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To Members of the Legislature. THE PATRIOT AND UNION will be furnished to Members of the Legislature during the session at the low price of ONE DOLLAR.

Members wishing extra copies of the DAILY PATRIOT AND UNION, can procure them by leaving their orders at the publication office, Third street, or with our reporters in either House, the evening previous.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION!



The Democratic State Executive Committee of Pennsylvania, at a meeting held in the city of Harrisburg, on the 30th ultimo, unanimously resolved to elicit the views of the Democracy of the "old Keystone" in reference to the present terrible crisis of our National affairs.

The failure of the Republican party to meet, in a proper spirit of concession and compromise, the overtures made for the adjustment of our National difficulties, renders it necessary that the united Democracy of this Commonwealth should take prompt, decided, and energetic action in the premises.

We are in the midst of a revolution brought about by the teachings of an Anti-Constitutional party, a party sectional in its aims and sectional in its principles. Six of our sister sovereign States have already withdrawn from the Federal Union, and others threaten speedily to follow.

The Democratic party, ever faithful to the Constitution and the laws, seriously deprecates this deplorable condition of our common and beloved country. The peril now impending is the natural result of a departure from the true Constitutional doctrine steadfastly maintained by the Democratic organization for the past sixty years, and can only be removed by the re-establishment of those ancient and time-honored principles.

It is not necessary to recall the glories of the past—it is only necessary to be reminded of the dangers of the present. Whatever the future may have in store for the American people—whether peace shall continue within our borders, or our land be rent with fraternal strife—it now becomes the solemn duty of the Democracy of the "old Keystone" to give a full expression of opinion upon the dangers which threaten Constitutional liberty and menace the rights of all the States of this Confederacy.

Therefore, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Democratic State Executive Committee, the Democracy of Pennsylvania are earnestly invited to send three delegates for each Senator, and three delegates for each Representative, to be chosen in such manner and at such time as may be deemed proper, to meet in general State Convention at Harrisburg, at three o'clock, p. m., on Thursday, the 21st day of February, A. D. 1861, to take into consideration the present distracted and divided state of the country, to restrain threatened sectional violence, and to aid in re-constructing the federative system on a basis of perpetuity.

By order of the Committee. WILLIAM H. WELSH, Chairman. HARRISBURG, February 1, 1861.

Democratic County Committee Meeting. The members of the Democratic County Committee are requested to meet at the public house of James Morgan, corner of Second and Pine streets, Harrisburg, on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m.

A full attendance is requested, as matters of importance will be presented for the action of the Committee. By order of the Chairman, W. D. EARNEST, Sec'y. W. D. BOAS.

HARRISBURG, January 31, 1861. The following named gentlemen compose the Committee: Chairman County Committee—WILLIAM D. BOAS.

Harrisburg—1st Ward—G. A. C. Seiler, C. D. Hineine. 2d Ward—Jacob Hascheln, Fred. Trace. 3d " John L. Spool, W. D. Earnest. 4th " Michael Muller, W. M'Fadden. 5th " Robert Fry, Jesse Vandover. 6th " George Hammon, V. Orsinger.

Middletown—North Ward—Fred. Lauman, Jas. Lesure. Middle Ward—James Wilson, Wm. M'Clure. South Ward—John Suavely, Benj. Whitman. Gratz—Jacob Buffington. Lykens—George Kepler. Wiconico—John Hair.

Washington—Lewis Keifer. Lower Paxton—John J. Cram. West Hanover—E. R. Umberger. South " " B. W. Cassel. Swatara—Adam Hoffman.

Lower Swatara—Lewis Clauser. Derry—Daniel Hummel. Londonderry—James Dougherty. West Londonderry—A. J. Clare. Mifflin—J. V. Bressler.

Jefferson—A. M'Glauchlin. Jackson—Daniel Miller. Millersburg—Wm. M'Kissick. Halifax—Henry Spies. Reed—Joseph Smith.

Middle Paxton—Robins Garman. Dauphin—B. C. Brown. Susquehanna—David Reel.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS. HOME OF TO-DAY. By Edmund About, author of the Roman Question, &c., published by H. H. Lloyd & Co., and for sale by George Bergner. The author of this little work has gained considerable reputation as the author of the "Roman Question." As stated in the preface, he has put together in this volume all the observations made during a journey of six months in the Papal States.

The State Convention. The State Committee, representing the Democratic organization of Pennsylvania, having unanimously recommended the assembling of a State Convention in Harrisburg, on the 21st inst., to be composed of three delegates for every Representative and three delegates for every Senator in the Legislature, it becomes the duty of the several counties of the Commonwealth to take immediate measures to secure a proper representation.

The Convention, if full, will be composed of 399 members—three times the usual number. As this is not a nominating Convention, and as the object is to procure a full and free expression of opinion from the leading minds of the Democratic party, in reference to the alarming condition of public affairs, it was deemed advisable to increase the number of delegates, and thereby bring as many representatives of public opinion into communion as practicable.

The Convention, thus constituted, should be the strongest in talent and personal influence and character ever assembled in the State. What the Journal of Commerce says of the duties of a similar Convention in New York, is so immediately applicable to Pennsylvania that we cannot refrain from adopting its words, when it says of the Democratic Convention in that State:

Its responsibilities will be proportionately great, and our hope is that it will meet them in a manner worthy of the occasion. To discharge properly its high duties, and suitably to express the feelings and opinions of the people, it must rise above partizan considerations, and although meet under the care of a political organization, must so far ignore partizan politics, as to look only to the great end in view, the salvation of the Union, and the restoration of peace and brotherly affection between the people of every section and every political faith.

It must declare its duty to Pennsylvania, and the Northern States, to observe, in spirit and in fact, the obligations imposed by the Constitution—pledge the efforts of every good citizen to atone for the wrongs already inflicted through the agency of the anti-slavery agitation—ask the Southern States to stay their movements, so far as practicable, until the North can be aroused to vigorous action in defence of constitutional rights—and finally, if separation is inevitable, demand that it shall be peaceful; that the blood of our citizens shall not be shed in unnatural fratricidal war.

Resolved, That a Democratic State Convention, to consist of three delegates from each Senatorial and Representative district, three hundred and ninety-nine in all, be held in the city of Harrisburg, on Thursday, the 21st day of February next, at 3 o'clock, afternoon.

Resolved, That the several districts are hereby earnestly invited to take, in the manner most convenient and agreeable to them, prompt and efficient measures to insure a full, fair and able representation.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Committee immediately, a copy of these resolutions to the Chairman of each County Committee, each absent member of this Committee, and such other Democrats as may be thus conveniently and promptly reached; and that to aid and facilitate this matter, each member of this Committee furnish the Chairman with the names and addresses of Democrats in his district.

The Committee then adjourned. PENN'A LEGISLATURE. SENATE. THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock, a. m., by the SPEAKER. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Fellwell. A number of reports were made by the committees.

Mr. FINNEY, an act to provide for the collection of private records and manuscripts for the purpose of illustrating the early history of the State. The bill was accompanied by a memorial from the Hon. William Wilkins, and both ordered to be printed in the Record.

Mr. SCHINDEL, a supplement to the act incorporating the Ironton railroad company, of Lehigh county.

Mr. PARKER, an act to establish the municipal code of Philadelphia.

Mr. CONNELL, a further supplement to the act consolidating the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. SMITH, a supplement to an act relating to corporations.

Mr. NICHOLS, an act to incorporate the Steam manufacturing company of Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. SMITH asked for and obtained permission to present three memorials at this time: one from Samuel Hazard, in relation to the archives of the State; one from colored men of Philadelphia remonstrating against the repeal of personal liberty laws, and one from the Anti Slavery Society of said city of similar import.

Mr. WELSH asked for and obtained leave to present the memorial of George W. English, of Philadelphia, who claims to have discovered a method for destroying the weevil, Hessian fly, and other insects, and asks from the State a bonus for the same.

Mr. FINNEY offered a resolution that the joint resolutions to appoint commissioners be printed, and that a copy be presented to each of the commissioners appointed by the Governor; which was agreed to.

Mr. NICHOLS called up the act to incorporate the Delaware county to sell certain real estate came up on the orders and passed finally.

Mr. CONNELL called up the supplement to the Philadelphia and Darby railroad company; which passed its several readings.

Mr. CLYMER called up the act incorporating the Sinking Spring cemetery company, in Berks county; which was passed.

Mr. SMITH called up the supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia; which was read and laid over.

Mr. HIBSTAND called up the supplement to the act incorporating the Lancaster and Ephrata plank road company; which was passed.

Mr. NICHOLS called up the supplement to the act incorporating the Mahoning railroad company; which passed its several readings.

Mr. THOMPSON called up the act to extend and continue in force the charter of the Mutual insurance company of Pottstown; which was passed.

Mr. SCHINDEL called up the supplement to the act incorporating the Allentown railroad company; which was passed.

Mr. IMBRIE called up the supplement to the act incorporating the Grove Cemetery; of New Brighton; which was passed.

Mr. CONNELL called up the bill incorporating the Somerset Methodist Episcopal Church of the Twenty-third ward, Philadelphia; which was passed.

after for persons who essay to send reports of proceedings to city papers to confine themselves to the naked truth, instead of attempting to misrepresent the sentiments of gentlemen who are eminently conservative on all occasions, and who desire to do their whole duty to their country at a time when truth and justice are the only weapons they wield, to bring about a wholesome state of public sentiment.

The Democratic State Executive Committee met in the Supreme Court Room yesterday afternoon.

Hon. William H. Welsh, Chairman, called the Committee to order.

A select committee of seven was appointed to report a preamble and resolutions.

After a brief recess, Hon. Vincent L. Bradford, Chairman of the Committee made the following report; which was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The dismemberment of the Union, by the withdrawal of the slave-holding States, now in rapid progress, has been occasioned by a departure from the Democratic construction of the Constitution of the United States, which holds "the equality of the States of the Confederacy," in respect to persons and property, to be a fundamental principle of such Constitution, and by a contemplated abandonment of the conservative Democratic policy which has, for sixty years past, sacredly guarded "the rights of the States," and developed the resources and capacities of the people by domestic legislation; thus guiding the whole country to an eminence of prosperity and renown;

And whereas, A speedy recognition of the patriotic counsels and conservative policy of the Democratic party in the Administration of the Federal Government, by the people of Pennsylvania and of the other non-slaveholding States, is the only and sure means of effecting a permanent re-constitution of a dissolving Confederacy:

And whereas, The organization of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania, hitherto "the Keystone of the Federal Arch," now harmonious, potent and animated by a love of country, and of the true principles of the Constitution, and of the true principles of the Constitution, is entirely competent, if called into immediate action, to restrain threatened sectional violence and to materially aid in reconstructing the federative system on a basis of perpetuity; therefore,

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and appropriately referred. Among them was one from citizens of Bedford county, praying for the restoration of the Missouri Compromise line.

Mr. MARSHALL, an act relative to the Allegheny turnpike road; also, an act relating to turnpike road—in the State; also, an act relative to supervisors in Armstrong county.

Mr. GORDON, an act incorporating the Clearfield and Bennett's Branch turnpike road; also, a supplement to the Western Central railroad.

On motion of Mr. MULLIN, a supplement to an act incorporating the borough of Wilmore. Joint resolutions to pay the expenses of the inauguration.

An act paying the expenses in the contested election case of Luzerne county.

An act to prevent the killing of trout in certain seasons, in Schuylkill county.

Mr. BALL, an act changing the name of the Sunbury and Erie railroad company, and to facilitate the making of a road from Sunbury to Erie.

Mr. COLLINS presented an act repealing certain portions of the 95th and 96th sections of the Revised Penal Code, and moved to lay it on the table, so that it could be brought up and passed. After debate, however, he withdrew the motion, which was renewed by Mr. HILL.

Mr. SELLTZER, Mr. BARTHOLOMEW and others argued that the matter should be disposed of at once.

The motion of Mr. HILL was lost by a vote of 22 yeas to 54 nays.

Mr. LEISENRING moved that the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report on Wednesday next.

Mr. BATHOLOMEW moved to amend by considering it at once. This was declared to be out of order.

The motion of Mr. LEISENRING was debated pro and con.

Mr. HOFIUS moved to amend by referring it to the committee to smother it.

The SPEAKER entertained the amendment, and then after a rambling debate declared it to be out of order, as well as the proposition of Mr. HOFIUS, to instruct a committee to report a bill on a certain day when they did not have that bill in charge.

Mr. PATTERSON moved, in exception to this ruling of the SPEAKER, and asked to make a statement. On this the yeas and nays were required, and it was not agreed to, two-thirds not voting in the affirmative, the vote being 49 yeas to 30 nays.

The bill for the repeal of the 95th and 96th sections then took the usual course, and was referred to the Judiciary Committee, from whence, according to the statement of Mr. GORDON, it is doubtful whether it will ever emerge.

Mr. HOFIUS, an act relative to elections in Venango county; also, an act relative to a State road in Venango county.

Mr. SMITH, an act to incorporate the Lombard and South street passenger railroad company; also, an act to punish fraud against the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. SHEPPARD, an act relative to executors and administrators.

Mr. WILDEY, an act to incorporate the Front Street and Allegheny Avenue passenger railroad company of Philadelphia.

Mr. DUFFIELD, an act changing the name of Benjamin Welsh. Adjourned.

THE NATIONAL CRISIS. MR. LINCOLN OPPOSED TO A COMPROMISE. In addition to what our dispatches give in relation to Mr. Lincoln's opposition to a compromise of the national troubles, we may add that Wednesday's New York Tribune states that it knows that his views are fully expressed in his own language, as follows:

"I will suffer death before I will consent or advise my friends to consent to any concession or compromise which looks like buying the privilege of making possession of the government to which we have a constitutional right; because, whatever I might think of the merit of the various propositions before Congress, I should regard any concession in the face of menace as the destruction of the government itself, and a consent on all hands that our system shall be brought down to a level with the existing disorganized state of affairs in Mexico. But this thing will hereafter be, as it is now, in the hands of the people; and if they desire to call a convention to remove any grievances from the performance of vested rights, it is not mine to oppose."

Views of Hon. John Cochrane, of New York, on the secession question. WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Hon. John Cochrane, to-day, in reporting the bill from the select committee further to provide for the collection of the revenue, accompanied it with an expression of his views. He fully concurs with the President in his opinion against secession, and therefore that all acts and ordinances of secession, so far as the same may be carried into effect, are to be considered as revolutionary.

He also concurs with the President that the federal constitution has abstained from conferring on the federal government, or any department thereof, authority to declare and wage oppressive war against a seceding State in order to coerce the repeal of any act or ordinance of secession she may have passed, or to compel her to remain nominally, as well as in fact, a member of the federal Union. A just conception of the constitution, and its authority of Congress combined with other, and it is possible higher and more commanding motives, to prescribe other measures than aggressive and coercive war to remedy the grave inconveniences, perils and evils of such secession.

In preparing the bill there has been kept steadily in view—First, the obstacles of every character which oppose any attempt by the federal government to coerce a State; and

Secondly, the principle on which, as is contended, the whole coercive action of our revenue system has from its inception been founded.

The bill proposes that vessels from a foreign port, bound to a port within the scope of its provisions, shall, with its foreign cargo, be liable to seizure and condemnation; and, in the same view of applying its restrictions only to foreign commerce, on which revenue is by law collected, all vessels lawfully engaged in the coastwise trade are exempted from the operation of its purely remedial and defensive operations.

It further provides that, when the revenue laws are obstructed, and it becomes impracticable to collect the revenue, the President shall by proclamation specify the port in which the obstruction exists.

MEETING OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE.—A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF SECESSION, &c. NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 30.—Galveston dates to the 24th inst., have been received, bringing accounts of the meeting of the Legislature. Out of 80 members only 17 are co-operationists.

A special committee has reported in favor of holding a convention. But little attention was paid to the Governor's message, which favors delay as long as possible; he opposed the calling of a convention, and says he thinks the Union can be preserved.

Resolutions offered for delaying secession were, twice tabled. The military committee are engaged preparing a bill to put the State in a complete defensive position. There were rumors of a body of men moving on San Antonio to take the United States Arsenal there.

Gen. Twiggs had called in troops to protect the State, and the "Knights of the Golden

Circle" had offered him their services. He has denied the report of his resignation, but has informed the President that he will not use his sword against his countrymen. He says that when a proper demand is made by Texas he will hand the arsenal over to the authorities of the State.

THE PLOT TO SEIZE WASHINGTON. The Washington correspondent of the New York World, says that "the revival of the late rumor about the threatened seizure of the Capitol arose out of a letter written by Gov. Hicks, of Maryland, to Gen. Scott, in which he stated that he had good authority for asserting that an attempt at invasion would be made, and ordering Gen. Scott to have eight thousand men to resist it. An investigation has been going on in Washington for several days past, in reference to the matter, but has developed nothing. Mayor Bennett was before the Convention on Tuesday. He denied all knowledge whatever of any organization having such a purpose, and discredited the suspicion as without color of truth or probability. His attention had been called to the subject, and after strenuous and constant efforts to trace it out, he was satisfied all the reports were unfounded, and proceeded from false representations and fears. It is stated that ex-Governor Lowe has been summoned to testify before the Committee.

SKATING AND SLIGHING IN NEW YORK.—The Central Park in New York was on Monday visited, according to the official returns, by 25,000 pedestrians, 400 equestrians, 150 wheel-dred of sleighs, and 3,000 sleighs. About five hundred of the sleighs entered the Park after dark, and the jingle of the bells mingled with the voices of the occupants singing in chorus. The attractions of sleighing seemed to have decreased that of skating, for but few persons comparatively were on the ice until evening, when the pond was lit up. The ladies' pond was completely illuminated at night, and a large number of the "fair sex" were at that time present. The skaters had an opportunity of seeing the amount of labor necessary to keep the ice in order, nearly two hundred men and eight horses being employed the whole day to clear off the snow.—Herald.

THE CHINESE EMPEROR TAKES A COOL VIEW OF YOUNG AMERICA.—In the Summer Palace, near Peking, Lord Elgin found an autograph of the fugitive Emperor of China, relating to the question of Mr. Ward, the American Minister. It seems that Mr. Ward offered to pay to the Celestial Majesty the same marks of respect as he would pay to his own President. "The Emperor's memorandum runs thus: 'I am sorry that in the manner of their presentation at court nothing can be done to bring me to reason. Besides, these barbarians, by their avowal that their respect for His Majesty the Emperor is the same as that for their President, are in the ten-tion, (President,) just place China on a par with the barbarians of the South and East, an arrogation of greatness which is simply ridiculous.'

A man in Terre Haute, Indiana, was fined \$4.50 in the police court. The great trouble was to collect the fine. At last he promised to give up a barrel of flour worth \$5, in consideration of a half dollar in change, and a clear receipt against the judgment. The offer was accepted, and the barrel of flour, purchased by one of the sheriffs at its supposed value. The purchaser discovered, however, when he found that the barrel of flour was a barrel of dirt, with a thin coating of flour.

DEATH OF EX-GOVERNOR LETCHER.—F. Jobb, P. Letcher, Ex-Governor of Kentucky, died on the 24th, at Frankfort, after a protracted illness. He was one of the most prominent public men in that State. He had served in Congress several terms, and was elected Governor in 1840, and was Minister to Mexico under President Fillmore. In 1853 he sustained the first political defeat of his life, being beaten for Congress, in the Ashland district, by John C. Breckinridge.

COMMERCE OF CHARLESTON.—On Friday last there were in the port of Charleston three steamships, six ships, thirteen barks, three terns and eighteen brigs and schooners, excluding a number of smaller craft. Of these nine or ten were expected to leave, thirteen were receiving freight, and others awaiting orders. A majority of those enumerated are foreign vessels, hailing from Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Spain.

FOUR GOVERNORS IN FOUR MONTHS.—It is a singular fact that Indiana has had four Governors since the 1st of October. Governor Wilbur died on the 8th of that month, when Lieutenant Governor Hammond became Governor. He served till January 14, when Governor Lane was inaugurated. Governor Lane served two days, when he was elected to the United States Senate, and was superseded by Lieutenant Governor Morton.

MISTAKES OF THE FRENCH PRESS.—In their discussions of American slavery, the French journalists commit many singular blunders. Thus, for example, one writer puts down the whole thirteen original States as slave States, while another, in correcting him, says that Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and other Western States did not belong to the original thirteen.

THE RAILROADS OF MASSACHUSETTS.—There are 50 railroad corporations in Massachusetts, not including horse railroads, with 1,668 miles of road, and 892 miles of double track; an aggregate capital stock of nearly fifty millions; debts of nearly eighteen millions; total cost of roads and equipments almost sixty-three millions.

RELIEVED.—Brevet Major General David H. Twiggs, U. S. A., has been relieved (at his own request) from the command of the military depot of Texas, which command is devolved on Col. Carlos A. White, 1st Infantry. It is understood that General Twiggs proposes to resign.

JUVENILE MURDERER.—Henry Dow, who has been convicted of murder in the first degree at New Brunswick, is only 16 years of age. He received the verdict with little emotion. The murdered person was Samuel Hall, also a boy of 16, who was a clerk in a grocery store.

DULL TIMES.—Theatrical at New Orleans are said to be very dull. Barney Will and wife played to no better houses than \$150; the business at the Varieties was most discouraging, and Dan Rice was exhibiting frequently at a \$80 house.

EXECUTION.—David Causton, a slave, was hung at Louisville, Ky., last Friday, for an attempted outrage on a white woman. Nearly 10,000 persons were present. The rope unfortunately broke, and the convict had to undergo a sort of double death.

North Carolina Convention Bill Passed. RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 31. The House this afternoon concurred in the Senate's amendments to the Convention bill, and it has passed finally. The bill orders that the question of Convention or no Convention be put to the people, who are to elect delegates at the same time. It also restricts the operation of Federal laws. The election is to be held on the 28th of February.

Destructive Fire. JAMESTOWN, N. Y., Jan. 31. The Allen House, Chautaugus county and Jamestown Bank buildings, and Howley's block, were destroyed by fire last night. The books, papers and funds of the Bank were saved. The loss amounted to \$152,000. The fire was caused by an incendiary.

New York Democratic Convention. ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 31. The Democratic State Convention met at 10 o'clock this morning, at Tweed Hall. A temporary organization was effected by the election of Ex-Governor Church as Chairman. Mr. Church, on taking the chair, made a patriotic speech.

The Capture of a Slave Vessel. NEW YORK, Jan. 31. An arrival from Sierra Leone reports that a Spanish brig had been captured by a British cruiser. No slaves were found on board the captain having landed them on the day previous to the capture.

The Pennsylvania Resolutions in the Virginia Legislature. RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 31. The House to-day tabled the resolutions of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

IMPORTANT FROM SYRIA.—Letters from Syria, received at Boston, state that new conspiracies have been discovered there, and another explosion of Mohammedan fanaticism is feared. A plot has been discovered at Aleppo, and fourteen persons have been arrested. It is evident that if the European troops were withdrawn, that there would be no safe Christians in the land. But the most important fact is that the French Emperor refuses to withdraw his army at the end of the six months' agreed upon, and it is thought may insist upon a permanent occupation of the country.

GENERAL NEWS.

SKATING AND SLIGHING IN NEW YORK.—The Central Park in New York was on Monday visited, according to the official returns, by 25,000 pedestrians, 400 equestrians, 150 wheel-dred of sleighs, and 3,000 sleighs. About five hundred of the sleighs entered the Park after dark, and the jingle of the bells mingled with the voices of the occupants singing in chorus. The attractions of sleighing seemed to have decreased that of skating, for but few persons comparatively were on the ice until evening, when the pond was lit up. The ladies' pond was completely illuminated at night, and a large number of the "fair sex" were at that time present. The skaters had an opportunity of seeing the amount of labor necessary to keep the ice in order, nearly two hundred men and eight horses being employed the whole day to clear off the snow.—Herald.

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