the Credo by way

of the Confiteor. Keeping away' from the confessional is what causes Catholics to lose the faith.-Ave Maria.

G. A. Dixon, Frankville, Ont., says : "] was cured of chronic bronchitis, that troubled me for seventeen years, by the use of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil." See See that the signature of Northrop & Lyman is on the back of the wrapper and you will get the genuine Dr. Thomas' Eclectric

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