# Aelus of the Week.

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT, This satanic deed absorbs the whole excitement of a week which has been prolific of stir-

ring events. It is too late to announce it as new, for we have no reader who did not hear of it on last Saturday, and probably no one who did not on that day read all the particulars of the terrible catastrophe as published in the Washington despatches of that day. The simple facts are that, on the evening of April 14. President Lincoln and his wife, together with other friends, visited Ford's Theatre for the purpose of witnessing the performance of the American Cousin. It was announced in the papers that General Grant would also be present, but that gentleman instead took the late train of cars for New Jersey. The theatre was densely crowded. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, the sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming "Sic semper tyrannis!" and immediately leaped from the box, which was of the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, thus making his escape, amid rear of the theatre, and, mounting a horse, fled.

The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing toward the stage, many exclaiming, "Hang him! hang him!" The excitement was of the wildest possible description. There was a rush towards the Presidential box, when cries were heard, "Stand back! Give him air! Has any one stimulants?" On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above and back of the termovel hope, and that same of the brain was temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out. He was removed to a private house opposite to the theatre, and the Surgeon-General of the army and other surgeons were sent for to attend to his condition. On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking-chair on which the President had been sitting, also on the partition and on the floor. A common single-barrelled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

At midnight, the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax, and Farnsworth, Judge Carter, Governor Oglesby, General Meigs, Colonel Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon-Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon-General Barnes, and his medical associates, were around his bedside. Vice-President Johnson was also in attendance. The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible, and breathing slowly, the blood oozing from the wound at the back of his head. The surgeons were exhausting every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone.

This conditions of things continued through the night, and at twenty-two minutes past seven

the night, and at twenty-two minutes past seven o'clock on the morning of the 15th terminated in the death of our great and good chief magistrate, at the time when he was bending the whole wisdom of his administration to adop measures of leniency towards the very wretches to whom we are doubtless indebted for this most afflictive calamity which could have well befallen the nation. What we have lost, we know only too well. What they have gained, may be judged from the fact that they have displaced a ruler who was, if in anything excesone who comes into power smarting under the peculiar sense of wrongs received, which has so deeply impressed the Union men of the

South with the feeling that rebels should be handled with ungloved hands. THE PRESIDENT'S DYING HOURS.-Among those present through the night, was Rev. P. D. Gurley, pastor of the church which the President attended, who divided his time between the bedside and the room where Mrs. Lincoln, in agonizing distress, sat with her son and a few other friends. In both places he offered fervent prayer. The dying man was unconscious, but

THE ASSASSIN.—His identity is proved beyond all question. Evidence enough has accumulated to fasten the guilt of the actual commission of the deed upon J. Wilkes Booth, an actor of some account. The outrage upon Secretary Seward was evidently committed by another person. But papers, found in the trunk of Booth, reveal an extensive, bloody conspiracy, originally intended for execution on the 4th of March, and embracing in its programme the murder of other members of the Cabinet and the Vice President. Clues have been obtained which are expected to lead to important arrests. We confess to much sur-prise, in view of the conclusive discovery of such a conspiracy, on reading that President Johnson, immediately following his inauguration, walked unattended from the Kirkwood House to the Treasury Department, to attend his first Cabinet meeting.

#### ANOTHER ASSASSINATON ATTEMPTED. Secretary Seward the Intended Victim.

At the same hour when the President was murdered, a similar and nearly successful attempt was made upon the Secretary of State, and upon his son, the Assistant Secretary, and others around him.

About ten o'clock a man rang the bell, and the call having been answered by a colored servant, he said he had come from Dr. Verdi, Secretary Seward's family physician, with a prescription, at the same time holding in his hand a small piece of paper and saying, in answer to a refusal, that he must see the Secretary, as he was intrusted with a particular direction concerning the medicine. He still insisted on gains are able to the concerning the medicine. insisted on going up, although repeatedly informed that no one could enter the chamber The man pushed the servant aside and walked quickly to the Secretary's room, and was there met by Mr. Frederick W. Seward of whom he demanded to see the Secretary, making the same representation which he did to the ser-

What further passed in the way of colloquy is not known, but the man struck him on the head with a billy, severely injuring the skull, and felling him almost senseless. The assassin then rushed into the chamber and attaked Major Seward. Paymaster in the United States Army, and Mr. Hansell, a messenger of the State department, and two male nurses, disabling them all. He then rushed upon the Secretary, who was lying in bed in the same room, and inflicted three stabs in the neck, but severing, it is thought, and hoped, no arteries. The assassin then rushed down stairs, mounted his horse at the door and rode off before an alarm could be sounded, and in the same manner as the assassin of the President. It is believed the injuries of the Secretary are not fatal, nor those of the others, although both the Secretary and Assistant Secretary are very seriously injured.

This murderous attack, taking place at the same time with the shooting of the President—between nine and ten o'clock—leaves no doubt that both were acts in a conspiracy-the carrying out of threats which, under the shadow of Davis' government, have been long uttered by the Richmond papers. The world never witnessed a more marked case of judicial hardness in wickedness—a more striking case of self-seeking of utter destruction. One week ago the prospect of a general forgiveness of the leaders of rebellion was only to bright. It is all gone now.

Condition of Secretary Seward and His Son.—Latest accounts represent the Secretary as improving and enjoying a fair prospect of recovery. His son Frederick is in a more dubious condition—in fact exceedingly critical. of protection.

most happy effect, the citizens being encouraged to resume their vocations, in the full assurance worthless or worse; we will neither help you

THE NEW PRESIDENT.—Vice President Johnson took the oath of office as President in his rooms in the Kirkwood House, on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. There were present only Chief Justice Chase, who administered the Lincoln addressed the people who, on the occasing the spilled and scattered contents in some of the spilled and scattered conten son took the oath of office as President in his rooms in the Kirkwood House, on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. There were present only Chief Justice Chase, who administered the oath, Secretary McCulloch, Attorney General Speed, and eight other distinguished civilians. After receiving the oath, and being declared President of the Uhited States, Mr. Johnson

remarked:-Gentleman, I must be permitted to say, that I have been almost overwhelmed by the an-nouncement of the sad event which has so recently occured. I feel incompetent to perform duties so important and responsible as those which have been so imprecedly thrown upon me. As to an indication of any policy which may be pursued by me in the administra-tion of the Government, I have to say that that must be left for development as the Adminis-

tration progresses.
"The message or declaration must be made by the acts as they transpire. The only assurance that I can now give of the inture is reference to the past. The course which I have taken in the past, in connection with this rebellion, must be regarded as a guaranty of the future. My past public life, which has been long and laborious, has been founded, as I in good conscience believe, upon a great principle of right, which lies at the basis of all things. The best energies of my life have been spent in endeavoring to establish and perpetuate the principles of free government, and I believe that the Government, in passing through its present perils, will settle down upon principles consonant with popular rights, more permanent and enduring than heretofore. I must be permitted to say, if I understand the feelings of my own heart, that I have long labored to ameliorate the bewilderment of the audience, from the and elevate the condition of the great mass of the American people. Toil and an honest advocacy of the great principles of free Govern-ment have been my lot. Duties have been mine, consequences are God's. This has been the foundation of my political creed, and I feel that in the end the Government will triumph,

and that these great principles will be permanently established. "In conclusion, gentlemen, let me say that I want your encouragement and countenance. I shall ask and rely upon you and others in carrying the Government through its present perils. I feel, in making this request, that it will be heartily responded to by you and all other patriots and lovers of the rights and interests of a free people."

President Johnson retains the old Cabinet intact, appointing Wm. Hunter, Esq., the Chief Clerk in the State Department, to be the Acting Secretary of State during the inability of Secre-tary Seward to attend to business. We have tary Seward to attend to business. seen, in the correspondence of the daily papers, many statements of views said to have been expressed by Mr. Johnson, as to his future course, but we doubt whether as yet anything is known of his intentions beyond what he has expressed above. The best understanding is said to exist between himself and the Cabinet.

#### THE WEEK'S NEWS.

To accommodate some special purpose of our printers, the copy for much of our secular in-telligence was made out and in type before the reception of Saturday morning's news. There are items in what follows which might otherwise have been omitted.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT IN VIRGINIA. Several of the members of the rebel legislature of Virginia and other influential men have, through the Richmond Whig, (now in loyal hands,) and by handbills, invited a number of leading citizens whom they name, heading the list with R. M. T. Hunter, to meet them in conference for discussing the best means of restoring peace to the State of Virginia. They also express their opinion that the exigencies of the situation demand an immediate meeting of the General Assembly of the State. They

say:—
the United States to a session of the Legislature in Richmond, in connection with the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, and to their free deliberation upon public affairs, and to the ingress and departure of all its members, under safe conduct has been obtained. The United States authorities will afford transportation from any point under their control to any of the persons before mentioned. The matters to be submitted to the Legislature are the restora-tion of peace to the State of Virginia and the adjustment of questions involving life, liberty and property that have arisen in the State as a consequence of the war. We therefore earnestly request the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and members of the Legislature to re-pair to this city by the 25th of April. We understand that full protection to personal property will be afforded in the State, and we re-commend to peaceful citizens to remain at their homes and to pursue their usual avocations with a confidence that they will not be interrupted."

They also say that they have procured safe conduct from the military authorities of the United States for the gentlemen whom they invite by name, to enter the city and depart without molestation. Affixed to the call is the following:—"I concur in the preceding re-commendation. J. A. Campbell." Judge Campbell, it will be remembered, was one of the celebrated Peace Embassy. Under this is added:—"Approved for publication in the Whig and in handbill torm. G. Weitzel, Major-General Commanding."

This military sanction to an attempt to convene the old rebel State Government for the express purpose of adjusting its relations to the Union, does not accord with the rumor that the President has given his sanction to the Pierrepont Government. Just now things look as though the way of restoration, not alone to peace, but to dignities and power, by the blackest of the traitors—such for example as the Virginia Governor Smith—was becoming very simple. We have the highest order of faith in our supreme government, but in such a case as this we walk only by faith. We certainly do not understand all these things.

LATER.—We learn, with great satisfaction, that the above order, granting safe conducts to the rebels has been revoked.

## RICHMOND.

CHANGE OF COMMANDERS.—Gen. Weitzel has een relieved of command in Richmond, and the Department has been turned over to Gen Ord. The appointment is likely to give satis faction. The administration of the military government in that Department will unques ionably become one of the most perplexing which has been committed to any such admin-istrator during the war, arising chiefly from the rival attempts at the re-creation of the civil government of the State. Gen. Ord, through his whole career, has shown remarkable administrative qualifications, and brings to the discharge of the duties of his enlarged command a perfect acquaintance with its requirements, and a large experience in its details. Probably no officer could have been selected by Genera Grant who would better fill the difficult role General Ord will be called upon to perform. Nor is his capacity in council his only claim on the regard of his country. His services in the field have been arduous and brilliant, showing him one of our first soldiers.

The General has issued an order addressed to the people of Richmond and its vicinity, stating that no difficulty will be made in admit ting them to bring marketing to that city. They are invited to commence their ordinary traffic at once, and are assured of protection in passing to and within the lines of the United States orces. The citizens of Richmond and shopkeepers and others are also requested to re their ordinary avocations as speedily as possible. It is the wish and the intention of the military authorities to protect all good and measure as practicable, the former prosperity of the city. No molestation by soldiers or others will be allowed to any who are engaged

sion of the illumination of the Executive departments and Presidential mansion, assembled before the latter with their congratulations. The speech was certainly devoted to the momentous question of the hour-" What next?" We are told that before its delivery it was submitted to the Cabinet, and that it secured their entire concurrence.

We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Peters burg and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army, give hope of a right-eous and speedy peace, whose joyous expres-sion cannot be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He, "from whom all blessings flow," must not be forgotten. A call for a national thanksgiving is being

prepared, and will be duly promulgated. prepared, and will be duly promulgated.

Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause of rejoicing be overlooked, and their honors must not be parcelled out. With others, I myself was near the front, and had the high pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you; but no part of the honor, or plan, or execution is mine. To General Grant, his skilful officers, and brave men all belongs. The gallant navy stood ready, but was not within gallant navy stood ready, but was not within reach to take an active part. By these recent successes the reinauguration of the national authority, and the reconstruction which has had a large share of thought from the first, is pressed

much more closely upon our attention.

It is fraught with great difficulty. Unlike the case of a war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man-we simply must begin, with and mould from disorganized and discordant elements. Nor is it a small additional embarrassment that we, the loyal peo-ple, differ amongst ourselves as to the mode, manner, and measure of reconstruction.

As a general rule, I abstain from relating the

reports of attacks upon myself, wishing not to be provoked by that to which I cannot properly offer an answer. In spite of this precaution, however, it comes to my knowledge that I am much censured from some supposed agency in setting up and seeking to sustain the new State Government of Louisiana. In this I have done just so much and no more than the public knows. In the annual message of December, 1863, and the accompanying proclamation, I presented a plan of reconstruction (as the phrase goes), which I promised, if adopted by any State, should be acceptable and sustained by the Executive Government of the nation. I distinctly stated that this was not the only plan which might possibly be acceptable, and claimed no right to say when or whether members should be admitted to seats in Congress from such States. This, plan was in congress from mitted to the then Cabinet, and was distinctly approved by every member of it. One of them suggested that I should then and in that connection apply the emancipation proclamation to the heretofore excepted parts of Virginia and Louisiana; that I should drop the suggestion about apprenticeship for freed people, and that I should omit the protest against my own power, in regard to the admission of members of Congress; but even he approved every part and parcel of the plan which has since been employed or touched by the action of Louisiana. The new constitution of Louisiana, de-claring emancipation for the whole State, par-ticularly applies the proclamation to the part previously excepted. It does not adopt apprenticeship for freed people, and it is silent, as it could not well be otherwise, about the ad-

mission of members to Congress. So that, as it applies to Louisiana, every member of the Cabinet fully approved the plan. The message went to Courtess, and Lraceivada verba; and not a single objection to it from any professed emancinationist, came to my knowledge, until emancipationist came to my knowledge until after the news reached Washington that the people of Louisiana had begun to move in accordance with it. From about July, 1862, I had corresponded with different persons sup-posed to be interested, seeking a reconstruction of a State government for Louisiana, when the message of 1863, with the plan before men-tioned, reached New Orleans, and General Banks wrote me that he was confident the people, with his military co-operation, would reconstruct substantially on that plan. I wrote him and some of them to try it; they tried it, and the result is known. Such, only, has been my agency in getting up the Louisiana government. As to sustaining it, my promise is out as before stated, but as bad promises are better broken than kept, I shall treat this as a bad promise, and break it whenever I shall be convinced that keeping it is adverse to the public interest. But I have not yet been so convinced. I have been shown a letter on this subject, supposed to be an able one, in which the writer

expresses regret that my mind has not seemed to be definitely fixed on the question whether the seceded States, so called, are in the Union or out of it. He would perhaps add astonish ment to his regret were he to learn that since have found professed Union men endeavoring to make that a question, I have purposely for-borne any public expression upon it. As it appears to me, that question has not been, no yet is a practically material one, and that any discussion of it while it thus remains practi cally immaterial could have no effect other than the mischievous one of finding out friends as yet; whatever it may become hereafter, that question is bad as the basis of a controversy, and good for nothing at all—a merely pernicious abstraction. We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper practical relation with the Union, and that the solution object of the Government, civil and military, in regard to those States, is to again get them into that proper practical relation. I believe it is not only possible, but in fact easier to do this without deciding or even considering whether these States have ever been out of the Union than with it; finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us all join in doing he acts necessary to restoring the proper prac tical relations between these States and the Union, and each for ever after innocently indulge his own opinion, whether in doing the acts he brought the States from without into

the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it. The amount of constituency, so to speak, on which the new Louisiana government rests, would be more satisfactory to all if it contained 50,000, 80,000, or even 20,000, instead of only

bout 12,000, as it does. It is also unsatisfactory to some that the elective franchise is not given to the colored men. I would myself prefer that it were conferred on the very intelligent and on those who served our cause as soldiers. Still the question is not whether the Louisiana Government, as it stands, is quite all that is desirable? The question is will it be wise to take it as it is, and help to improve it, or to reject and disperse it? Can ouisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union sooner by sustaining or by discarding her new State government? Some 12,000 voters in the heretofore slave State of Louisiana have sworn allegiance to the Union, assumed to be the rightful political power of the State, held elections, organized a State government, adopted a free State constitution, giving the benefit of public schools equally to black and white, and empowering the Legislature to confer the elective franchise upon the colored Their legislature has already voted to ratify the Constitutional Amendment recently passed by Congress abolishing slavery through These 12,000 persons are thus the military authorities to protect all good and out the nation. These 12,000 persons are thus peaceable citizens, and to restore, in as great a fully committed to the Union and to perpetual freedom in the State, committed to the very things and nearly all the things the nation wants, and they ask the nation's recognition in peaceful pursuits. Gentlemen from Richmond say that this order has already had the tal. Now if we reject and spurn them, we do

vague and undefined when, where and how."
If this course, by discouraging and paralyzing
both white and black, has any tendency to bring Louisiana into proper practical relations with the Union, I have so far been unable to perceive it. If, on the contrary, we recognize and sustain the new government of Louisiana, the converse of all this is made true.

We encourage the heart and nerve the arm of the 12,000 to adhere to their work, and argue for it, and proselyte for it, and fight for it and feed it, and grow it, and ripen it to a com-plete success. The colored man, too, in seeing all united for him, is inspired with vigilance, and energy, and daring to the same end. Grant that he desires the elective franchise—will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps towards it than by running backward over them? Concede that the new gov-ernment of Louisiana is only to what it should be, as the egg is to the fowl; we shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it. [Laughter]. Again, if we reject Louisiana, we also neglect our vote in favor of the proposed amendment to the National Constitution. To meet this proposition, it has been argued that no more than three-fourths of these States which have not attempted secession are necessary to validly ratify the amendment. I do not commit myself against this further than to say that such a ratification would be questionable, and sure to be persistently ques-tioned, while a ratification by three fourths of all the States would be unquestioned and un-questionable. I repeat the question, can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relations with the Union sooner by sustaining o by discarding her new State government? What has been said of Lonisiana will apply severally to other States, and yet so great pe-culiarities pertain to each State, and such important and sudden changes occur in the same State, and withal so new and unprecedented is he whole case, that no exclusive and inflexi ble plan can safely be prescribed. As to details and collaterals, such an exclusive and inflexible plan would surely become a new entangle ment. Important principles may and must be inflexible. In the present situation, as the phrase goes, it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South. I am considering, and shall not fail to act when satisfied that action will be proper.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS. Two of these have appeared during the week. One, under the provisions of a law passed in 1861, closes the principal ports south of the Chesapeake against commerce. It was under stood, at the time of the passage of the law, that, while foreign Powers would respect the effective blockade of those ports by naval force, a claim to exercise legal authority over them as over other ports of the United States would not be respected. It is believed that the time has now come, however, when the United States Government can claim to exercise that legal authority over all its ports, whether blockaded or not, which belongs to every independent sovereign Power. A sufficient number of Southern ports are left open for legitimate trade, and those now proclaimed closed will, it is presumed, be reopened after a time. Meanwhile, blockade-running is likely to be effect-

ively ended.

The second proclamation relates to the fact that our vessels of war have, in certain foreign ports, been refused privileges and immunities to which they were entitled by treaty or the comity of nations, while, on the other hand, vessels from other nations requiring said privi-leges, have uninterruptedly enjoyed the same in our ports. The proclamation goes on to say:—"Now therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby make known that if after a reasonable time shall have have reached any foreign country in whose ports the said privileges and immunitities shall have been refused as aforesaid, they shall continue to be so refused, then and thenceforth the same privileges and immunities shall be refused to the vessels of war of that country in the ports of the United States, and this refusal shall continue until war vessels of the United States

entered on the 9th by the United States troops The number of cannon captured in the city was 300. The remnant of the rebel garrison retreated on their gunboats up the Alabama

## DEATHS.

MERCER.—Near Petersburg, Va., on the 2d inst., from wounds received while storming the enemy's works, on the South Side Railroad, Adjutant J. DRUMMOND MERCER, of the One-hundred-and-ninteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, in his 30th year, eldest son of the late Commodore Samuel Mercer, U.S. N.

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HAVE PERFORMED MORE CURES! Have and do Give Better Satisfaction! HAVE MORE TESTIMONY!

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OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOM Resulting from disorders of the Digestive Organs.

Resulting from disorders of the Digestive Organs, such
as Constipation, Inward Piles,
Fullness of Blood to the
Head, Acidity of the Stomach,
Nausea, Heartburn, Disgust for Food,
Fullness or weight in the Stomach, Sow Ernotations, Sinking or Fluttering at the pit of the Stomach, Swimming of the Head, Hurried and Difficult Breathing, Fluttering of the Heart, Choking or SuffocatingSensations when in a lying posture, Dimness of Vision, Dots or Webs before the Sight,
Fever and Dull Pain in the Head, Deficiency of Perspiration, Yellowness of the Skin and
Eyes, Pain in the Side, Back, Chest,
Limbs, &c., Sudden Flushes of
Heat, Burning in the Flesh,
Constant Imaginings
of Evil, and great
Depression of
Spirits.

REMEMBER THAT THIS BITTERS

REMEMBER THAT THIS BITTERS IS NOT ALCOHOLIC,

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Yours truly, LEVI G. BECK.

From Rev. J. Newton Brown, D. D., Editor of the Encyclopædia of Religious Knowledge. Although not disposed to favor or recommend Patent Medicines in general, through distrust of their ingredients and effects. I yet know of no sufficient reasons why a man may not testify to the benefits he believes himself to have received from any simple preparations in the hope that he may thus contribute to the benefit of others.

continue until war vessels of the United States shall have been placed upon an entire equality in the foreign ports aforesaid with similar vessels of other countries. The United States, whatever claims or pretence may have existed heretofore, are now at least entitled to claim and concede an entire and friendly equality of right and hospitalities with all maritime nations."

IATEST.—TUESDAY.

Gen. Canby has captured Mobile. On April 9th, Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely yielded to the united efforts of the army and navy, and were captured with 5700 rebels. Spanish Fort and Blakely being the principal defences, the and Blakely being the principal defences, the high shall be and being the high shall be and the high shall be a so of the benefit of

From Rev. J. M. Lyons, formerly Pastor of the Columbus (N. J.) and Milestown (Pa.) Baptist Churches.

(N. J.) and Milestown (Pa.) Baptist Churches.

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Dr. C. M. Jackson:—Dear Sir—I feel it a pleasure
thus of my own accord to bear testimony to the excellence of the German Bitters. Some years since, being
much afflicted with Dyspepsia, I used them with very
beneficial results. I have often recommended them
to persons enfeebled by that tormenting disease, and
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