

Ruby - Bug #12851

string.gsub!(/\\W/, "").downcase! returns undefined method in some (listed) cases

10/18/2016 05:21 PM - ciscoved (Mikhail A)

<b>Status:</b>	Rejected	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>		
<b>Target version:</b>		
<b>ruby -v:</b>	ruby 2.3.1p112 (2016-04-26 revision 54768) [x86_64-darwin16]	<b>Backport:</b> 2.1: UNKNOWN, 2.2: UNKNOWN, 2.3: UNKNOWN

**Description**

Hi! Found this strange issue with gsub! and downcase! methods used together for a string. Example code:

```
def palindrome? (str)
  str.gsub!(/\\W/, '').downcase!
  str == str.reverse
end

puts palindrome?("Madam, I'm Adam!")
```

**returns true. Ok! But...!**

if the given string is single word:

```
def palindrome? (str)
  str.gsub!(/\\W/, '').downcase!
  str == str.reverse
end

puts palindrome?("aBba")
```

it returns no method error.

hw1\_string.rb:13:in palindrome?: undefined method downcase!' for nil:NilClass (NoMethodError)  
from hw1\_string.rb:30:in ``

If the code is refactored like this:

```
def palindrome? (str)
  str.gsub!(/\\W/, '')
  str.downcase!
  str == str.reverse
end

puts palindrome?("abba")
puts palindrome?("Madam, I'm Adam!")
```

than it worked ok in **both** cases. Why?

I'm new to ruby, and, may be still misunderstood something, but seems that is really a bug.

History

#1 - 10/18/2016 05:31 PM - ciscoved (Mikhail A)

- Description updated

#2 - 10/18/2016 05:38 PM - ciscoved (Mikhail A)

- Description updated

#3 - 10/18/2016 05:43 PM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

- Status changed from Open to Rejected

This isn't a bug. `String#gsub!` returns nil if no changes are made. From the documentation for `String#gsub!`: "Performs the substitutions of `String#gsub` in place, returning str, or nil if no substitutions were performed."