

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

TERMS, with a list of subscribers, and a list of advertisements, and a list of the contents of the paper.

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adjourn to meet on Wednesday next, instead of Thursday, in order to receive a communication from the Comptroller, which will then be ready.

The annual meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society was held last night at the rooms of the Historical Society, in Second Avenue. The audience was small, as might have been expected, on account of the political meeting held close by, at the Cooper Institute. From the minutes and reports presented by various officers, it appears that the society is in a prosperous condition. The Treasurer's report showed that over \$5,000 have been raised during the past year, and over \$4,800 expended—leaving over \$200 in the treasury. A very interesting paper was read by Mr. Kennedy, of Washington, on the value of statistics, and especially on the progress which the United States have made since the last census. Officers for the coming year were chosen, and the society adjourned.

The foreign news by the Europa had the effect of imparting rather more tone to the cotton market. The sales embraced about 2,000 bales, including 1,400 in transit. Prices closed with steadiness on the basis of 11c. for middling uplands. Flour was in good supply, and freely offered, and in the absence of a speculative and export demand of importance the market was heavy, and common and medium grades were 9c. to 10c. per bbl. lower. Wheat was tolerably active, with a tendency in most descriptions, under good to choice quality, towards lower prices. Corn was heavy, and sales fair, at prices given in another place. Pork was tolerably active, and prices were firmer. Sales of mess were made at 115 1/2 and prime at 117 3/4, a 111 50. Sugar was quiet; sales of 300 hhds. Cuba were made, slightly at 7c. Coffee was also without activity; sales of 800 bags Rio at 11 1/2, a 12 1/2. Freight was firm, with a fair amount of engagements. Among the engagements to Liverpool were 2,200 bbls. flour at 2s. 2d.

The Crisis on the Slavery Question—Starting Southern Programme of Protection or Dissolution. We are standing upon the threshold of the most momentous events in the history of the civilized world. For good or evil, for a renewal of the bonds of peace and harmony between the North and the South, or a violent rupture, we are entering upon a new order of things. The late desperate and bloody abolition invasion of Virginia, its extensive ramifications, the widespread sympathy betrayed throughout the North for that wretched traitor, cutthroat and horse thief, Old Brown (who pays to-day the penalty of his black and manifold crimes), and all the elements of this black republican war of subjugation against the South have brought our political affairs to a crisis. It must be met. The leading minds of the South, are moving to meet it. Read our latest advices from Washington.

The Southern plan of operations thus disclosed comprehends, in the first place, a law of Congress for the protection of the institution of slavery in the slave States against abolition incursions, abolition incendiaries, and abolition interference with Southern institutions, destroying, or calculated to endanger, the lives and property of our Southern brethren. This law, the South will doubtless demand, shall embrace a practical enforcement of the object of the Fugitive Slave law, and such pains and penalties against all traitorous encroachments upon Southern rights as may be deemed necessary for the protection of slavery and the security of the people of the slave States.

And why not? The constitution of the United States fully recognizes and amply provides for the security of the institution of slavery. When the constitution was formed all the States, we believe, were practically slave States, with the single exception of Massachusetts, where the soil and climate had proved by experiment that slavery "could not be made to pay." The recognition prospectively of the African slave trade to the year 1808, the allowance of a count of three-fifths of the slave population in the federal ratio for Congress, the provision for the recapture of fugitive slaves, and the paramount recognition of the equality of the several States as members of the general confederacy, were the groundwork of the constitution. We of the North are bound by this compact and all its concessions and compromises; and when they have ceased to afford that protection to the Southern States which rightfully they may claim, does it not become the duty of Congress to provide that protection under the constitution which the laws as they stand, local and federal, have failed to secure? There can be but one answer to this question.

Such, then, being the protection which the South may and will demand of this Congress, the question recurs, will it be granted? We think not. The thing is impossible in the present House of Representatives, of the present House of Representatives, of men pledged—to legislate against slavery, and of men of the Douglas school, pledged to Congressional non-interference. Anticipating the inevitable result, then, it appears, in the second place, that in failing to secure any measures of protection from Congress, this Southern plan of operations contemplates the withdrawal of the Southern members from Congress, and a meeting of it at Richmond, or some other convenient locality, to consider the ways and means demanded for the security of Southern institutions in an independent Southern confederacy. And what then?

While the Southern seceders from Congress are shaping out their measures for the general movement on the part of the Southern States for independence, embracing the organization of a military establishment, and overtures of commercial reciprocities to the Western Powers of Europe, it is probable that a quorum sufficient for business purposes will still be left in each house of Congress. We may safely conclude, too, that thus being left to their own pleasure, and without serious opposition, the republican party will adopt strong measures for the coercion of the rebellious South into submissive measures calculated to precipitate rather than avert an "irrepressible conflict." And so, it is possible that the close of our impending Presidential campaign may be the beginning of a civil war between the federal government and the Southern States.

Such are the contingencies foreshadowed in this Southern programme of protection or independence—of security within the Union, or a separate government. And when we consider the important fact that the expenses of the Union are chiefly extracted from the South, while the benefits and profits of the Union are chiefly pocketed by the North, we find a very significant meaning in this allusion to Southern reciprocal commercial treaties with England, France and all other commercial foreign Powers. The Southern States, too, as an independent confederacy, could extort from the North any amount of protection to their slave property upon a commercial basis. This idea, at all events, has taken a deep hold upon the Southern mind; so that we must henceforth remember that disunion has ceased to be a

Southern scarecrow, and has become a term full of Southern advantages.

And how stand we at the North in view of this programme of disunion? The solid North, excepting the imperial and conservative city of New York, stands arrayed against the South and threatening her subjugation. Everywhere we find the democratic party called upon to ratify a degrading submission to the black republican balance of power, in a recognition of the abolition heretics of the Buffalo platform. This may be regarded as but a straw upon the great stream of our national affairs; but it is a straw which marks the drift of the tide. In revolutionary times a straw or a feather may turn the scale; and, in view of the critical movements we have detailed, we are now on the very verge of a terrible revolution.

The Execution of Brown To-day. Old John Brown, the leader of the Harper's Ferry insurrection, dies upon the gallows to-day, the victim of a mad fanaticism which would plunge the country into bloodshed for its own gratification, and which is unhappily too largely shared by many who, like John Brown, esteem all measures right and holy whereby their own peculiar ideas can be made dominant. The event which takes place in Charlestown to-day is the gravest which has ever occurred since the organization of this government, being, as it is, the sacrifice of a victim to the practical inauguration of that widespread abolition sentiment which pervades a large extent of the country. It is important in all its bearings upon the present and the future; for it is not improbable that the South, in view of the late treason against its peace, may demand at the coming session of Congress the enactment of laws guaranteeing security to their property and protection against sedition on the part of the Northern abolitionists. The anti-slavery sentiment has prevailed now for over twenty-five years as a moral movement; but it is only since 1844 that it has assumed a political phase. Since then both parties contending for supremacy have succumbed to fanaticism, and abolitionism in an organized form at this day pervades nearly the whole North, even to this great once national and conservative metropolis. It is idle, then, to disguise the fact that the time is most critical to the safety of the Union. The South, finding this anti-slavery sentiment thus strongly arrayed against it, and alarmed at its practical development at Harper's Ferry, will very probably, from the ways things look there now, appeal to Congress for protection; and if it fails to procure such laws as will guarantee its interests stability and security, all the Southern delegations of both houses may withdraw from Washington, and hold their session somewhere further South.

We are in the midst of a crisis which may not be inaptly compared to that of the Roman republic in the time of the wars of the patricians and plebeians, when the people with drew to the Aventine Mount to take measures for the protection of their rights, and the whole republic stood on the verge of ruin and anarchy. SETTLEMENT OF ITALY.—THE APPROACHING CONGRESS.—The invitations to the Congress have at last been formally issued by France, and it now remains to be seen whether England will adhere to her expressed determination not to enter it unless via a distinct understanding that the independence of Central Italy is to be guaranteed. It seems to us that Louis Napoleon cares but little for her presence. His course in regard to Italy is settled in his own mind; and notwithstanding the suspicions entertained of his reserve, we have an idea that it will in the end prove satisfactory to the great body of the Italian people. It is obvious that the French Emperor cannot, consistently with his obligations to Austria, recede from his engagements with her up to the point at which the Congress may relieve him from them. To say or do anything openly to encourage the hopes of the people of Central Italy, so far as their annexation to Sardinia is concerned, is too much to expect from him. We believe that he seeks to throw upon the Congress the entire responsibility of the changes that are desirable to be effected in the Villafranca programme, and that he will be too well pleased thus to get rid of the difficulties and embarrassments of the Italian question.

That he is mystifying the English government as to the course that he intends to pursue at the Congress, there are good grounds for believing. It has been his policy ever since the abrupt termination of the Crimean war to keep the English people in uncertainty as to his next move, and even to induce the apprehension of invasion. By thus stimulating their fears and keeping up continual suspicion and irritation of feeling on the part of the two nations, he has gained his object of diverting the attention of his own people from their political grievances, and in this way consolidating his own power. It is only another phase of the old Napoleon policy of provoking external to prevent internal conflicts. There is this difference, however, that the second Napoleon has no real intention of committing so suicidal an act as engaging in hostilities with England. It suits his purpose better to keep her on the tenterhooks of suspense, and put her to enormous cost in fortifying her defenses against an imaginary danger, and make her play second fiddle on all great European questions. With this view he has, no doubt, left her entirely in the dark as to his resolves in regard to Italy, hoping that she will be thereby deterred from entering the Congress, and thus remain isolated when she ought to lead. Such a course would be consistent with the subtle and masterly policy of this extraordinary man, who seems to be far prouder of his diplomatic successes than of all the triumphs that he has gained on the battle field.

POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL SUICIDE.—One of the most remarkable evidences of utter insanity that we have ever seen or heard of on the part of men supposed to possess ordinary intelligence is found in the conduct of certain merchants in this city. We find their names attached to the calls of meetings in favor of two candidates for the Mayoralty both of whom are known to be sympathizers with a movement, the intention of which is clearly and unmistakably the abolition of slavery or the dissolution of the Union. Such is the platform of the party with which these candidates are more or less attached. And yet we find them endorsed by a large number of the merchants of New York—men who know nothing beyond the prices of corn, or cotton, or tobacco, or pork, or beef, or dry goods—men whose sole interest is in trade. They should ask themselves, then, what will be the

effect on the metropolis should the plan of their candidates and their partisans be adopted? We will answer for them. Their goods would find no buyers, their ships would rot in the docks, grass would grow in the business streets of New York, and the now proud Empire City would sink below the level of a provincial town. The conduct of the merchants who support either of the abolition candidates, and lend their names to the calls for their meetings, is sheer folly, utter insanity, and is equivalent to an attempt at suicide. If they do not succeed it will not be because they have not tried.

METROPOLITAN ART EXHIBITIONS.—It is only a little while ago that it was with the greatest difficulty a sufficient number of persons capable of appreciating and supporting a fine collection of paintings could be found in this city. With the exception of the yearly exhibitions of the Academy of Design and the Dusseldorf Gallery, the metropolis had no art exhibitions. Lately, however, we have been doing better, and the steady increase of good works in public and private galleries, together with the marked attention paid by the public to them, promises a fine future for our good artists. Palmer's statuary has had the most remarkable triumph. When the Palmer marbles were first exhibited at the Dusseldorf Gallery they attracted but little public attention. Being much admired and talked about by connoisseurs, they were visited by large numbers of people, though not by such audiences as they deserved. Statuary is more ideal than painting, and people must be educated to its appreciation. Palmer's greatest work—"The White Captive"—has now been exhibited about a fortnight, in which time it has been visited by some three thousand people. The number of daily visitors to this superb work of art has steadily increased day by day, from one hundred up to four hundred, and the prospect is that this latter figure will be doubled before the exhibition is closed. The same success attended the exhibition of Page's Venus and Church's Andes, and a similar interest is manifested in the Central Park, the growing beauties of which are now enjoyed every day by many hundreds of people, who promenade in the Ramble or drive over the splendid roads. At the Opera we have a new prima donna, of home culture, Patti, who has made a reputation in a week, and has sung to audiences which increase in numbers and enthusiasm with every succeeding performance. Looking at all these things, it is idle to say that the American people are too practical to appreciate and encourage art in its highest forms.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON. The Spanish Minister has just received from a friend in Europe a most valuable present—the sword of the great Emperor Charles V. The receipts of the Treasury for the week ending Monday, were nearly \$900,000; the amount subject to draft \$5,400,000; increase over the sum in hand last week, \$273,000. William E. Everett has resigned his commission as a chief engineer in the Navy. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress. SENATORIAL NEWS ITEMS. The Spanish Minister has just received from a friend in Europe a most valuable present—the sword of the great Emperor Charles V. The receipts of the Treasury for the week ending Monday, were nearly \$900,000; the amount subject to draft \$5,400,000; increase over the sum in hand last week, \$273,000. William E. Everett has resigned his commission as a chief engineer in the Navy. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress.

THE APPROACHING CRISIS.—THE SLAVERY AGITATION BROUGHT TO THE POINT OF REVOLUTION.—PROGRAMME OF AN INDEPENDENT SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY IN DEFANT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUTHERN RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, &c., &c. We are approaching a crisis in our political affairs, which may possibly bring this Union to a speedy dissolution. While all the small-bear politicians and spoliemen at Washington are debating, plotting and counterplotting for the offices and spoils of the House organization, you may depend upon it that the leading men of the South are brooding upon a far more important matter. The paramount question with them is, are we and our institutions any longer secure in this Union? and if not secure, what steps shall we take for our security? Acting upon this idea, I understand that the following programme has been substantially agreed upon by a number of leading Southern men, in Congress and out of Congress, to wit:— First.—That in view of the Harper's Ferry abolition invasion, and its extensive and alarming ramifications; and in view of the sympathies of the abolitionist republican party for Old Brown, and of the threats of that party to reduce the South to submission, a special law shall be demanded of Congress for the future protection and security of the Southern States against all abolition conspirators, incendiaries and incendiaries. Second.—That in default of some such Congressional protection, the Southern members of both houses shall withdraw from Washington, and meet in a body in Richmond, Virginia, or some other convenient place, in view of the initial steps for an independent Southern Confederacy. In anticipation of this alternative, I am further advised that this Southern Congressional meeting, in Richmond or elsewhere, will proceed to put the South in a proper position before the great Western Powers of Europe, including a programme of commercial treaties on a purely Southern basis, that can hardly fail to attract the sympathies of even England for Southern cotton, including Southern slavery.

Confronted by this contemplated Southern plan of operations, how utterly insignificant the House organization, and the Charleston Convention, and all other political schemes and movements appear, in reference to 1860. If a Southern demand for Congressional protection of the institution of slavery shall be refused, and it will be refused if this protection shall be refused, and it will be refused if the anti-slavery Northern majority of the House, then we may witness before the close of this session of Congress the opening of the last chapter of the great American Union. Rely upon it, that if the Southern States cannot be protected against abolition traitors and outcasts within the Union, they will abandon the Union, peace or war; and, in view of this last alternative, the preparations for war will not be neglected by this projected Southern Congressional Convention. Northern men may say that this is the old Southern cry of wolf, wolf, but they will find, perhaps when it is too late, that the wolf is really at the door.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. This document will not be sent to Congress till the House organizes. The reason stated for this course is, that something might occur in the meantime requiring a modification of that important document. Besides, should the struggle for an organization continue many days, it is probable the Executive will have additional information on two important questions to communicate, namely, those of the San Juan difficulty and our Mexican relations. The next arrival from California will probably bring more information as to the result of General Scott's mission. On the last arrival information was not as complete as desired. OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. By the next arrival of the Tennessee from Vera Cruz, due on the 12th inst., Minister McLane will probably send a definite statement as to the fate of the treaty he is negotiating with Mexico, or the Brooklyn, now at Vera Cruz, may bring a despatch previously mentioned from a high source in Washington that Senor Lerdo, after having been compelled to lay in the harbor of Vera Cruz by a "wrecker" two days, had landed, and had a full conference with President Juarez and his Cabinet on the subject of the American treaty, and it was believed there would be no further difficulty in concluding the treaty on the basis understood between Mr. McLane and Senor Lerdo, the Mexican Minister here and the govern-

ment at Washington. It is thought the treaty would be ratified after the landing of Mr. McLane, and that the Brooklyn may bring it in advance of the arrival of the Tennessee. No confidence is placed in the statement from Mexico that Juarez and Robles were endeavoring to negotiate with Lerdo. It is known, however, that Robles has addressed the constitutional President, and it is not probable, as far as he is concerned, there may be a possibility of Robles abandoning the reactionary party. The statement that there is a movement in the United States to aid by a large military force the constitutional government has no other foundation than that propositions have been twice made to President Juarez, by individuals said to have means. The first proposition was positively declined, and the second was refused for the same reason. The Tennessee's mail, which arrived here to-day, brought a letter from an entirely reliable source, saying that the Cabinet of the liberal government of Mexico are united in their view, and that there is every reason to believe they will agree to the pending treaty with the United States. So hopeful is the writer that he adds, it will be received in this country very soon after the meeting of Congress. There is no truth in the newspaper report that Juarez intends asking for immediate American armed intervention. A rumor was, however, prevalent at Vera Cruz just before the Tennessee left, that the Miramon government was about to make overtures to our own, but its truth was strongly doubted.

THE EXTENSIVE COMMERCE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE. Letters received here, brought by the last mail from Europe, from high sources, represent as exceedingly critical the affairs of England and France, and that there is imminent danger of a rupture between these two Powers. Doubtless to follow the movement of Louis Napoleon, and from after the 1st of January, our Majesty is taking swift measures to place her government in a state of security to meet any emergency. THE CONDUCT OF BOSTON HARBOR. Mayor Lincoln and the Harbor Committee of Boston are here to select from the Executive Department the appointment of a commission to examine the condition of their harbor. They desire the appointment of General Totten, Professor Bachie and Captain Davis, the gentlemen who performed a similar service for the harbor of New York in 1855-6. Hon. Mr. Olinia, late member of Congress from Boston, and Captain Sleeper, a delegate of the Marine Society, accompany the delegation. They will be received by the President to-morrow. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE. The complications in regard to the organization of the House thicken hourly, and it is pretty definitely settled that the republicans cannot organize the House. The programme of Wood, arranged in New York, is repudiated here. It is highly probable that the democrats, with the South American, and a portion of the anti-Lecompton men, may triumph in the organization. Mr. Thierington, of Missouri, will undoubtedly be the caucus nominee for Speaker, as it is well known the administration favors his nomination. Mr. Douglas urges all his friends to go into the democratic caucus.

It is said that Swartz, anti-Lecompton Member of Congress from Pennsylvania, signified to the Republican or People's Party Caucus of Members in Philadelphia yesterday, that he would act with them in organizing Congress. This would weaken materially the chances of the democrats, so few votes being needed by the republicans, and Swartz having been put on the slate as a Douglas man who would go in caucus with the democrats. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress. SENATORIAL NEWS ITEMS. The Spanish Minister has just received from a friend in Europe a most valuable present—the sword of the great Emperor Charles V. The receipts of the Treasury for the week ending Monday, were nearly \$900,000; the amount subject to draft \$5,400,000; increase over the sum in hand last week, \$273,000. William E. Everett has resigned his commission as a chief engineer in the Navy. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress.

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THE EXTENSIVE COMMERCE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE. Letters received here, brought by the last mail from Europe, from high sources, represent as exceedingly critical the affairs of England and France, and that there is imminent danger of a rupture between these two Powers. Doubtless to follow the movement of Louis Napoleon, and from after the 1st of January, our Majesty is taking swift measures to place her government in a state of security to meet any emergency. THE CONDUCT OF BOSTON HARBOR. Mayor Lincoln and the Harbor Committee of Boston are here to select from the Executive Department the appointment of a commission to examine the condition of their harbor. They desire the appointment of General Totten, Professor Bachie and Captain Davis, the gentlemen who performed a similar service for the harbor of New York in 1855-6. Hon. Mr. Olinia, late member of Congress from Boston, and Captain Sleeper, a delegate of the Marine Society, accompany the delegation. They will be received by the President to-morrow. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE. The complications in regard to the organization of the House thicken hourly, and it is pretty definitely settled that the republicans cannot organize the House. The programme of Wood, arranged in New York, is repudiated here. It is highly probable that the democrats, with the South American, and a portion of the anti-Lecompton men, may triumph in the organization. Mr. Thierington, of Missouri, will undoubtedly be the caucus nominee for Speaker, as it is well known the administration favors his nomination. Mr. Douglas urges all his friends to go into the democratic caucus.

It is said that Swartz, anti-Lecompton Member of Congress from Pennsylvania, signified to the Republican or People's Party Caucus of Members in Philadelphia yesterday, that he would act with them in organizing Congress. This would weaken materially the chances of the democrats, so few votes being needed by the republicans, and Swartz having been put on the slate as a Douglas man who would go in caucus with the democrats. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress. SENATORIAL NEWS ITEMS. The Spanish Minister has just received from a friend in Europe a most valuable present—the sword of the great Emperor Charles V. The receipts of the Treasury for the week ending Monday, were nearly \$900,000; the amount subject to draft \$5,400,000; increase over the sum in hand last week, \$273,000. William E. Everett has resigned his commission as a chief engineer in the Navy. The Old Brown excitement is fast subsiding before the more important question of the meeting of Congress.

THE APPROACHING CRISIS.—THE SLAVERY AGITATION BROUGHT TO THE POINT OF REVOLUTION.—PROGRAMME OF AN INDEPENDENT SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY IN DEFANT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUTHERN RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, &c., &c. We are approaching a crisis in our political affairs, which may possibly bring this Union to a speedy dissolution. While all the small-bear politicians and spoliemen at Washington are debating, plotting and counterplotting for the offices and spoils of the House organization, you may depend upon it that the leading men of the South are brooding upon a far more important matter. The paramount question with them is, are we and our institutions any longer secure in this Union? and if not secure, what steps shall we take for our security? Acting upon this idea, I understand that the following programme has been substantially agreed upon by a number of leading Southern men, in Congress and out of Congress, to wit:— First.—That in view of the Harper's Ferry abolition invasion, and its extensive and alarming ramifications; and in view of the sympathies of the abolitionist republican party for Old Brown, and of the threats of that party to reduce the South to submission, a special law shall be demanded of Congress for the future protection and security of the Southern States against all abolition conspirators, incendiaries and incendiaries. Second.—That in default of some such Congressional protection, the Southern members of both houses shall withdraw from Washington, and meet in a body in Richmond, Virginia, or some other convenient place, in view of the initial steps for an independent Southern Confederacy. In anticipation of this alternative, I am further advised that this Southern Congressional meeting, in Richmond or elsewhere, will proceed to put the South in a proper position before the great Western Powers of Europe, including a programme of commercial treaties on a purely Southern basis, that can hardly fail to attract the sympathies of even England for Southern cotton, including Southern slavery.

Confronted by this contemplated Southern plan of operations, how utterly insignificant the House organization, and the Charleston Convention, and all other political schemes and movements appear, in reference to 1860. If a Southern demand for Congressional protection of the institution of slavery shall be refused, and it will be refused if this protection shall be refused, and it will be refused if the anti-slavery Northern majority of the House, then we may witness before the close of this session of Congress the opening of the last chapter of the great American Union. Rely upon it, that if the Southern States cannot be protected against abolition traitors and outcasts within the Union, they will abandon the Union, peace or war; and, in view of this last alternative, the preparations for war will not be neglected by this projected Southern Congressional Convention. Northern men may say that this is the old Southern cry of wolf, wolf, but they will find, perhaps when it is too late, that the wolf is really at the door.

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