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### The Lost Found.

Once there was a boy in Liverpool, who went into the water to bathe, and he was carried out by the tide. Though he struggled hard, he was not able to swim against the ebbing tide, and he was taken far out to sea. He was picked up by a boat belonging to a vessel bound for Dublin. The poor little boy was near lost. The sailors were all very kind to him, when he was taken into the vessel. One gave him a cap, another a jacket, another a pair of shoes, and so on.

But that evening a gentleman, who was walking near the place where the little boy had gone into the water, found his clothes lying on the shore. He searched and made inquiries; but no tidings were to be heard of the poor little boy. He found a piece of paper in the pocket of the boy's coat, by which he discovered who it was to whom the clothes belonged. The kind man went with a sad and heavy heart to break the news to the parents. He said to the father, "I am very sorry to tell you that I found these clothes on the shore; and could not find the lad to whom they belonged; I almost fear he has been drowned." The

father could hardly speak for grief; the mother was wild with sorrow. They caused every inquiry to be made, but no account was to be had of their dear boy. The house was sad; the little children missed their play-fellow; mourning was ordered; the mother spent her time crying; and the father's heart was heavy. He said little, but felt much.

The lad was taken back in a vessel bound for Liverpool, and arrived on the day the mourning was to be brought home. As soon as he reached Liverpool, he set off to his father's house. He did not like to be seen in the strange cap and jacket and shoes which he had on; so he went on by the lanes, where he would not meet those who knew him. At last he came to the hall door. He knocked. When the servant opened it, and saw who it was, she screamed with joy, and said, "Here is Master Tom!" His father rushed out, and bursting into tears embraced him. His mother fainted; "There was no more spirit in her." What a happy evening they all, parents and children, spent! They did not want the mourning.