EASTON G[illegible] ZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engi[illegible]
RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—A[illegible]

[illegible]pular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown
[illegible]s Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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From the National Intelligencer.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

Publications have at different periods issued from the press, as the avidity of general curiosity called for them, giving a connected narrative of the public and private life of this eminent statesman — But these, owing to the form in which they appeared, have probably had but a limited circulation. At any rate, they do not fully supply the call for information upon this important topic. And it has been conceived, therefore, that a more acceptable service could not be rendered at this contingency, than by compiling and presenting to our readers an authentic and coherent account of the past life, and present position, of Mr. WEBSTER.

Mr. Webster was born in 1782, at Salisbury, an agricultural township of New Hampshire, on the upper waters of the river Merrimack His father was one of those self-made men, the pioneer-minds of our civilization, who spring up amid perils and hardships on the frontiers of our country, and who, by their energy of character and perseverance, have made us what we are. A farmer always, by taste and occupation, he yet stood ready for the battle field when duty called in time of war, and in peace he attained such influence among his friends and countrymen, as naturally follows upon, and attaches to, good sense, decision, integrity, and firmness of temper. He served under Lord Amherst in the French war, which ended in 1763. He commanded a company in the war of the Revolution, chiefly composed of his own townspeople and friends, who fought under his banner in successive campaigns, and at whose head he stood in the battle of Bennington, at White Plains, and in other trying scenes of our struggle for Independence. He continued in the end [illegible] he deserved, dying in the office of a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the State of New Hampshire.

In the border dwelling of this brave man was Mr. Webster born; ushered into life amid the privations and sufferings incident to a residence on the then very ultimate limits of New England adventure at the North. The noble stream, on whose banks he first saw the light, flows, at this present time, almost from its fountain to the sea, through a perpetual succession of smiling villages and populous towns, in the heart of the densest population of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Not so in the years immediately following the Revolution, during which Mr. Webster's early mind gradually expanded into maturity and vigor. It was on the verge of the primeval forest of our Continent, that, growing up in the presence of toil and exposure, his character acquired that bone and sinew which belong to such a raising; and it was there also, on the democratic benches of one of the free schools of New England, that he gained the rudiments of knowledge, and laid in the elementory stores of his capacious intellect. On his boyhood instruction, however, at school and at college, it is needless to dwell. His rapid rise to distinction in the sequel amply attests how diligently he employed the imperfect means of education within his reach. After graduating at Dartmouth College, he adopted the same profession, in the practice of which President Jackson, as well as several of his predecessors in the Chief Magistracy, and two prominent competitors for that office, Mr. Van Buren and Mr. White, entered upon life. He was admitted to the bar in 1805, practised a couple of years at Boscawen, a village adjacent to the place of his birth, and then established himself at Portsmouth, the commercial and business capital of New Hampshire.

Mr. Webster continued in the practice of his profession at Portsmouth, from 1807, to 1816, undergoing at this period that severe professional training to which his later unrivalled eminence at the bar is partly attributable. His manifest abilities had speedily opened to him an extensive sphere of business; and his powers unfolded themselves almost at once into the full exigencies of his position. Introduced thus early in life to the responsibilities of a leading counsel in the courts, it was his fortune to encounter as his chief antagonist a gentleman somewhat his senior in years and experience, of most acute, original, and comprehensive qualities of mind, subsequently a Senator in Congress from New Hampshire, and now high among the highest at the bar of Massachusetts: we mean Mr. Jeremiah Mason. Such practice, with such an opponent, afforded a severe school of intellectual discipline, which, as it developed the great resources of each to the other, engendered a reciprocal respect and friendship between them, and proved of the most abiding benefit to the professional character of Mr. Webster. His fame as an advocate, and the advantageous light in which it placed him in the popular eye, soon prompted his fellow citizens to call him from the walks of private life to the more conspicuous station of their Representative in Congress.

In the total absence of any sound cause of objection to the nomination of Mr. Webster for the Presidency, and his undeniable and undenied eminent fitness for that office, it is at the present time the favorite argument of party prints to distort and misrepresent his conduct at this period of his life. The sincerity and good faith with which this course of objection is pursued, may be judged of by the fact, that among the confidential and favored adherents of the Administration are some of the most zealous opposers of the war of 1812. Mr. Webster's real crime is, that he has not sought *their* mode of obtaining absolution. It is one thing to excite a popular prejudice, founded on a division of parties, which has long since passed away, and quite another to point out, in the whole of Mr Webster's career, a word, or an act, unworthy of a patriot: At the time of the declaration of war, he was in private life, and too young to have been a political leader. He held no public situation of any kind, but was entirely occupied with private and professional pursuits. He had never been in Congress, nor had taken any part in the councils of the country for or against the measure. How he conducted himself after his election to Congress, its records will show. These records have been searched, and Mr. Webster's conduct during the war, his votes, his motives, and his speeches, investigated and scrutinized with malicious zeal, by those who would willingly have discovered matter of offence therein, but in vain. Nothing has ever been produced against him by the most embittered opponent proving the least disposition to embarrass the government or injure the public cause of the country. He judged, it is true, of the expediency of particular measures, according to his best lights, but he did so in common with the most decided supporters of the late war. more or less of whom will be found voting with him on every successive prominent measure brought forward in his day. Mr Webster, it is true, was of those [illegible] conscientious judgment, did not favor the invasion of Canada, as the best mode of applying our resources to belligerent operations; but is equally true that, on the first important occasion in which he ever opened his lips in Congress, he urged the application of our means to naval warfare, pointed out, with a spirit almost prophetic, the glorious triumphs which a waited us on the seas, and cheered, with all his zeal and all his heart, those gallant ocean-warriors, who spread the fame of our republican flag throughout the world. Such was Mr. Webster's course throughout the last war. It was honest, it was patriotic. The clamor against him on this ground is that of the demagogue and the recent convert, and not that of men who truly love their country, and have testified it by their actions. As to those to whom the more immediate defence of the country in time of war is entrusted, we doubt whether any portion of our countrymen would view with greater satisfaction his election to the Presidency, than those, who, from amidst camps, in the field of battle, on the gun deck, mingling in contests of vital interest to the country, have contemplated his conduct in the councils of the Union.

While upon this subject, we dispose of another objection, which as in times past it has been, so it may again be made, to Mr. Webster, namely, the groundless allegation that he was concerned in recommending, or in getting up, the Hartford Convention. It seems strange that, in a country where knowledge of public men and affairs is so generally diffused, it should be needful to notice such a calumny, or rather that it should ever have gained currency and credence in the country. For, in truth, whatever opinion he entertained of that assembly, Mr. Webster was not only not a member of it, but had no agency in causing it, and took no part in its counsels. The first proposal of that meeting was made in the General Court of Massachusetts in October of 1814. Mr. Webster could have no part in this, he being at the time a citizen of New Hampshire, and indeed he had already left New England to take his place in Congress, and in that place he remained until the end of the session, and until the final dissolution of that body. So boldly false have been the assertions of prostituted party presses on this subject, that we have deemed it proper thus directly and distinctly to aver, not only that Mr. Webster was not a member of the Hartford Convention, but, so far as we are apprised, did not approve of its being called, nor participate in any of its measures.

If it were important to do so, we might verify these general remarks by reference to numerous conclusive proofs. Two or three only will suffice for our present purpose. Thus; in an address of Mr. Webster's delivered to a popular audience in 1812, he used this decisive language:

"With respect to the war in which we 'are now involved, the course our principles require us to pursue, cannot be 'doubtful. It is now the law of the land; 'and as such we are bound to regard it. 'Resistance and insurrection form no 'parts of our creed. The disciples of 'Washington are neither tyrants in power, nor rebels out of it. If we are taxed 'to carry on this war, we shall disregard 'certain distinguished examples, and shall 'pay. If our personal services are required, we shall yield them to the extent 'of our constitutional liability.'

And at a still earlier period, on a similar occasion, and in reference to the topic of war, we find him using the following language, which, if it smack a little of the indignant ardor of youth, cannot, at any rate, be deemed chargeable with indisposition to assert the rights of the country against its foreign enemies:

"Is it wise to resist aggression? to redress injuries? to resent insults? to assert and maintain national character 'and national rights? Or is it wise to 'trim and accommodate? To bend to 'time and circumstances with the best 'grace we can? To turn the unsmitten 'cheek, and surrender important rights 'to the disposal of others?"

"The sentiments of the heart decide 'the question, without any appeal to the 'understanding, and the understanding, 'unsolicited, confirms the decision of the 'heart. Whether we consult character 'or expediency, spirit or policy, the answer is the same—DEFEND YOURSELVES! 'If we submit to first aggressions, how 'far is forbearance to extend, & at what 'point is resistance to begin? Shall we 'be servile to day, and fix on to-morrow 'or the next day, as the proper time for 'honorable resentment? Do we shake 'poppies on all our senses now, with an 'expectation of awaking from our stupor 'hereafter with more acute sensibilities? 'A high-wrought affectation of resentment, a petulent propensity to go to fisty-cuffs for every trifle, are the definition of false honor. A firm adherence 'to rights, which leads to a cool, though 'unconquerable determination to defend 'them at every hazard, is true dignity."

Again. We have alluded to Mr. Webster's forecast and sagacity in designating, soon after his entrance into Congress, the just triumphs we might achieve on the ocean; and we extract from a speech of his the following forcible and striking passage.

"The humble and aid which it would 'be in my power to render to measures 'of Government, shall be given cheerfully, if Government will pursue measures 'which I can conscientiously support.—'If, even now, failing in an honest and 'sincere attempt to procure a just and 'honorable peace, it will return to measures of defence and protection, such as 'reason, and common sense, and public 'opinion, all call for, my vote shall not be 'withholden from the means. Give up 'your futile projects of invasion. Extinguish the fires that blaze on your inland 'frontiers. Establish perfect safety and 'defence there by adequate force. Let 'every man that sleeps on your soil sleep in 'security. Stop the blood that flows from 'the veins of unarmed yeomanry, & women & children. Give to the living time 'to bury & lament their dead, in the quietness of private sorrow. Having performed this work of beneficence & mercy in 'your inland borders, turn, and look 'with the eye of justice and compassion 'to your vast population along the coast. 'Unclench the iron grasp of your embargo. Take measures for that end before 'another sun sets upon you. With all the 'war of your enemy upon your commerce, 'if you would cease to make war upon it 'yourselves, you would still have some 'commerce. That commerce would give 'you revenue. Apply that revenue to 'the augmentation of your navy. That 'navy in turn will protect your commerce Let it no longer be said that 'not one ship of force, built by your hands 'since the war, yet floats upon the ocean. 'Turn the current of your efforts into the 'channel which national sentiment has 'already won, broad and deep to receive 'it. A naval force competent to defend 'your coast against considerable armaments, to convoy your trade, and perhaps to raise the blockade of your rivers, is no chimera. It may be realized 'If, then, the war must continue, go to the 'ocean. If you are seriously contending 'for maritime rights, go to the theatre 'where alone those rights can be defended. 'Thither every indication of your fortunes 'points you. Even our party divisions, acrimonious as they are, cease at the water's 'edge. They are lost in attachment to 'the national character, on the element 'where that character is made respectable. In protecting naval interests by 'naval means, you will arm yourselves 'with the whole power of national sentiment, and may command the whole 'abundance of the national resources.—'In time you may be enabled to redress 'injuries in the place where they may be 'offered; and, if need be, to accompany 'your own flag throughout the world with 'the protection of your own cannon.'

Is this injurious opposition to the war? Is it not rather the truest and justest patriotism? Is it not precisely such advice and exhortation as the best friend of the Administrati[illegible] it, in its most [illegible]'s most publi[illegible] very course o[illegible] ment actually our greatest [illegible] were ach[illegible] triumph of G[illegible] New Orleans

Indeed, Mr [illegible] at this trying [illegible] him to follow [illegible] board. Tho[illegible] of the House[illegible] ty, as we ren[illegible] marked, [illegible] to the [illegible] the dignity a[illegible] make no opp[illegible] while, at the [illegible] no less his d[illegible] neither the [illegible] tial interests [illegible] gered or sac[illegible]

Such was [illegible] tion, at the p[illegible] in Congress [illegible] successive [illegible] portant pu[illegible] there was [illegible] the anx[illegible] and of Cong[illegible] the nati[illegible] this re[illegible] which [illegible] present Ba[illegible] What the A[illegible] posed, in the [illegible] with a capi[illegible] only five [illegible] the rest de[illegible] ties; and th[illegible] to loan [illegible] To enable [illegible] was to be [illegible] payments; [illegible] never mak[illegible] phatic lang[illegible] money dep[illegible] It was to [illegible] irredeemab[illegible] was to als[illegible] to the ban[illegible] tion to abse[illegible] with others. [illegible]

There is one other question connected with currency, on which Mr Webster particularly distinguished himself at this period. It is well known how much mischief was then suffered by reason of the general circulation of the depreciated paper of the State Banks South of New England, which had suspended specie payments. Mr. Webster said that the Bank alone, unaided by the Government, would be incapable of remedying this evil, and restoring the currency to a healthy state; and he urged and procured the application of the true remedy, namely, the collection of the revenue only in the legal currency of the country, or in bills exchangeable therefor on demand, & so equal to it in value.

In 1816, Mr. Webster resolved to devote himself for some years exclusively to the practice of his profession; and, for this purpose, he retired awhile from public life, and transferred his legal abilities to the wider circle of business afforded him in Boston. Going to the bar of that city with high fame as a lawyer & a statesman, he took immediately that rank in it which belonged to his transcendent abilities, and which he has ever since continued to hold, adding new lus[illegible] might have addressed to [illegible] fidential, equally as in [illegible] cuss? Is it not the [illegible] ley which the Govern[illegible] pted, and under which [illegible] ries, by land or sea, [illegible] to the very crowning [illegible] Jackson's defence of [illegible]

[illegible] Webster's public conduct [illegible]cted, was what it became [illegible] direct, manly, and above[illegible] in an opposition member [illegible] he first felt it to be his du[illegible] mbers seeing it well re[illegible] e not factious opposition [illegible]s essential to maintain [illegible] honor of the country: to [illegible]tion for opposition sake; [illegible] me time, he felt it to be [illegible]y, to take good heed that [illegible]stitution, nor the essen[illegible] f the Nation, were endan[illegible]ced.

[illegible] Webster's political posi[illegible]on of his first appearance [illegible] where he continued four [illegible]s. Of the various and im[illegible] measures of that period, [illegible]e which occupied more of [illegible]tention of the Government [illegible]ss, than the regulation of [illegible]nances, and prominent in [illegible] were the various plans, [illegible] the establishment of the [illegible] of the United States — [illegible]inistration of that day pro[illegible]ject was a National Bank, [illegible] of fifty millions of which [illegible]lions were to be specie, and [illegible]reated government securi[illegible] Bank, when required, was [illegible]millions to the government. [illegible]h a bank to exist at all it [illegible]norized to suspend specie [illegible] rather, it was to begin by [illegible]ans. It was, in the em[illegible]ge of Mr. Webster, a paper-[illegible]ment, rather than a bank [illegible] a machine for the issue of [illegible] paper. The government [illegible]ve itself from its own debts [illegible] and, by way of compensa[illegible]e the bank from its contracts [illegible] The bank was to be founded [illegible] on the disc[illegible]edit of the treasury, & the [illegible] treasury [illegible]iched out of the insolvency [illegible] of the ban[illegible] Poverty was to be its main [illegible] source of [illegible]pply, and bankruptcy itself [illegible] a mine of [illegible]h[illegible]stible wealth This [illegible] [illegible]passed the Senate, and [illegible] the House, mainly, it [illegible] [illegible] the exertions of Mr. [illegible] Webster, a new project, conformable to his views, consisting of a specie-paying bank, with a less capital, was immediately adopted, and passed through both branches of Congress, Mr. Webster and his friends voting for it, but vetoed by the President, on the ground that it was inadequate to meet the exigencies of the country.

In the debates upon this and other subject of finance, agitated in the thirteenth and fourteenth Congresses, Mr. Webster bore a conspicuous part; and his speeches were characterised, not by vigor and terseness of style only, but by sound and statesman-like sagacity, and profound knowledge of the true doctrines of public economy. What was then novel opinion, requiring to be enforced with all the reach of mind, and happiness of illustration, and eloquence of language, of which he was master, has now come to be settled axioms of the plainest and most indisputable truth.

Mr. Webster, it is known, voted against the act of 1816 incorporating the present Bank He opposed the bill, it would seem, because of the large capital it proposed, fifty millions; because of the power it gave the President to authorize the suspension of specie payments; and because of the introduction of government directors into the business of the bank. On two of these points, his opposition was successful; but in respect to the third, the bill passed unaltered; and the evil consequences of that provision we have seen strongly exemplified in the recent political history of the institution.

While Mr. Webster was thus assiduously cultivating the profession by his labors in which he lived, in the winter of 1820 and 1821 a Convention of the people assembled in Boston, to revise the Constitution of Massachusetts. It combined, to a degree quite unexampled, the talent, wisdom, and character of that ancient Commonwealth. John Adams, venerable by his years, and yet more by the weight of honors and inspiring recollections accumulated on his head; Joseph Story, the accomplished Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, Chief Justice Parker and Judge Wilde of that of Massachusetts; with others of the prominent judicial officers, landholders, merchants, and lawyers, resident in the State, met on that occasion. Among these great minds, Mr. Webster's, if not the greatest, was yet that one which, by his habits of business and of [illegible]tre to it year by year as its acknowledged head.

We do not propose to enter at any length into the history of Mr. Webster's forensic triumphs in the State Courts of Massachusetts. Its upper tribunals, its leading advocates, and its judicial writers possess, throughout the Union, ample reputation for learning, eloquence, integrity, and wisdom. To stand well among them is in itself high praise. To stand first, if it be not the highest professional and social eminence, is yet such as any man might be proud to attain. — but the life of an advocate in the State Courts is one of laborious study & anxious efforts, confined chiefly to objects of local or limited consequence, and displayed on a comparatively narrow theatre. The fruits of his midnight toil are spred through books of reports, which lawyers only read. His eloquence, though it be spoken to listening crowds, yet for the most part passes away with the occasion, leaving but the memory behind it of the winged words & burning thoughts which awakened the admiration of the hour In the twenty years that Mr. Webster has practised in the Courts of Massachusetts how many are the occasions wherein his logical mind, his acute perception, his accurate judgment, his comprehensive forecast, his nervous, dignified and impressive eloquence, his felicity of illustration have, enlightened, instructed, and charmed, in the appropriate field of his professional labors at home, less conspicuously but not less superlatively, than upon the broader stage of the councils & courts of the nation! Some two or three specimens of this are preserved in the published volumes of his orations and speeches, to which we refer those, who would study in print a model of terse and manly jury arguments.

Cotemporaneously with his entering into practice in Massachusetts, Mr. Webster also appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington. Of this exalted tribunal, the highest in our country, and the highest in any country, (because no where else is there a judicial body, whose function it is to expound the Constitution and fundamental laws of a great people, and of twenty four component peoples,) it scarce becomes us to speak at all, and it is impossible for us to speak in any terms commensurate with the dignity and elevation of the subject. Least of all is it needful, here in the capital of the Union, where the mild dignity, gravity, and profound wisdom, of Chief Justice Marshall himself, the very impersonation as it were, and incarnate representation of the spirit of justice, and where the profound ability and learning of his dignified associates, are so familiar to the minds and the memories of men.

Mr. Webster opened his long career of pre-eminent distinction before this high tribunal in the great cases of Dartmouth College, turning upon the inquiry how far a State Legislature is competent to exercise authority over the chartered rights of individuals or corporations, under the provision of the Constitution of the United States which guaranties the integrity of contracts. No cause could have been more appropriate to the situation and capabilities of Mr Webster. He was called upon to advocate and enforce a great principle of public right and national justice. *His* was to defend his own Alma Mater, the seminary where he gained his youthful instruction; the spring head in whose vivifying waters he imbibed the elements of knowledge; the temple of learning at whose holy shrine he kneeled to pour out his first aspirations after the great, the beautiful, the good, in principle, in taste, and in doctrine. And most nobly did he fulfil his mission. That argument, addressed to so august a court, devoted to a topic of such permanent and pervading interest, pronounced in the hearing of so many rapt listeners, and uttered, indeed, from the high rostrum to the universal ear of the whole nation, fixed Mr Webster forever on the same great level with the master-minds of the American forum, the Dexters, Pinkneys, and Wirts, who have contributed to render the bar of the Supreme Court illustrious. We shall not follow him, however, any further in the field of his professional efforts in this Court, which has so frequently since echoed the deep tones of his manly voice, and borne witness to his exalted juridical powers It is time we should pass to other topics of more apt application to our present purpose.

At the same period, Mr. Webster began to tread a new path to usefulness and honor in the composition of a series of brilliant addresses adapted to public occasions of deep and general interest. There is no Sate in the Union where literary cultivation is so generally distinctive of public men, and none where so many calls are made upon them for elaborate discourses of a miscellaneous character, addressed to great popular audiences, as in Massachusetts. On the recurrence of the two hundredth anniversary of the landing of the pilgrims at Plymouth, December 22, 1820, Mr. Webster was invited to deliver, on the spot, an address commemorative of the great event. It was worthy of the man, the place, and the cause. Its profound political reflection, its heartfelt and soul-stirring patriotism, its terse, vigorous, and yet rich style, caused it to be thrillingly impressive in the delivery, and gave it unparalleled circulation as a printed discourse. Mr. Webster was equally happy on the next great festival of the same nature, in which he appeared before the public. It was on occasion of laying the corner stone of a monument designed to mark the scene of the battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1825 fifty years after the great day, when, amid conflagration and blood the drama of the American Revolution was opened to the world. Mr. Webster stood towards the foot of the hill, where our fathers received in their blazing lines the charge of their foemen. In front of him, on the brow of the hill, sat Lafayette, and a noble array of the survivors of the battle, surrounded by an immense multitude of persons, covering the hill side to its summit, and stretched out over this great natural amphitheatre with the heights and harbor of Boston on the one hand, and those of Charlestown and Cambridge on the other infusing thronged memories of the past into ever mind, as if the spirits of the immortal dead were starting up from the sod, to hallow and glorify the scene; and here, amid such objects, he delivered a discourse, which, in matter, manner, and accompaniments, stamped impressions on the soul of every one of those thousands of hearers, only to be effaced by *the fingers of Death.* And, while upon this part of our subject, we briefly allude to another most powerful and masterly discourse of *Mr. Webster, pronounced* the year following in *Faneuil Hall,* in eulogy of the characters and services of Adams and Jefferson. These three orations belong already to the classical literature of our language. In the study of the scholar, and the cottage of the farmer, the old read them with delight and instruction: in our schools and colleges, the young recur to them as the oracles of political wisdom, and in the recitation of their chosen passages, mould the boy to the destinies of the future patriot and statesman.

Meantime, Mr. Webster had begun to re-tread anew his old theatre of honorable usefulness, as a member of the House of Representatives, elected to represent the city of Boston in the Seventeenth Congress His appearance in the House was distinguished by a motion for the effective recognition of the independence of Greece by the appointment of a public agent to represent the United States in that country; which he supported by a speech of perhaps, more extensive celebrity than any which he has ever since delivered in Congress. In it, he entered into an elaborate and most profound view of the politics of Europe, which attracted great attention abroad, and caused it to be translated and generally read in almost every language of the European continent. This speech is observable as one of the few, in which Mr. Webster has entered largely into questions of foreign politics; and it abundantly shows that, if he less frequently discusses this topic, it is not for any want of intimate acquaintedness with our transatlantic relations. In the same session, Mr. Webster joined in the discussion on the tariff, which then occupied so much of the public attention; and his speech is remarkable as having settled, once for all & forever, the question of exchanges and balance of trade, which previously thereto, were perpetually thrusting themselves, in one vague shape or another, into debate, but have since been hardly heard of in Congress.

Mr. Webster continued to represent the city of Boston in the House until 1826, when he was, by universal consent, placed in the Senate of the United States. He had visibly earned this distinction as well by his general weight of character and intellectual power, as by his able services in the business of his constituents and country in the House. For, while no man was more capable to adorn and illustrate a popular subject, and while his various speeches in the House on miscellaneous topics, as the Panama question for instance, are fine examples of oratory in debate; he was more noiselessly, but most usefully, employed in the serious and toilsome cares of the committee-rooms and of the business legislation of the House. We may cite, for proof

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