account of the weakness and instabil-ity of human nature! Some who had

begun life in the enjoyment of every

temporal blessing, who had been regularly provided during the period of

cated, had always enjoyed a happy

period in life in absolute want and shunned by those who had been their

friends in former days. Others, who had known what it was to be sparsely

clad when they were young, whose homes had presented scenes of misery

and desolation, who had been exposed

placed themselves in positions of comfort and independence before the in-

firmities of old age had come upon

The causes of these changes may

often be traced back to the associations

of our youth. In the former case the

early training had failed to inculcate

those virtues which prepare manhood or womanhood to endure trouble, to be

trol the appetites in the day of tempta-

In the latter case' the circumstance

and associations had taught the youth

to endure patiently suffering and want, to boldly struggle against re-

verses, to utilize all their mental and

physical powers, and to be industrious,

ingenious and persevering.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon were not an ex-

ception to these reverses which are

constantly disturbing the social world.

They continued to enjoy life for a

time, after the death of their parents,

and without interruption in their

and keen observers of mankind that

Jesse Simon did not possess that pru-

dence and judgment, that self-restraint

and determination which had charac

as a legacy, so much as if he had gained it by the "sweat of his brow."

He entrusted the entire management of

Burns-an old and confidential clerk of

his late father — and felt no anxiety about the result. Mr. Jesse preferred

his club to his office and the company

of men of pleasure and frivolity to that

of men of study, industry and ambi-

duties of some honorable vocation, when their pursuits are entirely

worldly and sensual, they expose them-

selves to many dangers, especially if

Mr. Simon found this to be the result

in his own case. His easy and unam-

oitious life, his unconcern about his af-

fairs so long as there was money

enough deposited in the bank to his credit, to meet his expenses, exposed

We all have some weekness, mental

or physical or spiritual, which requires

attention and nourishment, - some par-

ticular passion or besetting sin which

we have to watch and restrain. Spir-

bodily, are very insidious; they grow and strengthen within us imperceptib-

ly, they become deeply rooted whilst

we are imagining ourselves to be un-

tainted ; then suddenly do the careless

find themselves victims to some horrid

The malady to which Mr. Jesse

Simon became a victim was the spirit of intemperance, which, imperceptibly,

ant of his own nature; he had no con-

ception that he had been by his daily

habits weakening that moral power

which had been implanted in his soul

in the days of his youth and imperill-ing the stability and happiness both of

Of all vices to which human nature

is exposed there is none more difficult

to eradicate, when once introduced

into the human system, than that of

drunkenness; it is a vice which en-

genders an appetite never satisfied and

uncontrollable and which weakens both

It was a sad day to Mrs. Simon-the

gentle and loving life—when she realized the fact that this terribly malady

had really attacked her husband. She

began now to seriously reflect upon the

had she not observed the gradual

growth of this sorrow before it had made such progress? Why had she

been so careless as a Catholic woman

She had allowed the fascinations of the

world to dim the spiritual joys of the Church. She had become indifferent

to all those consoling and beautiful

lessons which formerly in her life so pure and happy in her Alas! What sort

of home were she and her husband

preparing for their dear little daugh-

serious reflections which distracted the

daily life, to exercise her influence as

come regular in her attention to duties

pertaining to religion, to seek strength

and guidance through the intercession

of the Mother of God, and to try and

save her husband by her prayers and

the wife and companion of Jesse, to be

ter, their only child? Such were

father's home. Alas!

few years of her married life.

the intellect and conscience.

his business and home.

itual maladies, like those which

nim to many evil influences.

When men are not absorbed in the

nis important

home, have found themselves at a lat

"THE UPS AND DOWNS IN LIFE.

(Written for the CATHOTIC RECORD.)

Many examples does the world give the misfortunes of our fellowcreatures; some excite our sympathy and sorrow; others disappointment and indignation; all show the dangers to which we are exposed, the weaknesses of human nature, and teach us how we may escape from temptations and adversities.

The following story relating to the affairs of a private family who resided in the city of B—, in one of the New England States, affords a good illustra-

tion of the foregoing assertion.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Simon—the sub ject of the narrative—had begun their married life in the enjoyment of abundant temporal blessings, indeed of many more than people generally possess at the inception of their house

keeping.
Mr. Simon had fallen heir to a pros perous and respectable mercantile business and was the proprietor of a large cotton factory. Having been the only son, his parents had devoted much attention to the training and education of his youth; but they marred their efforts in this respect, by excess ive parental love and over-indulgence Young Jesse's wishes were generally gratified and his life of boyhood was spent most happily. He never knew what it meant to be hungry, sparsely clad and to want for things which give boys pleasure. He had gone to school, been provided with that course of instruction productive of a good commer cial education; but Jesse was not a student, although he had good natural abilities. His parents' watchfulness, combined with their pious example and religious teachings, had great influence on his youthful mind and had withdrawn him from evil habits and bad compan-When Jesse was approaching the period of maturity, he foresaw that he would, in time, inherit his father's property, which stimulated his efforts to retain the paternal love and confidence and familiarize himself with the business of the establishment. His father had acquired a comfortable home and accumulated wealth by hard work, self-denial and persevering in well-being; he was a liberal minded man and a zealous member of the Protest-

ant Episcopal Church. The position of Jesse on arriving at manhood was very different from that of his father when he had begun life. On the death of his father, he was in the twenty-second year of his age. His beloved mother having died about two years before this time, Jesse was the only heir of the estate of the late John Simon and the proprietor of an establishment which if prudently managed would provide him annually with a lucrative income.

This young man, preposessing in appearance, was, under such favorable circumstances, especially welcomed by the fashionable and social But this was a critical period in his life, which was going to test his true character-whether he possessed strength of mind, steady purpose self denial and strict principles which had characterised his father, or was self in dulgent, inclined to sensual pleasures and easily led from the path of virtue His appetites had developed, requiring a strong will to control them; his tastes were enlarged, demanding the spirit of prudence and economy; and the temptations of the world were besetting him, necessitating the force of religious principles and earnest piety to oppose them.

Twelve months had just passed since the death of Mr. Simon, when business connected with his estate, made it necessary for Jesse Simon to go to the city of C—— in the State of Maryland. Oh his arrival there, the young man met an old and esteemed friend of his father. This gentleman was Mr Joseph O Neil, whose kind recollections of the late Mr. John Simon disposed him to hospitably entertain his son.

Mr. O'Neil was a widower, whose household consisted of a son and daughter: the former was about the same age of young Simon, and the latter was in the eighteenth year of Their mother, who had died when Mabel was eleven years old, was a lineal descendant of one of the old Catholic families who had first settled in the country, when Lord Baltimore founded the Colony in America.

Mabel was a charming young lady, highly accomplished, having been carefully educated at the convent in her native town. She was greatly be loved by her father. She scon attracted the admiration of young Simon, who prolonged his visit beyond the time required for the transaction of his business, and was a frequent visitor at the house of Mr. O'Neil. The result was that Mr. Jesse Simon became a suitor of the daughter of his father's old friend.

Mabel, with the sad consent of her father, was finally betrothed to this young man. Mr. O'Neil was a staunch Catholic and had carefully educated his children in that faith. His consent to the engagement between his daughter and this young Protestant was given on the condition they be married by a Catholic priest and that Mr. Simon would never interfere with his daughter's religious principles. It was duly arranged that the marriage of Mabel and Jesse should take

place during the ensuing summer. Mr Simon, proud of his conquest and charmed with his prospects, returned to his old homestead and resumed the superintendence of his establishment, in which he was ably assisted by Michael Burns, an old and faithful clerk of his late father.

continued to prosper, and nothing ocsummer. But the town of B—, under the circumstances, possessed no charms for young Simon, and the days of winter and spring seemed to pass very slowly. At last, the beautiful month of June arrived, and on the 12th day Mr. Jesse youth with good food and clothing, Simon made a second journey to the had been carefully trained and edu-State of Maryland; on the 15th, of that month, the newspapers of the city of C-contained the notice 'That Mabel, daughter of Joseph O'Neil, Esq., was married by the Rev. Father —— in St. Joseph's Church, to Mr. Jesse Simon of the town of B-

It was with deep sorrow that Mr. O'Neil parted from his loveable and only daughter, but, like a faithful and loving parent, he had willingly sacriplaced themselves in positions of comficed his own happiness to promote that of his child. He tried to console himself with the belief that his daughter them. had gone to another comfortable home, and had chosen for herself a suitable partner for life, so far as worldly circumstances were concerned.

Having passed two weeks of the honey-moon in travelling and visiting some of the beautiful cities and watersome of the beautiful cities and water-ing places of Pennsylvania and New self-reliant, to put forth strength in time of trial, to deny one-self, to con-York States, Mr. Simon, at last took his young wife to her home in the town of B—. The bride scon became acquainted with her husbands' friends, but the society of the New Eag. land town appeared to her to be different in several respects from that to which she had been accustomed. The city which she had left comprised a city which she had left comprised a large Catholic population and the families with whom her parents had been intimate were members of the Catholic faith. There were also in her native city several beautiful Catholic churches and three or four convents devoted to the education of the young and other charitable objects. But in the town of B—, where her new home was located, there were no convent or Separate school and only one Catholic church, the congregation of which was composed chiefly of the honest and in dustrious working class. The leading and influential men of the place were Protestants, with which religious de nomination her husbands' friends were

The devout and practical Catholic layman is forcibly struck with the dif-ference which exists between the society of a Catholic community and that of a Protestant. The former publicly observes the several feasts and fasts ordained by the Church throughout the year, noting carefully the Friday of each week; it has a distinctive sub ject of devotion and meditation assigned to each month; it invites a silent and brief adoration of the Incarnation, morning noon and night when the tolling of the bell proclaims the "Angelus." By the daily celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass and the open doors of the House of God, the Church encourages the people to join

as on Sunday. A Protestant community, in a religious aspect, is dull and gloomy to a Catholic : it ignores the observances of the Saints' Days; it makes no distinction between Friday and the other week days; the Lenten season has no place in its calendar; the doors of the House of God are closed as a rule to the public, except on the Sabbath; the ringing or tolling of the church bells has no other significance than that of summoning the people to the House of God at the time of public prayer or as a solemn mark of respect on the occasion of a funeral, to the deceased.

in public prayer and kneel before the sacred alter, on the week days as well

It was, therefore, natural that Mrs. Simon should long, sometimes, for those Catholic associations to which she had been accustomed and for those spiritual helps and reminders which had formerly nourished and stimulated the spiritual life within her. But the hap-piness which she enjoyed in her own home, the attention and hospitality of her new acquaintances, and the loving letters from her beloved father afforded her some compensation for the religious advantages of which she was de

Mrs. Simon had now been married about eight months when a telegram was received one dreary morning in the chilly month of February, from Mr. Frank O'Neil, informing his sister of the sudden death of their beloved father, from heart failure. This was the first shock to the happiness of her married life. Her dear father, who had ever been so true and devoted to her welfare, who had been both a father and mother in his love and tenderness to his motherless child, was now no more in this world. Her youth and inexperience made the loss especially poignant to her. Paternal love can never be effaced from the memory nor can it ever be replaced.

Sorrow and joy are strangely inter mingled in this world : one event causing grief and mourning is oftentimes succeeded by another which disperses depression and cheers the heart. visitations are alternately chastening and blessing us, according to what is best for us in the wisdom of

God. Thus it happened that Mrs. Simon's house of mourning was suddenly turned into a house of joy. Two months after the death of her father, had scarcely passed, when Mrs. Simon became the mother of a charming baby-girl. The maternal cares required of her absorbed her attention and diverted her mind from her recent bereavement. The baby was duly baptised in the Catholic church, ceiving the name of Mary Mabel and having as her god parents Mr. and During the winter months, which Mrs. O'Neil, who, being unable to be ensued, after Jesse Simon's return to personally present on the occasion, his home, the business of his factory | performed their part by proxy.

THE PIOUS FATHER.

The family that has at its head a practical Catholic, who loves his Church, knows his religion, aims at holiness, and frequents the sacraments is apt to be good and happy.

Such a man usually had a pious ome himself and received a moral ducation at school. What he had nimself in his childhood and youth, he gives to his own sons and daughters

As a rule he has a little concerning of books—the Bible, "The Following of Christ," "The Devout Life," "Christian Combat," "Christian Combat," "Christian Combat," "Christian Combat," "Christian Christian Combat," "Christian Combat," "Christian Christian Ch The Spiritual Combat," "Christiar refection," "Think Well On't," The Catholic Christian Instructed," "The Lives of the Saints," "Points of Controversy," etc. He's read them, and re-read them, and read them through again. He knows them pretty well by heart. Consequently he is informed concerning what he cheeled believe and why he should be should believe and why he should be-He's prepared to give reasons ieve it. for his faith.

He has a mind above the daily paper and the current novel. He patronizes the Catholic press and pays

his subscription when it is due.

He does not stand aloof from his parish church, nor criticize the priest in charge of it, nor find fault with the parochial management. No; he rents pew, he belongs to one or more Cath olic societies, he is a friend of his paster, he attends High Mass, he conributes his share of the necessary ex penses for religion, and he is known in the parish as a man of good will.

At home he is kind, cheerful atient, gentle, quiet, and regular His wife is attached to him by stronge ies than in the early days of love His children idolize him while they are young, and become his admiring

friends as they grow up.

The household that has him for its usual prosperity; but it was be-coming evident to men of business ruler is a little heaven on earth. I enjoys a portion of the celestial peace Grace abounds in it. Viciousness, in temperance, anger and other deadly sins are unknown there. Affection is cherished. Duty rules. Happiness terised his late respected parent; that he did not appreciate wealth acquired

revails. Trials may come, yes, trials come, but they are met with the Chris tian spirit, and this takes the bitterness but of them. Human nature will some imes show itself fallen, yes, but the charity of Christ will soon lift it up again. And so, in spite of tempta ons, cares, misfortunes, or failings of the part of himself or members of hi amily, the pious father goes onward daily growing in grace and increasing in merits, beloved by his own, liked by his neighbors, respected by all who know him. His occupation may be know him. His occupation may be lowly, his social position humble, his life in the community obscure, but the there be no religious principles or moral law controlling their affections.

Mr. Simon found this to be the result all eternity.—Catholic Columbian.

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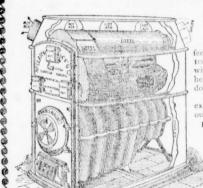
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