



MR. JOHN W. GARRETT was last week elected President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, for the twenty-fifth time.

JUDGE MERCER will become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this State on January 1st, at which time Judge Sharswood retires from the bench.

At the close of the fiscal year, on the thirtieth day of November last, our State debt was \$20,225,083.28. During the last year the debt was reduced \$15,104.77.

The Mark Lane Express of London, reports that 223,000,000 bushels of wheat will be needed in Great Britain and Europe during the coming year. Here is a chance for American farmers.

Does anybody hear of any Independent being taken notice of by the new Governor whom they elected? They were simply used as a cat's paw to draw the Democratic chestnuts from the fire.

The Independent journals that assisted to elect Pattison, are exceedingly unhappy over the prospect of the Republicans organizing the State Senate without dividing and giving the Democrats control of it.

It is probable that all Internal Revenue taxes, except those on liquor and tobacco, will be repealed, and these may be reduced. The tobacco trade is petitioning to have the question speedily settled, as the present uncertainty is demoralizing the business.

There appears to be little doubt that this Congress will pass a bill reducing letter postage from three to two cents. There seems to be no opposition to it. While Congress has its hand in, it might as well take the postage of newspapers mailed at the office of publication.

HON. EDWARD McPHERSON, Clerk of the House of Representatives, says the next Congress will contain 191 Democrats; 121 Republicans; 6 R-adjusters; 3 Independent Democrats; and 3 Independent Republicans. There are two vacancies caused by death. Democratic majority over all, 58.

BOTH Houses of Congress are wrestling with bills for the reform of the civil service, but it is doubtful if much is accomplished in this direction. Both parties are struggling for the point of vantage, and the Democrats will hardly agree to any bill that will exclude them from full possession of the offices, after their anticipated victory in 1884.

Ben. Butler says that he is going to be a Republican Governor of Massachusetts, that he was not elected by the Democrats, but by Republicans who were disgusted with their party leaders, and that the Democrats did not gain a victory in his election. The Democrats will, after all, come to the conclusion that "Ben" did steal those spoons.

SENATOR BROWN, of Georgia, says that civil service reform is not necessary until about 100,000 Republicans have been removed from office to make room for the patriots who hope to elect the next President. Before this session of Congress is ended it will be found that a majority of Democrats agree with the Senator. Reform with them means, to put their fellows in, and the other follows out.

The new version of the story of the Prodigal son runs thus: The scapegrace on his return hailed his father with, "Here, old man, hurry up and kill that calf! I'm hungry for veal, and want another divide." This is the spirit precisely in which the Independents are demanding that they shall be treated as "standing on an equal footing" and receive an equal division of appointments in the State, as the price of peace. According to the modest Philadelphia Press, this will "put the party on the highest plane."

The Philadelphia Press organized a number of its reporters into a detective corps, and they succeeded in capturing a band of grave robbers who had been rifling a city cemetery for the purpose of supplying the medical colleges with subjects for dissection. Over this feat that journal has been cracking with sixty hen-power for the past week. We congratulate its able editor on having at last discovered his proper vocation. As a political leader he was a miserable failure, as a detective he may yet rival Vidoc.

It is stated that within the last three years ninety three thousand acres of trees have been planted in Kansas. The Northern Pacific Railway is actively encouraging tree planting along its line in Dakota. Farmers are furnished with seedlings free of charge by the company, and the latter has a large force of men setting out young trees along the railroad track. These trees will in a few years protect the track from storms and snowdrifts, and fully repay the whole cost of planting. In course of time railroads may raise their own trees in forests artificially planted.

There are rocks looming up ahead of the Democratic ship of State. The prospect of a coalition with the Independents for control of the Senate has apparently failed, the jealousy of the leaders is beginning to crop out, and the victors are already aligning themselves as supporters of Wallace or of Cassidy, both of whom are aspirants for the United States Senate. Cassidy, it is understood, will be the new Attorney General, and Wallace will unquestionably lead the party forces in the Senate. In laying their plans for the coveted position these Democratic leaders have apparently overlooked the fact that after all the trouble they are taking there may be a Republican successor to Mr. Cameron. At all events it is plainly apparent that the new administration goes into power with a party divided by intrigues and jealousy engendered by this glittering prize.

There was a great deal of talk expended, and some mighty pretty writing done during the late campaign about "civil service reform" and the necessity for "better and purer political methods." Now that the campaign is ended and the public is breathlessly awaiting the fruition of these charming reforms, it is discovered that the reduction of theory to practice is a task not easy of accomplishment, as each and every individual reformer is persuaded that he alone is master of the science. The Democratic reformers particularly, are in a quandary. Bred in the faith that, "to the victors belong the spoils," they can appreciate no civil service reform, comprehend no purer political methods, that do not begin with turning all their opponents out of office. They are for reform next year, or at some subsequent time, not under Republican rule, but at some indefinite future, when their party possesses all the offices. When Senator Brown, in his speech against the civil service reform bills now pending in the Senate, last week, asked if anybody believed the Democratic leaders in the several States would come up to the support of a Democratic candidate for President with the same energy and zeal with civil service reform accomplished, as they would without that reform accomplished, he put a question which was not openly answered, but to which each hearer mentally replied, "we do not." It is not a flattering view to take of human nature, but we do not believe that any party leader would work with the same zeal and energy in a campaign in the absence of a prospect of rewards for themselves and their friends. Victory, in a political contest means this, and for more than fifty years our citizens have been educated to this. As Senator Brown also said, the passage of a civil service bill now would handicap the Democrats in 1884, and understanding and believing this, as all Democrats do, we have no faith in their professions, or in their ostensible advocacy of a reform in this branch of the service.

As to the clamor of the Independents, whose sole ostensible object was for "purer political methods," their present demand for a fair apportionment of the offices in this State by the National Government, and a recognition of the right of Senator Mitchell to distribute a portion of its patronage as the price of peace in the party, shows precisely the moving and controlling influence by which they are governed. The truth is, no party was ever known that was too young or too old and dignified, to join in the scramble for patronage, and among the loudest shouters for reform of the civil service to be found the most inveterate office seekers and placemen in the country. For these, as well as other reasons, we do not have much faith in any great measure of civil service reform, being enacted during the present session of Congress. It is impossible to legislate on this subject without reference to 1884. If Democrats win then, they will take the offices regardless of any bill to the contrary that may be passed this winter, and if the Republicans retain power they will wish also to retain the patronage of the Government with it. We do not believe either that the service can be absolutely severed from politics and all labor to that end will eventually prove abortive. But that the service can be reformed, unnecessary offices be abolished, incompetents weeded out, drones dismissed, salaries be better adjusted, primary examinations be made, promotions follow merit, and sundry other measures be taken to advance and improve it, admits of no doubt. These are practical means for its improvement to which Congress may well address itself, leaving fine spun theories and learned dissertations to those who delight in speculative and utopian dreams of a perfect Government without law or bluish.

One by one the predictions of the "Independent" bosses and organs are going to prove. The most important of these—the one, in fact, which furnished the chief motive for the Independent canvass—was that the defeat of Beaver was the defeat of Cameron, and the death of Cameron, the death of the "Beaver." But the Philadelphia Times—the leading organ of the Independents—which discovered, soon after the election, that the Government's patronage was a leggy business—now finds that Cameronism has not been killed by the defeat of Beaver. It declares, on the contrary, that Cameron "is just the liveliest sort of a political corpse," and that only "the thoughtless are shouting that Cameron is politically dead." The people have only "condemned" him. The view that he is "dead and damned," as the result of Cameron's defeat, goes too far. Though he has undergone political damnation, he is not only as far as ever from being politically dead, but, according to the Times, "takes no thought of

surrendering his power," and "his programme is anything but the programme of a dead man." It thus appears that the Independents, in supposing that the defeat of Beaver was to accomplish all they desired, misunderstood the nature of the contract they had taken. Notwithstanding the mortal wound given to Cameron in the late election, he is declared by the Times to be "the liveliest political corpse of modern times," and the only hope of the Independents now lies in killing him over again, and yet after the fight is continued on this line, it is quite possible that the political funeral of Cameron will be indefinitely postponed for want of a sufficiently quiet corpse, and that the only obsequies celebrated in 1884 will be those of the Republican party.—Herald Citizen.

"Doomsday! The grand old party shivered from end to end!"—Cincinnati Enquirer. The Enquirer would do well to remember that the destruction of a party is not a "business end." We would advise the Enquirer and its compatriots to beware of the "business end" of the Republican party. "The grand old party shivered," but it will do a good deal of voting yet in the same direction. It shot, mark that, Southey's verse, yesterday year, temporaries think the recent chastisement of the Republican party, though severe, will be the making of it. They already see the old banner which has so often and so long been borne in front of the marching millions floating grandly before the advancing column of 1854. The men who have done the fastest running and the swiftest dodging, and been most active in the betrayal of their trust, will doubtless come well to the front as trainers of the patriotic Republican column. They remind the *Inter Ocean* of the "pup" method of training his pup. But was the sole proprietor of a blooded bull pup that he was anxious "to train for bear." He imparted this desire to his fond old father, and persuaded the old gentleman to robe himself in a bearskin and to bear to train to the woods. When the arrangement was complete, and the supposed bear had unfortunately got his nose firmly inserted between the teeth of the dog, there came a wail, "Take him off, Sut, take him off." But the philosophical son responded, "Sut, an' I be bound, 'twill be a little hard on you, but it will be the making of the pup."—*Inter Ocean*.

DEBT AND TAXATION. In reducing taxation it should ever be borne in mind that our debt is still large, and by indirect legislation the demand upon the Treasury is likely to increase in the matter of pensions. The sinking fund must be provided for, the interest charge is upward of sixty millions, and the pension list is estimated by cool-headed men as well-informed as any in the country, to exceed upon tax reduction without reference to these facts and probabilities would be folly run mad. And to enter upon tax reduction as a competitive struggle between the parties with the intent of over-bidding for effect would be equally unwise. No reduction can be made without reference to the operations of the Treasury ought to be considered. We ought, so to speak, to put up a liberal margin to meet an extraordinary demand for pension payments, because it is the deliberate opinion of well-informed persons that that demand is almost certain to outrun the most sanguine estimates yet made.

It is not likely that the Aerears of Pensions law will be modified at this session. It seems probable that the taxes on checks, matches, proprietary medicines, bank capital, and bank deposits will be abolished. It is barely possible that the tax on tobacco will be abolished, or at least greatly reduced—which ought not to be done. The tax on distilled and fermented liquors ought to stand. It is said that the tax on cigars and the spread of the business, and ought therefore to be taken off. But no government can afford to encourage such business. Even the Queen of England, in her address to Parliament the other day, referring to the diminution of the revenue from this source, congratulated the House upon it as an evidence of moral progress. We can afford to leave the business to take care of itself—which it is abundantly able to do—and use it to replenish the Treasury exactly as we are doing. No man can show that the tax decreases the output in the least. It is a tax that oppresses nobody. It is a tax on a luxury which those who use may well pay. Beyond this, any sweeping reduction of tariff duties will most certainly embarrass trade and endanger the stable foundations of our prosperity.

"Independence" Gone Glimmering. West Chester Village Record. The Philadelphia Record names Senator Everhart as one of the five Republican Senators who can be counted on not to go into the Republican Senatorial caucus to nominate officers. The five are Everhart, Emery, Lee, Still and Stewart. It thinks if one more can be got a combination can be made with the Democrats to elect one of their own number President pro tempore, who in return for the Democratic support will give the Democrats better representation on the committee. In answer to this question Senator Everhart says he is making no bargains with Democrats.

Can't Understand the Mixture. Senator Republican. The general disgust prevailing among members of the Democratic party at Pattison's election of a Republican Methodist preacher as a representation on the committee from the State point of the compass in the State.

Why They Laugh. Lancaster Intelligencer. There is a Stalwart grin at the next way in which the President has met Halfbreed allegation concerning the sweeping removal of Garfield men from office.

Chopping His Own Leg Off. WESTERLY, December 12.—Before daylight yesterday morning Cyrus Barber, between twenty-five and thirty years of age, jumped out of a window in his night dress, and ran to the woodpile, seized an ax, and chopped his own leg nearly off. He has shown signs of insanity for some time and has been closely watched. He managed, however, to escape the vigilance of his parents last night. His father entered the room just as he jumped from the window, and started for the back door so rapidly that he did not hear the sound of chopping at the woodpile and naturally assumed that his son was clapping wood. Coming near he heard the young man say, "It's most o'k," repeating the words several times, as if pleased that he had nearly reached his mark. A short time then he heard him fall. Bending over the prostrate body, he found that the young man had fainted, but in the darkness could not see how he had injured himself. Taking him into the house, it was found that he had cut off his leg nearly by about six inches above the ankle, the two parts being held together by a fragment of flesh. Barker has been driven insane by allowing his mind to dwell too much upon religious subjects. In his delirium to-day he is constantly quoting Scripture. A short time since he tried to commit suicide by holding his breath, claiming that it was wicked to breathe.

Over \$500,000 Worth of Railroad Property Burned. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The extensive depot and wharf together with sixty cars and ten locomotives, of the Manhattan Beach Railroad Co. at Bay Ridge, were destroyed by fire at 2 o'clock this morning. Just before the fire originated it was only a short time after the fire was first discovered before the entire depot was in flames. A large pile of lumber, belonging to the Manhattan Beach Railroad Co. adjoining the Manhattan depot, a canal boat at the dock wharf, and all in it, were burned. The Manhattan Beach Co. had sixty passenger cars and ten locomotives laid up for the winter. At the time the fire broke out there was one about the watchman, who, finding it impossible to check the flames, gave the alarm, and obtained help, but there were no means of checking the flames. The police telegraphed to the fire department for help, but the chief engineer responded by saying he did not know whether it would do any good sending assistance, as there was no water, and he wanted information from some other source than the police. The fire, he said, was outside of the Brooklyn city line. The Co. estimated their loss at over \$500,000 covered by insurance. The loss on the canal boat and lumber has not been learned.

Stabbed by Their Teacher. NEWBOSTON, December 12.—Intelligence has just reached here of a distressing stabbing fight between a school teacher named Frazer and his two pupils, in Cumberland, a little town of Guernsey county. It seems that John Hayes and another pupil had a dispute with their teacher, and, becoming enraged, attacked Frazer. The latter drew a knife on himself, as he claims, and stabbed both boys. Young Hayes died almost instantly from the effects of his injuries, but the other boy was only slightly injured. The teacher immediately gave himself into custody and was committed to jail at Cambridge the evening after. The tragic and sudden death of young Hayes has created the most intense excitement among the citizens of the neighborhood, and some denounce Frazer's conduct in the most bitter terms. He greatly deplores the killing of the boy, and it seems to be the general opinion that he was in his knife only when compelled to in self defence. A fair and rigid investigation of the whole matter will be made at once. Frazer is a very prominent teacher in the county.

Kingston in Ashes. NEW YORK, December 12.—The following dispatch has been received here: "The business portion of Kingston was burned to the ground, and the loss is estimated at \$2,000,000. Hundreds are homeless. Wharves, warehouses, stores, banks and supplies are gone. Food supplies are needed. Charitable relief should be sent to W. K. Azbill, Secretary Kingston Charity Organization."

Crimes in Various Sections. RALEIGH, N. C., December 14.—A shocking double murder has been committed near Lilesville, in this State. This morning an old woman and her son were found dead at their home. They had been slain, and the body of the son thrown into the fire and partially consumed. They were people of excellent character. The cause of the murder is not known. Great excitement over the affair prevails through the neighborhood, and the mystery surrounding the tragedy is being investigated.

Raiding for the Biggest Hog. READING, Dec. 12.—A raid began at Womelsford to-day for probably the biggest hog in the United States. It weighs over fourteen hundred pounds and is named "Jumbo." So great is the interest manifested in the result that sporting men are gathered from all over the county. The hog is a Jersey red and is a veritable monument of hard. Twenty-eight hundred tickets have been sold, each ticket entitling the holder to three throws. The highest number of heads thrown with seven old copper cents takes the hog. The raiding will not be completed before Thursday. The town is all agog and has the appearance of a general holiday.

A PALACE ON FIRE. HAMPTON COURT, the home of the Tudors and Stuarts, in a blaze. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—The Enterprise cotton mills at Manayunk, owned by Samuel S. Keeley and occupied by Joseph Adams, cotton spinners; Lord & Conner, carpet yarns, and John Wild & Bro., carpet yarns, were totally destroyed by fire this afternoon, causing a loss of \$15,000 on the building and \$60,000 on the stock and machinery. A number of employees at work on the fifth floor were obliged to escape by an outside hoisting rope which reached only to the second floor. All coming this way had to jump the balance of the distance to the ground. Others jumped from windows. In all seventeen persons were injured, but only one, Mary O'Gunner, aged fourteen, is believed to be fatally injured. Her spine is said to be broken. The others are Robert Marsh, arm body lacerated; Wm. Demsey, Walter Trout, James Waley, Maggie Quinn, Mary E. Hoffman, Susan Hoffman, Wm. Everman, Wm. Evans, and Mrs. Keene. James Cameron, Thomas Farrell, John Kelley, John Downing, the engineer, and a girl named Hoops.

A Fight Between Tramps. GREENSBURG, Pa., Dec. 13.—A gang of tramps, about thirty in number, bound together by an iron-rod collar for the purpose of committing all sorts of depredations, have been occupying a few miles east of this place for some time. Last night one of their number named Quick, becoming dissatisfied, made up his mind to leave the vagrants and so expressed himself. A fight resulted between him and another named Fred. Quick was armed with a revolver and fired several shots, two of them taking effect in Quick's back and side. The gang was arrested and brought to this place to-day where they were lodged in jail to await the result of Quick's injuries. Physicians consider Quick in a critical condition. He was taken to the County Home.

Philadelphia and Reading. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 11.—The directors of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad have approved the trading agreement with the Coal and Iron Company, Pittsburgh, McKeesport and Younghiough, Pittsburgh and Erie, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, and South Pennsylvania railroad companies. A mortgage of \$2,000,000 to be created to build the South Pennsylvania, each company named agreeing to set apart twenty per cent of the gross earnings accruing from new business to meet the interest on the mortgage.

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Sixty Persons Killed. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The steamer City of Paris, from Aspinwall, reports that the explosion of the powder magazine in Guayaquil appears not to have been the result of an accident. Cartridges were being prepared in the magazine, and it was consequently took measures to blow up the magazine. More than sixty people are said to have been killed.

A Hotel Man's Luck. Mr. J. G. Tyler, chief clerk at the Union Depot Hotel, Ogden, had rheumatism in the muscles of the chest and left shoulder. By applying the Great German Remedy three times he realized complete restoration, and he is of the opinion that there is nothing equal to the St. Jacobs Oil for pain. The Great German Remedy is also a specific for burns and sprains.—*Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune*.

Terrible Pestilence in Mexico. NEW YORK, December 14.—Letters from Chiapas, Mexico, dated October 20, state that the cholera has raged with such violence in that department that in some places owners of and laborers on plantations have all died, and that as it has not been possible to bury them their bodies have been burned. Sixty deaths a day have occurred in Tonala, and a terrible panic has ensued.

A Suicide's Notion. READING, December 14.—Alfred G. Machner, aged twenty-one years, son of a farmer, Jonas Machner, residing near Moselem spring, fourteen miles from this city, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a gun in the wood shed. He left a letter behind, occupying eight pages, in which he bids goodbye to his parents, sisters and friends, and says that he was driven to the deed by a false report about himself and a young lady of the neighborhood. He says that the report gave him so much trouble that night angels took pity on him and when he retired at night they sat on his bed and said, "Come up to heaven." He directed that his horse and carriage should be given to his sister, and his father should have another young man to take his place. He mentioned the names of the young men who should dig his grave and the young ladies who should sing at the house, "Safe in the arms of Jesus" and other hymns that he named, as he wanted a "nice funeral." He closed by writing, "Now I will go and shoot myself right away. Our Father who art in heaven."

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Sixty Persons Killed. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The steamer City of Paris, from Aspinwall, reports that the explosion of the powder magazine in Guayaquil appears not to have been the result of an accident. Cartridges were being prepared in the magazine, and it was consequently took measures to blow up the magazine. More than sixty people are said to have been killed.

A Hotel Man's Luck. Mr. J. G. Tyler, chief clerk at the Union Depot Hotel, Ogden, had rheumatism in the muscles of the chest and left shoulder. By applying the Great German Remedy three times he realized complete restoration, and he is of the opinion that there is nothing equal to the St. Jacobs Oil for pain. The Great German Remedy is also a specific for burns and sprains.—*Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune*.

Terrible Pestilence in Mexico. NEW YORK, December 14.—Letters from Chiapas, Mexico, dated October 20, state that the cholera has raged with such violence in that department that in some places owners of and laborers on plantations have all died, and that as it has not been possible to bury them their bodies have been burned. Sixty deaths a day have occurred in Tonala, and a terrible panic has ensued.

A Suicide's Notion. READING, December 14.—Alfred G. Machner, aged twenty-one years, son of a farmer, Jonas Machner, residing near Moselem spring, fourteen miles from this city, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a gun in the wood shed. He left a letter behind, occupying eight pages, in which he bids goodbye to his parents, sisters and friends, and says that he was driven to the deed by a false report about himself and a young lady of the neighborhood. He says that the report gave him so much trouble that night angels took pity on him and when he retired at night they sat on his bed and said, "Come up to heaven." He directed that his horse and carriage should be given to his sister, and his father should have another young man to take his place. He mentioned the names of the young men who should dig his grave and the young ladies who should sing at the house, "Safe in the arms of Jesus" and other hymns that he named, as he wanted a "nice funeral." He closed by writing, "Now I will go and shoot myself right away. Our Father who art in heaven."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—The Enterprise cotton mills at Manayunk, owned by Samuel S. Keeley and occupied by Joseph Adams, cotton spinners; Lord & Conner, carpet yarns, and John Wild & Bro., carpet yarns, were totally destroyed by fire this afternoon, causing a loss of \$15,000 on the building and \$60,000 on the stock and machinery. A number of employees at work on the fifth floor were obliged to escape by an outside hoisting rope which reached only to the second floor. All coming this way had to jump the balance of the distance to the ground. Others jumped from windows. In all seventeen persons were injured, but only one, Mary O'Gunner, aged fourteen, is believed to be fatally injured. Her spine is said to be broken. The others are Robert Marsh, arm body lacerated; Wm. Demsey, Walter Trout, James Waley, Maggie Quinn, Mary E. Hoffman, Susan Hoffman, Wm. Everman, Wm. Evans, and Mrs. Keene. James Cameron, Thomas Farrell, John Kelley, John Downing, the engineer, and a girl named Hoops.

A Fight Between Tramps. GREENSBURG, Pa., Dec. 13.—A gang of tramps, about thirty in number, bound together by an iron-rod collar for the purpose of committing all sorts of depredations, have been occupying a few miles east of this place for some time. Last night one of their number named Quick, becoming dissatisfied, made up his mind to leave the vagrants and so expressed himself. A fight resulted between him and another named Fred. Quick was armed with a revolver and fired several shots, two of them taking effect in Quick's back and side. The gang was arrested and brought to this place to-day where they were lodged in jail to await the result of Quick's injuries. Physicians consider Quick in a critical condition. He was taken to the County Home.

Philadelphia and Reading. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 11.—The directors of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad have approved the trading agreement with the Coal and Iron Company, Pittsburgh, McKeesport and Younghiough, Pittsburgh and Erie, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, and South Pennsylvania railroad companies. A mortgage of \$2,000,000 to be created to build the South Pennsylvania, each company named agreeing to set apart twenty per cent of the gross earnings accruing from new business to meet the interest on the mortgage.

Burglars in a Post Office. LEWISBURG, December 13.—Burglars broke into the post office here last night and blew open the large safe of the Postmaster, Alfred S. Sheller. They secured about nine hundred dollars in money and all the registered letters in the office.

Republican Congressmen Elected. COLUMBIA, O., December 12.—The State Canvassing Board to-day announced the following decisions in Congressional contests: Eighteenth district, M. Kinley, Republican, elected by a majority. Seventh district, Moore, Republican; and 23rd district, Hart, Rep.

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