AUTUMN ROMANCES.

New Stories by Levett-Yeats, Gilbert Parker and George McCutcheon

ORRAIN. A Romance. By S. Levett-Yeats. 12mo, pp. 364. Longmans, Green & Co.
A LADDER OF SWORDS. A Tale of Love, Laughter and Tears. By Gilbert Parker. Illustrated by the Kinneys. 12mo, pp. 291. Harper & Bros.
BEVERLY OF GRAUSTARK. By George Barr McCutcheon. With Illustrations by Harrison Fisher. 12mo, pp. 357. Dodd, Mead & Co.

Every now and then some perfervid adherent of the realistic school gravely announces that the cloak and sword romance has been played out. It is not played out at all. The masters of that form of fiction are all dead, it is true, but their followers continue to spin pleasant enough yarns, producing books which, if in no way memorable, make, at any rate, very good company for an idle hour. The skill with which the average novelist nowadays does his work is a kind of marvel. He does not need to possess creative genius or style. Let him but develop something of the gift for story telling, and, under the favoring influences of an age of education, in which every one acquires some little aptitude in writing, he will turn you out a really workmanlike story. The autumn publishing season has just been opened, and already the new novels are coming to the front in goodly numbers. They embrace compositions of all sorts and descriptions, but in glancing over the first fifteen or twenty volumes come to hand we have noted especially the liveliness of the historical romancers. Decidedly they are holding their own.

Mr. S. Levett-Yeats deserves a certain consideration for the care with which he writes. The few books he has published have all been marked by sincerity and literary finish. "Orrain" is not, any more than its predecessors, the product of inspiration, but neither does it give the impression of a machine made tale. Conventional though the plot may be, it is put together with such address that it wears rather a spontaneous air. The book begins well. The young Frenchman who is its hero has to face, while only nineteen years old, a very grim situation. His mother and brother are both dead, his father is dying, and when he tries to reach the bedside of the latter the gates of the ancestral château are closed to him by a stepbrother, who, in spite of good birth, is a villain of profound baseness and brutality. When young Bertrand d'Orrain pleads with this cutthroat kinsman for admission to their home he is not merely laughed to scorn; the wicked Simon points to the tree of justice outside the gate and asks how he would like to swing from one of its branches. This, we maintain, is a good beginning for a romance, since it promises peculiar complications. "Orrain" brims over with the most extraordinary complications The hero has an inheritance with which to cut a figure in the world of Paris, but dissipation, a duel and the intrigues of his stepbrother fling him upon disaster. He goes into exile. Returning in secret to the capital, he becomes entangled, innocently, with a poisoner, of all people in the world, and though gallantry in a perilous moment opens the gate of fortune to him, it leads him straight into the Louvre, where Catharine de Medici sets him those tasks which always mean, in historical romance, hazardous journeys and unending sword play. Naturally Bertrand meets the heroine while on the road on the Queen's business, and naturally his affairs and those of his royal mistress are soon inextricably mixed together. Diane de Poitiers also appears upon the scene, and largely through her evil machinations the substance of the story takes on a lurid tinge. The passages relating to this famous woman are not altogether credible. Mr. Yeats handles the details of her discomfiture at one stage of the story with too melodramatic a touch. But on the whole his sketch of the life of the French court at that time is persuasive, and the interest of the adventures of the hero and heroine never slackens.

"A Ladder of Swords" is a beguiling story of Elizabethan days. Sir Gilbert Parker is not as much at home in historical romance as he is in a study of modern life like that with which he won such popularity a few years ago—"The Right of Way." But the practised hand, nevertheless, shows in certain aspects of his new book, and well serves to carry the reader along. In a prefatory note he confesses to a few anachronisms. These do no harm to his main theme, the love story of a pair of devoted Huguenots. Michel de la Foret and his Angèle begin their career with grievous burdens. The man is wanted in France, where Catherine de Medici proposes to cut off his head, and Elizabeth is half inclined when asked to hand over the culprit. He has, however, a stanch friend in the Seigneur of Rozel, in the Island of Jersey, and, though that doughty personage is obliged to yield him to the minions of the law, the Queen is touched by the characters of the persons involved, and in the long run the demand of "the fierce Medici" is withstood. There is not much action in "A Ladder of Swords" for a book of the sort, but there is enough, and the author has given a vivid account of some of the picturesque incidents in his brief narrative. He makes the Seigneur de Rozel very amusing, and, while his characterization of Elizabeth, Leicester and his other figures is not particularly effective, the things they do are generally arresting. One of the best passages in the book is the description of the Queen's conduct when she mounts a palfrey sent to her by Mary of Scotland with the news of the birth of her son. With the animal comes, among others, a man whose face is suddenly recognized by Angèle. "It was the face of one who many years ago was known to have poisoned the Duc de Chambly by anointing the pommel of his saddle with a delicate poison which the rider would touch, and touching would, perhaps, carry to his nostrils or mouth as he rode, and die upon the instant." The heroine succeeds in warning the Queen, and the author continues:

> Elizabeth noticed the look of anguished anxiety in Angèle's eyes, her face like that of one who had seen souls in purgatory; and some swift instinct, born of years upon years of peril in old days when her life was no boon to her enemies, made her lean toward the girl, whose quick whispered words were to her as loud as thunder. She was, however, composed and still. Not a tremor passed through her.
>
> "Your wish is granted, mistress," she said aloud, then addressed a word to Cecil at her side, who passed on her command. Presently she turned slowly to the spot where Sir Andrew Melvill and the other sat upon their horses. She scanned complacently the faces of both, then her eyes settled steadily on the face of the murderer. Still gazing intently she drew the back of her gloved fingers along the pommel. The man saw the motion, unnoted and insignificant to any other save Angèle, meaningless even to Melvill, the innocent and honest gentleman at his side; and he realized that the Queen had had a warning. Noting the slight stir among the gentlemen around him, he knew that his game was foiled, that there was no escape. He was not prepared for what followed.
>
> In a voice to be heard only at a small distance, the Queen said, calmly:
>
> "This palfrey sent me by my dear sister of Scotland shall bear me among you, friends; and in days to come I will remember how she hath given new life to me by her loving message. Sir Andrew Melvill, I shall have further speech with you; and you, sir"—speaking to the sinister figure by his side—"come hither."
>
> The man dismounted, and with unsteady step came forward. Elizabeth held out her gloved hand for him to kiss. His face turned white. It was come soon, his punishment. None knew save Angèle and the Queen the doom that was upon him, if Angèle's warning was well founded. He knelt, and bent his head over her hand.
>
> "Salute, sir," she said, in a low voice.
>
> He touched his lips to her fingers. She pressed them swiftly against his mouth. An instant, then he rose and stepped backward to his horse. Tremblingly, blindly, he mounted.
>
> A moment passed, then Elizabeth rode on with her ladies behind her, her gentlemen beside her. As she passed slowly, the would-be regicide swayed and fell from his horse, and stirred no more.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> That night the man who cared for the horse died discreetly, as had done his master, with the Queen's glove pressed to his nostrils by one whom Cecil could trust.

The author of "Beverly of Graustark" could hardly expect that book to be taken seriously as a historical romance. It is a "Zanda" story of the wildest description. Some time ago Mr. McCutcheon wrote a book about the wooing of the princess of the little realm which he now once more exploits. She was won by an American. Apparently, the natives of her neighborhood were enchanted with the transaction, for in this second novel the Prince of Dawsbergen, who lives near by, concludes that he, too, will go in for a transatlantic alliance. It is his "Beverly" who gives the book its title. She proceeds from Washington to Graustark, and how affairs are arranged there to suit her whim may be judged from what happens when her prince, then disguised as a soldier and serving as her guard, quarrels in her presence with Count Marlanx, his superior officer. He is told by the latter to report to him at 9 o'clock the next morning. The heroine talks with him about the prospective meeting and learns that the count will have her friend shot, in all probability. "He will do nothing of the kind," she says. "You are *my* guard"; and she straightens everything out by ordering the count, who is in love with her, to play lawn tennis with her the next morning at 9 o'clock, when she wins exemption for her hero by her skill at the game. That this sort of thing could never occur at any princely court in the world never, apparently, crosses Mr. McCutcheon's mind. He goes blithely on from absurdity to absurdity. He is, in fact, so very blithe about it that the reader ends by voting "Beverly of Graustark" a fairly good bit of entertainment.

"LITTLE RHODY."

The Story of a State That Is One-third Water.

NARRAGANSETT BAY: ITS HISTORIC AND ROMANTIC ASSOCIATIONS AND PICTURESQUE SETTING. By Edgar Mayhew Bacon. With map and fifty drawings by the author, and numerous photographs. 8vo, pp. xii, 367. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The romance of history is nowhere more abundantly illustrated in America than in the picturesque reaches of Narragansett Bay and the region immediately surrounding it, which comprises almost the entire State of Rhode Island and part of Massachusetts. Even if we leave out the legends of its discovery by the Norsemen in the eleventh century, on which Mr. Bacon throws the cold water of doubt, there remains ample material to furnish forth a fascinating narrative, of which the author of this book has freely availed himself. His method is at once geographical, historical, descriptive and anecdotal. It is with something of a shock that at the very start we realize that the author tramples on the most cherished traditions of the Rhode Islander in his country's historical antiquity. Under Mr. Bacon's analytical scalpel the "Skeleton in Armor," famed in song and story, becomes an Indian chief, with the copper breastplate and belt peculiar to the natives of that vicinity, buried sitting, after the customary Indian fashion. The sculptured rocks at Hopeworth, Dighton, Tiverton and Portsmouth, he seeks to prove, with footrule and mathematical calculation, could not possibly have been carved nine hundred years ago. The "Old Mill" at Newport he contemptuously dismisses as unquestionably built by Governor Benedict Arnold, who ruled the colony from 1663 to 1666. Still, he has to face the old Norse Saga, and is forced to admit that the description of the landing place and settlement of Leif and his Northmen "certainly suggests Mount Hope Bay as well as it does any spot upon the New-England coast—perhaps a little better," and seeks refuge in the Scotch verdict, "not proven." He may demolish the proof, but he will have hard work to eradicate the Rhode Islanders' belief that they are living in the "vineland" of Leif the Lucky, and to substitute therefor his theory that the Florentine Corsair, Verrazani, was its first discoverer in 1524. They would rather give the credit to Adrian Block and be done with it. The Dutch navigator made exhaustive soundings of the bay and all its arms and tributaries, and prepared a chart that could leave no chance for controversy as to what waters he explored.

Expelled from Massachusetts because he was a "troublesome fellow," Roger Williams came to Rhode Island and brought his trouble with him. The principles of liberty which he preached seem to have attracted a number of ungovernable fellows, who gave the early settlement of Providence a somewhat unsavory reputation. Many of those who settled there and along the shores of the bay were descendants of the early mariners of England. Finding it "impossible to conform to the rules made by the ironbound theocrats of Massachusetts Bay, . . . with a fine amphibious instinct they laid the foundations of a State that is about one-third tidewater." The then wooded shores furnished material for their ships, and they and their sons became some of the boldest captains that have ever commanded American vessels. Many were merchantmen who sailed to the East and West Indies and to Africa, and slaves formed no small part of their cargoes. Many, too, were privateersmen, a polite name for buccaneers, who, with their "letters of marque and reprisal," harried the Spanish Main and further seas for the glory of the colony, the protection of its commerce and the filling of their own pockets. One of these men, by a bold exploit attracting the attention of some British officers, was induced to enter the navy of the mother country, and rose to become Sir Charles Wager, First Lord of the Admiralty. Among the most prominent of these early families of merchants, legislators and shipmasters were the Wantons. They were Quakers, but good fighters, and Mr. Bacon gives a characteristic incident of their mettle and manners. One William Wanton, a young fellow, fell in love with a Presbyterian lass, but the match was opposed by the parents on both sides on account of the religious differences, which appear to have had more weight in matrimonial than in political matters.

> At last William resolved to end the difficulty with a bold stroke. Entering the home of his lady love, he said, while the family sat about in consternation: "Ruth, we are made for each other, and cannot live apart. Let us settle this matter. Do thou give up the Presbyterians, and I will cut the Quakers, and we will join the Episcopalians and go to the devil together."

Second only to Roger Williams, John Clarke was undoubtedly the citizen to whom Rhode Island owed most in her formative years; for it was through his efforts that the colony secured the charter that was the basis of Rhode Island's government until 1843, long after she had become a State, and of which Stephen Hopkins said: "It doubtless contained more liberal provisions than did any similar instrument ever granted by a monarch." This charter perpetuated the principles enunciated in the rules which Roger Williams and his associates had drawn up and by which they bound themselves on founding their settlement. In the words of the author:

> The history of Rhode Island or of any part of it can never be written or read justly without a comprehension of that underlying leaven that, hid in so mean and unpromising a measure, has leavened the world's thought and influenced more than any other factor the course of human progress.
>
> "Here, in Providence," says Mr. Bacon, "the principle of absolute liberty of conscience and the complete divorcement of church and state was not only announced in theory, but was actually, for the first time in the history of the world, adopted as a practical policy."

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Current Talk About Things Present and to Come.

A novel feature in bookmaking is introduced in the new limited subscription editions of the works of John Burroughs and Longfellow which Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are publishing. The specially made paper in each edition bears as a watermark a facsimile of the signature of the author.

The editors of the Cambridge History, the monumental work projected by the late Lord Acton, are preparing to issue the fifth volume of the history next January. Its title will be "Wars with Religion." The four volumes which have already appeared are "The Renaissance," "The United States," "The Reformation" and "The French Revolution." The Macmillan Company are the publishers.

The autograph fiend is again in evidence; probably he is never out of evidence; but sometimes he bobs up more serenely offensive than at others. A well known author, now dead, who was also an editor, used to have most of the requests for his signature answered by his assistant, who could forge his chief's sign manual very cleverly. Usually such requests are couched in fairly courteous terms, but Robert W. Chambers recently received the following peremptory demand: "Sir—Sign here!" This collector's collection will be lacking in one autograph at least. Another collector, a woman, has adopted a more subtly ingenious device to gain her end. From her copy of "Who's Who?" she learns the date of birth of her favorite authors, and on the next anniversary writes a friendly congratulatory letter. The gratified author in most cases falls into the trap. He does not recognize the cognomen, but the first name is not uncommon, and he supposes the writer to be some old friend whose married name he has forgotten, and sends an appreciative note in reply. One literary man, who was sure he had identified his correspondent as a former girl friend, exchanged a number of letters with her and thus discovered her secret.

The Scribners are publishing a volume entitled "Literary Leaders of America," by Richard Burton, in which the author treats his subject in an unconventional manner. Instead of a review noticing all the writers, and thus in many places becoming of necessity chiefly a catalogue, he has treated of only the main figures, dealing briefly with the others in an introduction, a preliminary and closing chapter. The book, while thus comprehensive in form, is mainly a biographical, critical and illustrated account of Irving, Cooper, Poe, Hawthorne, Emerson, Bryant, Longfellow, Holmes, Whittier, Lowell, Whitman and Lanier, the authors who are, in fact, those whose works most fitly warrant the designation of the book's title.

A "rumor," emanating from official sources, says that "Tillie: A Mennonite Maid," by Helen Reimensnyder Martin, published last spring by The Century Company, is to be dramatized for Maude Adams, who has lately been visiting among and studying the Mennonite people of Pennsylvania, with a view to absorbing local color and the personal characteristics of these interestingly alien natives for her impersonation of the gentle Tillie.

The first of quite a long list of juveniles which Henry Holt & Co. are to issue this fall is a translation by Mary J. Safford of Bruneck's "Prince Henry's Sailor Boy," which appears this month. It deals with the adventures, largely humorous, of a naval apprentice on the flagship of Prince Henry of Prussia, in his recent voyage around the world. The book will have many illustrations by George Alfred Williams. Another tale of naval adventure, "Nelson's Yankee Boy," by F. H. Costello, author of "Under the Rattlesnake Flag," will be published in October by the same firm.

Thomas E. Watson, the Populist candidate for the Presidency, is casting an anchor to windward in the shape of a novel which the Appletons will publish early next month. It is entitled "Bethany: A Story of the Old South," and is a tale of his own people and his own neighborhood, the plot turning on the adventures of his uncle, from whom he has drawn the character of the hero. The scene is laid in Georgia in the years just before and during the Civil War, and sets forth the minds and feelings of those who remained at home during the conflict.

"A Captain in the Ranks" is the title which George Cary Eggleston has given to the novel upon which he has been engaged for some time, and which will be issued next month by A. S. Barnes & Co. It is not, however, another Civil War story, but a picture of the rapid and dramatic building up of the Middle West which followed. Mr. Eggleston took part both in the war and in the enterprises of which he writes, which ought to furnish abundant picturesque material for his story.

Two volumes, dealing respectively with political and religious aspects of the Mahometan world, are issued by John Lane. The first is M. Aflalo's "The Truth About Morocco," in which the author makes an indictment of the British Foreign Office in regard to the Anglo-French agreement. The second is Wilfrid Sparroy's "With the Pilgrims to Mecca," in which is described the pilgrimage of 1902, the "Great Pilgrimage, A. H. 1318," written from the notes of Haji Raz, one of the pilgrims of that year. The book gives an exposition of the religious life and elaborate ecclesiastical system of the followers of the prophet, and is illustrated with a number of photographic reproductions.

A volume that should appeal to a rapidly growing and rapidly "going" class of readers is A. B. Filson Young's "The Complete Motorist," published in this country by McClure-Phillips. The author is a noted English automobile expert, and in his book he gives a history of self-propelling vehicles from their earliest beginnings to the present day. Additional interest is given to the work by a chapter written by Rudyard Kipling and by another from the pen of C. N. Williamson, one of the authors of "The Lightning Conductor." It aims to be a practical treatise in a popular style on the selection, use and manufacture of motor carriages and engines.

The Saalfield Publishing Company has recently issued three volumes of short stories and poems by well known writers, for use in supplementary reading classes. The titles of the books are "Home and School Stories," "Little Lads" and "Little Lassies," and among the authors whose work appears are Kate Upson Clark, Joaquin Miller, George Cary Eggleston and Mary D. Brine.

Alice Jones, a Canadian author, who has lived for a number of years in Paris, among the haunts of artists, has written a novel entitled "Gilbert Praed's Castle," which is to be published shortly by Herbert B. Turner & Co. It relates the experiences of a wealthy mine owner and his daughter, who come from British Columbia to the French capital, and who, getting into the clutches of an unscrupulous set, become involved in an art fraud of some magnitude. The main incidents of the novel are said to be founded on an actual occurrence. Miss Jones is the author of "Bubbles We Buy," a book which was published about a year ago.

The volume on America in the Putnams' "Our Neighbors" series has been written by A. Maurice Low, the chief American correspondent of "The London Morning Post" and the writer of the monthly political article in "The London National Review." It will be published late in the autumn.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

BIOGRAPHY.

A LATER PEPYS. Edited, with an introduction and notes, by Alice C. C. Gaussen. Illustrated. In two volumes. 8vo, pp. xl, 425; ix, 414. (John Lane.)

A collection of letters exchanged by Sir William Weller Pepys, Master in Chancery, 1758-1825, with some notable men and women of his time. Illustrated with portraits and old prints.

EDUCATIONAL.

ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE. By Craven Laycock and Robert Leighton Scales. 12mo, pp. x, 361. (The Macmillan Company.)

A discussion of the general principles of argumentation is followed by some general rules applicable to oral debate, and an appendix provides suggestions which the authors have found practicable in giving instruction on the subject.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING. Book I. Edited with introduction and notes by Albert S. Cook. 12mo, pp. lvii, 145. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

The Latin quotations in Bacon's essay are translated into English in the text, the original forms being given in foot-notes.

SOME SUCCESSFUL AMERICANS. By Sherman Williams. 12mo, pp. v, 194. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

Biographical sketches for use as a supplementary reader in the lower grammar grades.

HOW WE ARE CLOTHED. By James Franklin Chamberlain, Ed. B. 12mo, pp. x, 235. (The Macmillan Company.)

In the "Home and World" series. An elementary reader, presenting accounts of the origin and development of various clothing materials. Illustrated with photographs.

THE PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS. By Frank A. Fetter, Ph. D. 8vo, pp. xvi, 610. (The Century Company.)

A treatise for use in high schools and colleges, applying the theories it presents to practical problems of the day.

THE EXPANSION OF THE COMMON LAW. By Sir Frederick Pollock, D. C. L. 8vo, pp. 184. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.)

PITMAN'S COMMERCIAL SPELLER. 16mo, pp. 175. (Isaac Pitman & Sons.)

FLACHSMANN ALS ERZIEHER. A Comedy, by Otto Ernst. Edited with Notes and Vocabulary by Elizabeth Kingsbury, A. M. 12mo, pp. vii, 190. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

In the "International Modern Language" series.

DER ZERBROCHENE KRUG. Von Heinrich Zschokke. With Introduction, Notes and Vocabulary by Herbert Charles Sanborn, A. M. 12mo, pp. 76. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

In the "International Modern Language" Series.

LA MERE DE LA MARQUISE ET LA FILLE DU CHANOINE. Par Edmond About. Edited with Notes and Vocabulary by O. B. Super, Ph. D. 12mo, pp. v, 227. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

In the "International Modern Language" series.

FICTION.

BEVERLY OF GRAUSTARK. By George Barr McCutcheon. Illustrated by Harrison Fisher. 12mo, pp. 357. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

ORRAIN. By S. Levett-Yeats. 12mo, pp. 364. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

THE REVELATION OF HERSELF. By Mary Farley Sanborn. 12mo, pp. 258. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

A girl's diary recounting her love affair and the predicament she is led into by her grandmother's will.

THE MASTERY. By Mark Lee Luther. 12mo, pp. 402. (The Macmillan Company.)

A tale of love and politics.

BEFORE THE CRISIS. By Frederick Blount Mott. 12mo, pp. 309. (John Lane.)

Romance and adventure at the beginning of the Civil War.

THE SORCERESS. By George Morehead. 12mo, pp. 190. (J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company.)

A tale based upon Victorien Sardou's drama.

NEW SAMARIA. By S. Weir Mitchell. Illustrated by Winfield S. Lukens. 12mo, pp. 168. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.)

Two short stories, one about some experiences in a country village, the other, "The Summer of St. Martin," a love story.

NEVER-NEVER LAND. By Wilson Barrett. 12mo, pp. 392. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.)

A tale of love and adventure at home and abroad by the popular English actor, now dead.

LADY CENTURY. By Mrs. A. G. KINTZEL. 12mo, pp. 320. (Broadway Publishing Company.)

A love story.

EVELYN. By Mrs. Ansel Oppenheim. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 385. (Broadway Publishing Company.)

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THE RIDER OF THE BLACK HORSE. By Everett T. Tomlinson. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 387. (Houghton Mifflin & Co.)

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THE APOLOGY OF AYLIFFE. By Ellen Olney Kirk. 12mo pp. 323. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

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BLAZED TRAIL STORIES. By Stewart Edward White. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 260. (McClure, Phillips & Co.)

THE LIGHT BRIGADE IN SPAIN. By Herbert Strang. With a preface by Lieutenant Colonel Willoughby Verner. Illustrated by William Rainey, R. I. 12mo, pp. 416. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

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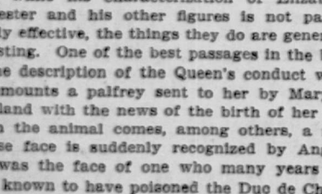

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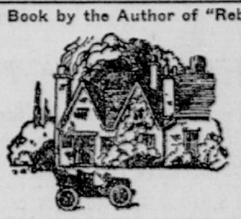

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