

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, DECEMBER 18, 1858.

WHEREAS—\$1.50, in advance of the Club... For a large amount, and a Draft, or large notes...

PLEASANT HILL, Mo.—A revival at this place, as we learn, is in progress. Forty-two persons have been received into the communion of the Church.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE—This monthly, most ably conducted by Dr. Van Rensselaer, will commence its Ninth Volume in January.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, will be held on Tuesday, January 4th, at 2 P. M., in the Library of the Seminary.

THE PRESBYTERY OF POTOMAC, embracing the District of Columbia and the Southern part of Maryland, was duly organized on the 29th ult.

EMMA C. HALL—The religious experience of this little child, justifies us in inserting the obituary notice, though it is long. The grace of God therein manifested, will encourage parents in the cherishing of a strong faith...

HALL'S JOURNAL OF HEALTH—This excellent little monthly, edited by W. W. Hall, M. D., 42 Irving Place, New York, will commence its Sixth Volume, next month.

The Puritanism of the English Congregationalists found an early home among the mountains of Wales, and still maintains its influence. In a population of nine hundred thousand who use the Welsh language, it numbers seven hundred and forty churches, six hundred and twelve ministers, seventy-five thousand communicants, and one hundred and thirty thousand regular hearers.

Synod of North Carolina. This Synod takes, in one respect at least, a proper view of what is indispensable to the edification of Christian households, and the sustentation of true religion in the churches and in the land.

Resolved, That the members of this Synod be requested to make a special effort in the months of December and January, to place the North Carolina Presbyterian in every family in their congregations.

REV. JAMES A. STRICKLAND died at Kings-town, Ohio, on the 28th ult., in the 39th year of his age. He had united with the communion of the Church at the age of thirteen, and had been fourteen years in the ministry.

A writer, "G. C.," in the Presbyterian of the West, says of him: "God suddenly and unexpectedly called his own. He was taken sick on Thursday, (Thanksgiving day), and was obliged to retire from church service. On Sabbath following, at four P. M., his spirit passed away. His disease was inflammation of the bowels. He left behind this simple testimony, 'Saved by grace.'"

There should be a good religious newspaper in every family. Any practicable time is a good time to begin, but now is the best time.

Every subscriber should renew promptly, and induce his neighbor to subscribe. The readers of a good paper have more benefit from the editor's mind, than he has from their money.

Prisoners cannot live upon air. They want it, and something more substantial. NOTE THIS. The club price for eight upwards, is \$1.25.

From Mission churches, and sparsely populated neighborhoods, four papers (separately directed,) are sent for \$5.

Presbyterian Action by Committee.

How much of a Presbytery's work may be done by a Standing Committee, or, more properly speaking, by a Commission, is a matter of some importance. Nearly the whole might be so accomplished, greatly to the ease of the majority of the members.

Mr. Editor:—In Baird's Digest of the Acts of the General Assembly, I find the following, on page 246: "The Moderator for the time being, and the Standing Clerk, ex officio, were appointed a Committee to grant letters of dismission to ministers without charge, and to locate candidates under the care of this Presbytery, to unite with other Presbyteries, and were directed to report at the next stated meeting."

Resolved, That the rule hitherto acted upon by the Presbytery of Cayuga, is expedient and unconstituted. Resolved, 1859, p. 27.

Mr. Editor, my object in calling your attention to this action is to get the benefit of your wisdom and experience in deciding, let, whether this action of the General Assembly is now binding upon our Presbyteries, and 2d, whether on all its own merits, it is to be regarded as a just exposition of the Form of Government, the question involved. I confess myself strongly inclined to the view taken by the Assembly; yet I know a large and wise Presbytery, which has just such a standing rule as the one here decided upon—with the single exception that the Committee ad interim does not consist of the officers of the presbytery, but of two ministerial members, and has acted under it for a number of years.

Will you please let us have your unbiased judgment upon the points involved in this question, and oblige. A LAW-ABIDING PRESBYTERIAN.

We are, to a great degree, strict constructionists. We abide by the Constitution, in its obvious meaning, and would not assume powers which are not granted; neither would we execute a trust in a way different from that which the instrument obviously provided. In two cases our Constitution provides that a Presbytery may do its work by a Commission; the one is, in the taking of testimony, and the other in the installing of a pastor.

For a Standing Committee, or a Committee ex officio, to do a Presbytery's work, the Commission's action being final—that is, for a Permanent Commission, there is no provision made in our Standards. Such a Commission is hence unconstitutional. This is an obvious inference; and such seems to have been the opinion of the Assembly, in the case cited by our correspondent.

To have a COMMITTEE, whether occasional, permanent, or ex officio, to inquire for Presbytery, and report for final action, may be proper. But the case referred to is not of that kind. The dismissal contemplated, and the recommendation to another body, are final and irrevocable. It is hence an exercise of power not transferable. The deed is to be done by the Court itself.

The Assembly's action is hence founded upon, and is an enforcement of, the Constitution of the Church, and is binding on all the Presbyteries.

The President's Message. We give this National Document, as is our custom, in full. Such State papers should be both read and preserved; and for these purposes their place in a religious journal is most favorable. Church and State must, necessarily, exist simultaneously in the same country, and they are far more intimately connected, and more dependent on each other for their well-being than many are willing to acknowledge.

But still, each needs the other. Christian morality is indispensable to the best interests of the State; and good civil laws, well executed, are intimately connected with the peace and safety of the Church. The official or legal connexion between Church and State, is less in this country, perhaps, than in any other, while the moral influence subsisting is very great.

While, then, Christians do all they can for the Church, let them also do all they can for the State. Every Christian should be a politician, in the best sense of that term; wise, upright, zealous, doing his full part to inculcate, diffuse and sustain those principles which sustain good government, and to carry out those principles and make them effective in the whole of social and political life.

In these remarks we will not be understood as expressing any opinion on the doctrine we print. What we contend for is, that Christians shall be really citizens, intelligent, active, upright; every man doing his part in social affairs.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES—The first number of this Journal, (dated Jan. 1, 1859,) is before us. The paper is good, execution neat, and matter varied and interesting. It is the organ of the American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia; and is likely to do much service for the Institution.

Preaching on Peace.

The American Peace Society sends out the following address. The subject is of vast importance. The glad message proclaimed, "Peace on earth."

We presume it is well known, though very liable to be forgotten, that ecclesiastical bodies, representing nearly all the religious denominations in our land except Catholics, have repeatedly united in recommending that ministers of the Gospel in their connection preach at least once a year specifically on the subject of PEACE, and have generally selected for this purpose some convenient Sabbath, near the 25th of December.

We have no wish to prescribe in what precise way this service shall be performed. We merely insist that he so apply the Gospel to the case as to do away the custom of war. Here is our sole object; and we simply ask Christian ministers to help us accomplish it by making a right, direct and effective application of the Gospel to the case. It must be thus applied before war or the war-system can ever be brought to an end; and we suppose all Christians deem it pre-eminently important on the ministers of Christ to lead the way in making such an application of its pacific principles.

We see not how any minister can fail to observe how peculiarly favorable is the present time for pressing the claims of Peace. It is a time of general, well light universal peace; the whole world is in a quiet and repose, free from all fear of war, and in this wide, deep lull of war passions and war-alarms we may, if we will, call attention, with comparative ease and success, to this great theme. Now, if ever, should we press its claims upon the whole community, and set ourselves at work in earnest to bring the popular modes of thought and feeling on this subject into full accordance with the teachings of Christ, and thus put an end in time to the custom of nations settling their disputes by the bloody and brutal arbitrations of the sword.

We beg our friends in the Christian ministry to bear in mind how much this cause depends on them. The cause is their own, their countenance and support. It originated with them; and, as an agency so fully endorsed by them from its origin, we think they ought to enlist the pulpit cheerfully and habitually in its advocacy. No others can do so much or so easily for its promotion. Their influence is pre-eminently moral, and omnipresent in every Christian community. They hold in their hands the chief engines of moral power. If they would all unite as one man, and concentrate the whole weight of their influence, how surely, if not soon, might they make the whole custom of war melt away, like dew before the morning sun, from every land blessed with the light of the Gospel!

CONCERT OF PRAYER FOR PEACE.—In connexion with preaching on Peace, our Society has long been wont, in accordance with the recommendation of many ecclesiastical bodies, to request that on or near December 25th in each year there should be a General Concert of Prayer for universal and permanent Peace. This proposal must commend itself to every Christian, and, if nothing else is done, we most earnestly hope that pastors and churches will at least see that such a concert shall this year be duly observed. Prayer to the God of Peace is quite as essential in this cause as in any other; and while they observe a concert of prayer for some objects every month, can Christians refuse to unite once a year in behalf of the world's Peace?

On behalf of the American Peace Society, Geo. C. Beckwith, Secretary. Boston, December 7th, 1858.

Ministers Wanted in Missouri. A letter just received, says: Brother McFarland, who lives at Greenfield, Dade County, has been operating in a field, where he has not less than six churches, and he is the only Old School minister South of the Osage river. There are many points where we could build up fine congregations in a short time, if we had the minister to do it. Springfield, is Green County, is now ripe for our operations. Granby, in Newton County, a town at the Lead Mines, with a population of some two thousand, where we have a small organization, they want a minister. Also at Breckinridge, in Jasper County, a most inviting field of usefulness, one is needed. Can you not influence some of the young men from the Seminary, to go to that region?

EASTERN SUMMARY. BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND. The heresies of Theodore Parker, and the evils resulting from their promulgation, are fully acknowledged by all Evangelical Christians. In the congregation to which he ministers, a literary association has been formed, styled the "Fraternity Lectures," with the object, as the newspaper announcement states, of giving the ideas of Mr. Parker a freer scope than the Lyceum platform allows. However the affair may be regarded, it is evident that so far as any favorable impression may be made on the community, it will inure to the popularity of Mr. Parker and his church. But this has not deterred the pastor of the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., Rev. H. W. Beecher, from appearing as one of the lecturers, to lend his wit and influence in favor of Mr. Parker, as his conduct will undoubtedly be interpreted by many. The whole enterprise is essentially infidel in its tendencies, and every lecturer will aid in increasing whatever of evil it may have. To hold Mr. Beecher accountable for the newspaper report of his address, would not be right. But it is certain that the Boston Journal says that the lecturer said, "Every selfish man believes in total depravity," and that this remark giving evidence of wondrous penetration and power of discrimination, (?) was loudly cheered.

Inquiry has often been made concerning the time and the person by whom the custom of beginning the Lord's Day on Saturday Evening, and closing it on the evening of the following day, was introduced to New England. It seems to have originated with John Colton, who landed in Boston in 1833, and lived there till his death, in 1852. The Boston Recorder says: "He commenced the Sabbath the evening before, for which keeping of the Sabbath from evening to evening, he wrote arguments, before coming to New England, and I suppose it was from this reason and practice that the Christians of New England have generally done so too."

The publishers of the different Religious Papers, in this city, have had several meetings, at which the propriety of changing for the insertion of Ecclesiastical, Obituary, and Marriage Notices, after the 1st of January, was discussed; and it is now probable that the custom of making a small charge for all such notices will be installed at that time. Such is the practice of the New York Observer, and many other religious papers.

Our readers will be pleased to know that another embarkment of Missionaries to India has taken place. An exchange says: Interesting religious services were held on board the ship Coma, at Central wharf, Boston, on Monday, upon the occasion of the departure of twelve missionaries for India. The scenes of the passengers going out, under the direction of missionary organizations, are as follows: Rev. Wm. A. Beal and wife, who return to India; Rev. Mr. Mayson and wife, who proceed thither for the first time; Rev. Edward Chester and wife; Mrs. Taylor and two children—Mr. Taylor is now in Hindostan; Mrs. Noyes and one child; Miss Ashley. Mr. Scudder and Mr. Mayson are sent out by the Board of Missions of the Reformed Dutch Church. Their destination is the Orient Mission. The remaining missionaries proceed to the Madras Mission, and are under the supervision of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Mr. Scudder has already been in India two years. On the evening of the previous Sabbath, a missionary meeting was held in the old South church, in which Rev. Dr. Anderson, Secretary of the American Board, Rev. Dr. Blagden, and Rev. Dr. Ferris, Chancellor of the University of New York, and Corresponding Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Board of Missions, officiated. And a very able sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Henry Martyn Scudder, a brother of one of the missionaries, and who has himself grown gray in the foreign field, from Zeck. iv. 6, 7.

The discussion of the Scriptural Arguments for the future and endless punishment of the wicked, still excites considerable attention. The Christian Freeman, a Universalist paper, last week contained a masterly article, written by Dr. Nehemiah Adams, at the request of the editor, in support of the orthodox side of this great question. In due time a reply will be given, no doubt, by the editor or some correspondent. Notwithstanding the Scriptural, stanch, and unyielding orthodoxy of Dr. Adams, he is highly esteemed on account of his ability, sincerity, and devotion to the pastoral work, even among Unitarians, Universalists, and others, whose sentiments with regard to the great and fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, are altogether at variance with his.

The City Elections are now over, and the general result has been a success on the part of the "Opposition," much beyond what was anticipated. This was owing, in part, to the fierce conflict that has been raging for some time between the two wings of the Democratic party, in the city. In the election of School Directors, the popular voice in favor of the Bible in the Public Schools has been very significantly expressed; although it is not likely that it will be at once restored in the twelve schools out of the two hundred and seven in the city, from which it has been for some time banished. The cries of the Poor are again falling upon the ear of the charitable. The high price of provisions, and the scarcity of regular employment, will bring suffering to many a worthy household; while the idle, the drunken, and the vicious, will make efforts to receive a share of the benevolence to which they have no claim. One thing seems pretty well determined upon by those who abound in every good work; and to whom the poor are vastly indebted; that is, to discountenance entirely all street begging. While, at the same time, renewed efforts are to be put forth in seeking out the proper objects of charity. For it is well known that the most deserving poverty seeks to hide itself, shrinks from observation, and suffers all that is possible to be endured, before it makes known its wants. As an evidence of the rapid growth of the City of Brooklyn, it is said that eight hundred houses are now being built in that city. Henry Ward Beecher's church, capable of accommodating six thousand persons, does not make the progress that was anticipated. The sum of \$175,000 was to be secured before the contract should be made. But only \$70,000 has yet been pledged, so that the movement is at a stand-still for the present. James Lenox, Esq., so well known for his liberality to the Boards, Seminaries, and churches of the Old School Presbyterian Church, has presented to the New York Historical Society, thirteen of the sculptured marbles of Nineveh, whose cost was \$3,000. A few gentlemen interested in increasing the endowment of the Union Theological Seminary to \$200,000, met the other day, and pledged themselves for \$15,000 of the \$40,000 yet required. The whole sum will be made up in a short time. We would be greatly pleased to be able to chronicle a similar liberality toward some of the Seminaries of our own Church, at no distant day. The Union Seminary just mentioned, is under the control of the New School Presbyterians. Such instances as the following, are refreshing; they do good to the soul. At a missionary meeting, held in Dr. McAuley's church, a gentleman pledged himself for the entire support of a missionary to the recently opened Kingdom of Japan, to be sent out under the auspices of the Reformed Dutch Church. The preaching at the Academy of Music, on Sabbath evenings, continues to attract immense crowds. The building can accommodate five thousand persons, while at least one thousand have been compelled to retire for want of room, in a single evening. On the evening of last Sabbath week, Dr. Bethune preached; his voice filled the vast room completely, and every one present could hear. On the platform were several of the leading ministers of the different Protestant denominations in the city; and among them was seen the tall and commanding form of General Scott, who preferred to stand rather than retire.

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PHILADELPHIA. The Weather has been extremely unfavorable, for some time, for the transaction of any out-door business, and but few large sales are reported. Breadstuffs have declined, but it is too soon to form any definite opinion as to whether this is to be only temporary, or to continue. The efforts in behalf of the moral and religious welfare of the Newboys, at 221 Spruce Street, have met with most encouraging success, and promise to prepare the way for yet greater results. The Descendants of New England, of whom there are many in this city, have made the usual preparations for the celebration of "Forefathers Day," or the "Landing of the Pilgrims," on the 22d. The New School Presbyterian choruses, like the churches of our own denomination in this city, are holding weekly union prayer-meetings, which are largely attended. The Presbyterian Church of Richmond, near this city, is now in a perilous condition owing to the fact that a Sheriff's bill has already been placed on the property, upon a claim for ground rent. To secure relief, the ladies will hold a fair, beginning on Monday of next week, in the Lecture Room of the city. It is to be hoped that this enterprise will be patronized, and that the ladies and gentlemen of Philadelphia, will come promptly to the rescue of this struggling congregation. The Prayer-Meetings in Jayne's Hall and other places, are attended as well as formerly, but those most observant express the fear that the convictions are not so deep, and that the cases of conversion are fewer than formerly. Still a delightful spirit pervades many of the churches, and earnest prayer is offered for a more copious outpouring of the Spirit than has yet been received.

Mr. GEORGE K. MARLINER was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry, by the Presbytery of Susquehanna, on the 2d inst., and installed pastor over the congregation of Warren, Pa. In this service the Rev. C. R. Lane, of Tunkhannock by request preached the sermon from 2 Pet. 1: 10; Rev. T. S. Downing presided, put the constitutional questions, and read the ordaining prayer; Rev. J. Foster, of Towanda, gave the charge to the pastor; and Rev. Thomas Thomas the charge to the people.

Rev. D. A. MURDOCK having received and accepted a call from the church of Mt. Vernon, his Post Office address is changed from Doniphan, Kansas, to Mt. Vernon, Lawrence Co., Mo. Rev. JACOB COON, who formerly had charge of the church of Union Grove, Whiteside Co., Ill., has removed to Camden and taken charge of the churches of Camden and Beulah. Correspondents are, therefore, requested to address him at Camden Mills, Rock Island Co., Ill. Rev. E. QUILLER'S Post Office address is changed from Wellburg, Va., to Ipaiva, Fulton Co., Illinois. Rev. MEK. WILLIAMSON'S Post Office address is changed from Heardsville, Athens Co., Ohio, to Cynthiana, Pike Co., Ohio.

Mr. GEORGE W. WHITE was ordained by the Presbytery of East Harmony, on the 26th ult., and installed pastor of the church of Brunswick, Va. Rev. F. H. L. LARRY has removed from Chicago, Ill., and has taken charge of the church of there. Rev. SAMUEL METCHMORE has been unanimously called to the church at Columbia Mo. Rev. STEPHEN E. AXSON has received and accepted a call from the Beech Island church, S. C. Rev. J. R. GRILLAND was installed pastor of the Indianan church, Williamsburg District, S. C., on Saturday the 20th ult. Rev. JAMES BLAOK'S Post Office address is changed from Sandy, Ohio, to Shepherds-town, Virginia.

REPORT OF H. CHILDS, TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, FOR NOVEMBER, 1858. BALTSBURG PRESBYTERY.—First congregation, Salsburgh, \$40; Pine Creek, \$16; 7; Apollo, \$17.50; Indiana, \$58.65. Total, \$132.91. OHIO PRESBYTERY.—Miller's Run congregation, \$38; Sabbath School, Valley, for thirty-five copies For. Miss., \$2.50; Sabbath School, Sharon, \$6.10; Infant Sabbath School, East Liberty, \$4.18.30. ALBANY PRESBYTERY.—Donagel congregation, \$15. ALBANY PRESBYTERY.—Centre congregation, \$17; Middlesex, \$8.25; North Butler, \$3.48; Female Miss. Society, Tarentum, \$14. \$42.96. ZANESVILLE PRESBYTERY.—Second congregation, Zanesville, \$32. REDSTONE PRESBYTERY.—Roundhill congregation, \$32. MISCELLANEOUS.—Box of clothing from the Ladies' Miss. Society of Georgetown congregation, Erie Presbytery, valued at \$35.07; box of clothing from Ladies' Miss. Socy of Fairfield, Erie Presbytery, valued at \$28.46; box of clothing from Ladies' Miss. Socy of Redbott, West Lisbon Presbytery, valued at \$48.58. H. CHILDS, Treasurer. Pittsburgh, November 30, 1858.

MOUNT PLEASANT, HENRY CO., IOWA, December 6th, 1858. Mr. Editor:—Through the goodness of your excellent paper, we would desire to call the attention of ministers residing in a location in the West, to our condition in this place. On account of the continued ill health of our former pastor, the relationship has been dissolved, and we are now "as sheep without a shepherd." To a person of energy, perseverance, and piety, there is a good field of labor here. Our young city is considered one of the most pleasant in Iowa, and well supplied with institutions of learning. Our church numbers about one hundred and sixty members; the building is new and commodious. We would therefore be happy to have a visit from some of our ministers; or if any one desires more information, it will be obtained by addressing the following: By order of the Session, J. CHASE, Clerk.

A preaching service is now held in the Old National Theatre, for many years the favorite resort of loafers, rowdies, thieves, and noisy boys. At the first meeting, police officers were present, to watch the thieves and restrain the clamorous demonstrations of "the boys;" but they are gradually becoming accustomed to the outward proprieties of Divine worship, and the Gospel is here preached to many who never heard it before.

PHILADELPHIA. The Weather has been extremely unfavorable, for some time, for the transaction of any out-door business, and but few large sales are reported. Breadstuffs have declined, but it is too soon to form any definite opinion as to whether this is to be only temporary, or to continue. The efforts in behalf of the moral and religious welfare of the Newboys, at 221 Spruce Street, have met with most encouraging success, and promise to prepare the way for yet greater results. The Descendants of New England, of whom there are many in this city, have made the usual preparations for the celebration of "Forefathers Day," or the "Landing of the Pilgrims," on the 22d. The New School Presbyterian choruses, like the churches of our own denomination in this city, are holding weekly union prayer-meetings, which are largely attended. The Presbyterian Church of Richmond, near this city, is now in a perilous condition owing to the fact that a Sheriff's bill has already been placed on the property, upon a claim for ground rent. To secure relief, the ladies will hold a fair, beginning on Monday of next week, in the Lecture Room of the city. It is to be hoped that this enterprise will be patronized, and that the ladies and gentlemen of Philadelphia, will come promptly to the rescue of this struggling congregation. The Prayer-Meetings in Jayne's Hall and other places, are attended as well as formerly, but those most observant express the fear that the convictions are not so deep, and that the cases of conversion are fewer than formerly. Still a delightful spirit pervades many of the churches, and earnest prayer is offered for a more copious outpouring of the Spirit than has yet been received.

Mr. GEORGE K. MARLINER was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry, by the Presbytery of Susquehanna, on the 2d inst., and installed pastor over the congregation of Warren, Pa. In this service the Rev. C. R. Lane, of Tunkhannock by request preached the sermon from 2 Pet. 1: 10; Rev. T. S. Downing presided, put the constitutional questions, and read the ordaining prayer; Rev. J. Foster, of Towanda, gave the charge to the pastor; and Rev. Thomas Thomas the charge to the people.

Rev. D. A. MURDOCK having received and accepted a call from the church of Mt. Vernon, his Post Office address is changed from Doniphan, Kansas, to Mt. Vernon, Lawrence Co., Mo. Rev. JACOB COON, who formerly had charge of the church of Union Grove, Whiteside Co., Ill., has removed to Camden and taken charge of the churches of Camden and Beulah. Correspondents are, therefore, requested to address him at Camden Mills, Rock Island Co., Ill. Rev. E. QUILLER'S Post Office address is changed from Wellburg, Va., to Ipaiva, Fulton Co., Illinois. Rev. MEK. WILLIAMSON'S Post Office address is changed from Heardsville, Athens Co., Ohio, to Cynthiana, Pike Co., Ohio.

Mr. GEORGE W. WHITE was ordained by the Presbytery of East Harmony, on the 26th ult., and installed pastor of the church of Brunswick, Va. Rev. F. H. L. LARRY has removed from Chicago, Ill., and has taken charge of the church of there. Rev. SAMUEL METCHMORE has been unanimously called to the church at Columbia Mo. Rev. STEPHEN E. AXSON has received and accepted a call from the Beech Island church, S. C. Rev. J. R. GRILLAND was installed pastor of the Indianan church, Williamsburg District, S. C., on Saturday the 20th ult. Rev. JAMES BLAOK'S Post Office address is changed from Sandy, Ohio, to Shepherds-town, Virginia.

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