EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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The Naval Supremacy of England.

From the period of the overthrow of the naval power of Holland by Great Britain in the time of Charles the Second, down to the war with the United States in 1812, the supremacy of England on the ocean was tacitly admitted. DE RUYTER and VAN TROMP, the last of the great Dutch Admirals, close the list of distinguished naval captains in Europe, save the names of those who illustrate the maritime annals of England. Cape St. Vincent and Camperdoun, Copenhagen, Aboukir and Trafalgar, recal the signal victories which again and again prostrated each rising effort of the Continental powers to contend against the overwhelming mastery of British seamanship. The trident came, at length, to be regarded as the undisputed property, the emblem of supremacy, of the island Queen.

With this idea firmly established in the world, the war of 1812 broke out between the United States and Great Britain. It will not cause much surprise, perhaps, although the fact may be new to many, that our Government was with the utmost difficulty induced to allow our ships of war to go to sea at the beginning of hostilities, dreading to enter into naval contest with Great Britain. Our frigates were to be laid up in the harbor of New York, at which point an attack was expected, & converted into batteries, for the defence of that city. Mr. C J. INGERSOLL, in his forthcoming *History of the war of* 1812, gives an interesting detail of the particulars relating to this subject. We find extracts from some sheets of the work in the New York Courier.

It appears that immediately upon the declaration of war, Captains BAINBRIDGE & STEWART went to Washington to solicit commands, and there learned to their infinite surprise that the national ships were to be kept safe in port, instead of being exposed to what was regarded as unavoidable capture at sea. The narative goes on thus:

"Bainbridge and Stewart remonstrated with the secretary of the Navy against its suicide, by the hands of its own commander-in-chief. The Secretary listened kindly to their appeal, but told them that the thing had been settled, on full consideration, in cabinet council. The frigates were to be laid up in the harbor of New York, their guns taken out of one side, the other side to be fixed as to be rendered water-batteries, to be manned by their crews, & commanded by their own officers. Stewart and Bainbridge explained to the secretary why they were convinced our ships were superior to the English, and would eight times out of ten capture them in equal combat. They were so urgent that the secretary, unable, indeed not inclined, to refute their arguments, offered to take these gentlemen with him to the Presidential mansion, there to repeat what was deemed so clear and so important. Mr. Madison listened with the greatest attention to all they had to say; candidly and anxiously weighed it. Eight times out of ten, sir said they, with equal force, we can hardly fail; our men are better men, better disciplined; our midshipmen are not mere boys, only fit to carry orders, but young men, capable of reflection and action. Our guns are sighted, which is an improvement of our own the English know nothing of. While we can fire cannon with as sure an aim as musketry or almost rifles, striking twice out of every three shots, they must fire at random, without sight of their object or regard to the undulations of the sea, shooting over our heads, seldom hulling us, or even hitting our decks. We may be captured, and probably shall be, even after taking prizes from them, because their numbers are so much greater than ours. But the American flag will never be dishonored, seldom, if ever, struck to equal force.—The nation can loose nothing but vessels, and a few lives dearly sold.

You will give us victories then you think said the President, inclining to their advice. We do, sir, most confidently, and not upon irrational premises. Which victories, he added with animation, will give us ships; for with victories Congress will supply them faster than they can be lost. Such too, said he, recurring to the lessons of the Revolution, was the case in that war, when notwithstanding a greater disparity of force than now, and much greater desparity of all nautical equipments, our officers and men proved themselves equal to the English. Encouraged by this reception, Bainbridge & Stewart persevered so strenuously with Mr. Hamilton in another interview with him, that he told them the President had resolved to hold a cabinet council that evening to reconsider the matter, and they were desired to come to the Secretary's residence and wait there till he returned from the council to apprize them of the result. At a late hour he did so, informing them that no change had taken place, but the vessels were to be laid up and used as harbour defences. Mr. Gallatin was inflexible against sending the ships to sea, with all his preponderant influence in the administration where he had been accustomed to rule by Jefferson's high estimate of his abilities for any subject, naval, military, financial, commercial, foreign or domestic; and Mr. Gallatin's mistake was nearly that of the whole community. The merchants almost to a man, labored under absurd impressions of English nautical supremacy, prevading the seaports and most of the Atlantic States, that it was not only in the greater number of ships and seamen the English excelled the Americans, but that British seamen were superior beings, transcending all others, with whom Americans man to man, and ship to ship, still less in squadrons or fleets, would have less chance than the Dutch, Venetians, Spanish, or French. In the most popular national song of that day, which was always sung in full chorus at the repeated celebrations of our naval victories, not only the preposterous language, but the deep rooted sentiment of the inhabitants of our seaboard was, that although the "sons of Columbia would never be slaves, while the earth bears a plant or the sea rolls its waves," yet "the trident of Neptune must never be hurled to *incense* the *ligitimate* powers of the ocean." Those ligitimate owers by divine right and that popular prejudice which is the basis of that righ', were the English mariners, against whom the judgment of at least the maritime portion of the United States, coinciding with that of Mr. Gallatin, was, that in a war undertaken for the redress of flagrant wrongs by sea, it would be folly to trust either a vessel or a man there, except in the predatory and irresponsible cruises of private armed vessels.

To such adventures Bainbridge & Stewart resolved to have recourse if their prayer for permission to take public ships of war to sea should be unheeded. Stewart had built a privateer called the Snapper, eventually commanded by Captain Peregrine Green, and captured as soon as she cleared the Delaware capes. In that privateer, if denied authority to go forth in frigates, these gentlemen proposed to seek their fortunes in the ocean, serving each in rotation as captain or first officer. It was not with them, therefore, matter of mere national character: nor were they mere youths to be moved entirely by puerile or unselfish considerations. They wanted fortune as well as fame, livelihood besides distinction. If the navy was laid up they saw their occupation gone for all advancement and all acquisition. Impelled by these strong motives to sturdy remonstrance persevering after the Secretary of the Navy had announced to them the confirmed resolve of the executive to order all the ships of war to be laid up, Captains Bainbridge and Stewart occupied most of that night in composing a joint letter to the President, strongly setting forth reasons why that resolve should be rescinded. That letter has been lost, perhaps burnt in the conflagration of the public buildings at Washington, possibly not deemed proper for the public eye, as it stated advantages of the American navy, which though now known to and participated by the English, were then exclusively American. Among these were not only the superior discipline, seamanship, and ardour of our seaman burning with passion to take vengeance for oppression, but several material improvements one of which alone proved decisive in the naval engagements of that war.

Their joint composition of that anxious night was couched in such plain language that when presented to the Secretary of the Navy next morning, he objected to it as too strong for communication to the chief magistrate, and advised them to soften its terms. But as it was with them an affair of subsistence, involving livelihood as well as reputation, they insisted on its being submitted without alteration. Diffident as Madison was of his own judgment at all times, especially where he was not familiar with the subject, and having long felt Mr. Gallatin's aptitude for almost any subject, the president was the man of his own administration, nevertheless, most resolved, as in duty bound, to carry into full effect the act of congress declaring war.—After, therefore, candidly, wisely and ingenuously weighing the manly remonstrance against his own deliberate and twice considered determination, he yielded to the wishes of the two captains who were told in another interview the same day, by the secretary of the Navy likewise gratified with the result that the President would assume the responsibility of over-ruling the judgment of his cabinet and ordering the ships to sea.

It cannot be shown that any order to lay up the frigates in harbor was given by the executive: but it is certain that such a determination was formed and instructions imparted for the order, which was prevented merely by the timely remonstrance of Bainbridge and Stewart. To risk the ships of war at sea was more than government thought wise. And the first capture of an English by an American frigate, an event the effect of which was prodigious throughout Europe and America—and may have consequences of still greater magnitude than yet experienced—that capture was made, if not in breach of orders, at least contrary to the timorous calculations of the navy department. If Mr. Hull had not hastened to sea and taken the Guerriere before his countermand reached him at Boston, he would not have made that capture, if indeed any such would ever have been made at all.

The glorious victories which followed are familiar to the whole country;—they will never be forgotten. When the GUERRIERE went down under the Guns of the CONSTITUTION, all Europe, at first incredulous, then exulting, hailed with joy this new champion of the West, as the bold assertor of the freedom of the seas. From the force of that blow England has not yet recovered. It was an ominous stroke, portending the future downfall of that supremacy with which she has so long scourged the ocean. The charm of her naval invincibility was broken forever. A new star beamed forth, its rays pointing to a glorious fulmination, before whose radience her own must "pale its ineffectual fire."

From the Charleston Courier.

REMARKABLE FACT IN NATURAL HISTORY.—Maj. Jno. Pillers, a farmer of great respectability in this country, informed me that while he lived at his father's in Missouri, some twenty years ago, a buzzard (is not this bird the real vulture?) was taken alive, having gorged itself over a carcase to such a degree as to prevent its flying—its weight being too heavy for its wings; when he, together with his father, brother, and a neighbor, with a small shoemaker's awl, *ripped open its eyes so that no part of the ball of either remained.* The head of the bird was then put under one of its wings in which position it remained a few minutes, when, to the surprise of all, it gradually relieved its head from its wing, shook itself as if to arrange its disordered feathers and reappeared with two good sound eyes, free from blemish and possessing in every degree the power of vision. This seemingly cruel experiment was repeated with the same bird on different occasions, in the presence of different persons, fifty times, and always with the same result, and not the least injury appeared to have been occasioned by it. After the lapse of a few months this bird flew away to its accustomed haunts. I have mentioned this fact to several persons who, though they had "never seen the like," expressed no surprise or doubt of its truth, but replied that they had always heard that the down from the inside of a buzzard's wing was a cure for blindness in horses, and one man remarked that he cured a most inveterate case of approaching blindness in himself by it. He procured the down, spread it on a bandage, applied it to his eyes and recovered.

In corroboration of Major Pillers' statement, whose deposition is hereto subjoined I can state my own experience on the subject. Travelling, some three years since, on the American bottom, I staid part of a day with a friend of mine, whose stepson had the day before taken a half-grown buzzard—so soon as I saw the bird, the statement of Major Pillers came fresh upon my recollection, and as I had always been incredulous, I was determined to put it to the test of experiment and accordingly mentioned the fact to the young gentleman who had the bird, & desired him to operate upon it. Having no sharp pointed instrument at hand other than a common pin, with that he punctured one of the eyes, and all its lustre instantly disappeared. The head was then placed under the wing of the bird, where it remained a few minutes only and when taken out, the eye had resumed its usual brilliancy, appearing as sound as the other, with not a speck upon it. In this experiment, it is true, the eye ball was not ripped open—the, operation seeming too cruel to have my participation, but, as far as it goes, it serves to inspire belief in the statement of Major Pillers.—And why should there not be a healing virtue in the down of a buzzards wing?—No man can say why not. Do we know whence those animal, mineral and vegetable substances, resorted to for the cure of all malades, derive their healing powers? The fact that certain substances possess such qualities has been ascertained by experiment, and until that infallible test has disproved the efficacy of the down no one can say it will not cure blindness.—And why should not the Buzzard have the the power to reproduce its eyes? There are many mysteries in nature that we shall never be able to fathom. It is a mystery than an acorn can develope itself and become an oak; that an unsightly worm can, in a short time, become a most beautiful fly; in short, the whole world is but an open volume of mysteries, which all wonder at, but few can unravel. It is true too, that—

"There are more things in Heaven & earth
Than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

We know that many insects and reptiles have the power of casting their old skins every year, and appearing in an entirely new one; that the common *house spider* gets a new skin and a new set of legs every year; and that, if you pluck off one of its, legs, it will, in two or three days, have a new one in its place. The shedding the teeth and reproducing of the nails in the human species are certainly remarkable, and would be so considered, were they not of daily occurrence. Upon sober consideration, it cannot be regarded more wonderful that a buzzard should have the power to reproduce its eyes, than a spider its skin and legs, a horse his teeth and hoofs—our species their teeth and nails, or a deer his antlers. They are all remarkable phenomena of animal philosophy, and cannot be accounted for on any known principles.

The fact stated in the conclusion of the deposition, relative to the bald eagle, has not, I venture to say, arrested the attention of any one. Who would believe that the feathers of that bird *cannot* be plucked out? The idea of *feathers* and *plucking* are ever associated, yet you cannot get those of the bald eagle without taking the skin with them—unless perhaps, through the agency of some chemical application, of which we "far west in the backwoods," know nothing.

SIGMA.

DEPOSITION.

"I, John Pillers, a citizen of Randolph county, Illinois, do depose and say, that I am the individual alluded to in the above communication, and that the facts stated therein, so far as I am concerned, are true in every particular. The experiment of ripping open the buzzard's eyes, during the time we kept it, from February to May, was repeated, I dare say, fifty times; and once, at a log rolling, ten times in one day. An old African negro, belonging to Mr. F. Valli, Sr., of St. Genevieve, named, Joseph, (though supposed to be upwards of one hundred years old,) first told me of it, and I have tried it frequently since on different buzzards, with the same result. This same negro told me that the feathers could not be plucked out of a bald eagle. This is true. You may try it in any way, and scald it, and you cannot *pull out a feather.*

Signed, JOHN PILLERS.

Deposition taken before

Signed, JAMES HUGHES, J. P.

GOLD MINE.—It is not often that we enjoy the exquisite luxury of a leisure day. Such a one did however present itself last week, which we improved by a visit in company with a friend, to the Vaucluse Gold mine, now owned, and worked with eminent success, by our enterprising fellow citizen, William K. Smith, Esq. This mine lies just beyond the precincts of Spotsylvania, in the county of Orange: and is perhaps worked with more skill and efficiency than any other in the United States. If the quantity and richness of its ore do not constitute it the very heart of the mining region of Virginia, the magnificent scale upon which its operations are conducted certainly entitles it to this distinction.

As the visitor emerges through a tortuous path, from the thick shrubbery which has sprung on every side, since the pruning hand of Agriculture has been directed to other pursuits he comes at once upon a village most respectable in size, and quite romantic in appearance. The various work-shops, cottages of the managers and cabins of the laborers, all neatly white washed, present not only an aspect of business, but of beauty, which we little expected to find. The main building is situated in a bottom, upon a small creek, which supplies the water necessary in the process of reducing the ore. All the machinery is propelled by an engine of 120 horse power, which was imported from England. The mode of obtaining the metal from the ore seemed to us so wonderful, that we can scarcely refrain from attempting an elaborate detail of the whole process; a task which we feel our inability successfully to perform, and which we know had better be omitted, since most of our readers are more familiar with the subject than any one can be, from a single visit. Six Chillian Mills are in constant operation, day and night, and a large number of *Stamps*, for reducing the coarser ore, are in frequent use, though we had not the pleasure to witness their Herculean labors.

The pits whence the ore is obtained are but a few rods distant. Some of them are 50, 60 & 70 feet in depth, yet no bottom has yet been found to the rich viens of ore some of which start from the very surface; and, as far as present researches go, these veins seem to be endless, as well as bottomless. Indeed the whole region unquestionably abounds in the "pewter" in some shape, more less temptingly diffused. A simple experiment with the mortar and the washing pan, will always determine whether any given formation, or dust, will justify the labor of reducing it. From these pits over one hundred hands are constantly employed in raising the "dead earth" and ore.—*Fredericksburg Recorder.*

The London Mining Journal gives a brief description of the gigantic Locomotive Establishment at St. Petersburg, Russia, organized and directed by Messrs. Harrison & Eastwick, formerly of this city, in conjunction, we believe with Mr. Winans, of Baltimore. It characterizes it as "the most extraordinary as well as gigantic Commercial Establishment which can be found in the history of the world, ancient or modern."

This establishment was called into operation to supply the large number of Locomotives required for the great chain of railroads which the Emperor of Russia has directed to be constructed, (Major Whistler, a Bostonian, being Chief Engineer,) and it is so huge in dimensions that three thousand five hundred operatives are employed in it. To keep order in this mixed mass of Americans, English, Scotch, Irish, Germans and Russians, a company of soldiers is kept on duty in conjunction with a police force whose duties are confined to the works. If the operatives are refractory they are discharged, unless there happen to be Russians among them, and when they offend against the discipline of the place, they are immediately tied up to the triangles, soundly flogged and sent to work again, and this practice is continued notwithstanding Messrs. Harrison & Eastwick have strongly appealed against it.

When a man presents himself for employment at this establishment, his name is not asked, but he is presented with a medal having on it a number. In the pay house are 3500 wooden boxes, and when the laborer presents himself on Saturday night for his money it is given to him and the medal taken from him as a receipt.—This medal is dropped into the box corresponding to its number and a new medal is given to the laborer as a pledge of employment for another week.

It is interesting to hear of the operations of our own citizens in distant places. It seemed almost like a wild adventure when the large establishment of Messrs. Harrison & Eastwick in the city was broken up and removed to Russia, but we felt no fear of the ultimate success of the enterprizing gentlemen to whom the adventure was given in charge.

They had many obstacles to encounter and the work of ordering and disciplining the army of men necessary to be employed was of itself no light or trivial matter. The preparation of machinery necessary to carry on the work and indispensible in the manufacture of certain parts of the Locomotive, must have been a laborious and anxious part of the undertaking but a strong determination, a perfect knowledge of the business, and the countenance and generous support of the Autocrat have enabled them to surmount all obstacles, and move on in the steady regularity of a well ordered, supplied, and arranged establishment.—*Phila. U. S. Gazette.*

Gen. Gaines.—We have private letters from New Orleans which give much more detailed accounts of the proceedings of Gen. Gaines, with regard to anticipated hostilities with Mexico, than have yet been spread before the public. He is unquestionably creating a great deal of trouble, involving the Treasury in vast expense, disturbing the minds and destroying the business of many young men in the Southern States, and in a great variety of ways, doing a great amount of evil, and all without the slightest cause.

In his conversation upon the subject we are told he talks *wildly*. He is known to have said that unless *fighting* grows out of our present troubles with Mexico, *he fears he shall never again see an active campaign:* and wishes, and intends, to lead 40,000 men to the city of Mexico! This personal ardor, however admiral and praiseworthy in a veteran soldier, must, not be allowed to plunge us into unnecessary war, and under the circumstances the Executive could do no otherwise than to disavow his proceedings. We trust he has before this taken measures to check them and to remedy the evil they may have caused.

Another letter from New Orleans says that to hear the General talk, one would suppose he was planning another Campaign of Austerlitz. "I am daily hearing," says the writer, "of young men who have abandoned their regular situations of business to enroll in the volunteers he has called for; and to-day, one who has actually given up a clerkship of $1000 per annum for the station and rank of *Corporal!* Yesterday he reviewed one of these recruited or rather recruiting Regiments, with a brilliant Staff, and made a ridiculous speech to them. There were a number of fine & respectable young men in the ranks, whom I looked upon as regular victims to the unnecessary excitement—but the largest portion were the greatest looking loafers and rowdies, who have joined for the sake of obtaining bread and clothing. They were of all sizes and nations, and had all kinds of clothes, many without hats, shoes, stockings, coats or vests—regular Fallstaff's men—"food for powder," food for powder, and well calculated to fill a ditch."

"I heard, to-day that he had written to the *Texan* government calling on them to embody 3000 volunteers for the service of the U. States! It is so much in character and accordance with his mode of talking, & the authority I derived it from so good, that I have little doubt of the fact."

Another letter states that Gen. Gaines had ordered, one of the Colonels of the new Regiments to go on and *uniform* his recruits and that the United States would pay for it! The Governor of Louisiana is also issuing commissions to captains and subalterns, all of whom are exerting themselves to fill up their respective commands. Gen. Gaines has said positively that he had made requisitions on all the States lying on the Mississippi, between New Orleans and the Ohio River!—*N. Y. Courier.*

Postponing a Duel—The New Haven Herald says that a correspondence is now going on between two gentlemen of Boston which began ten years ago with a challenge. Mr. A., a bachelor, challenged Mr. B., a married man with one child, who replied that the conditions were not equal that he must necessarily put more at risk with his life than the other; and he declined. A year afterwards he received another challenge from Mr. A., who stated that he too had now a wife and a child, and he supposed therefore the objection of Mr. B. was no longer valid. Mr. B. replied that he had now two children, consequently the inequality still subsisted. The next year Mr. A. renewed his challenge, having now two children also, but his adversary had three. The matter, when last heard, from was still going on, the numbers being six to seven, and the challenge yearly renewed.

From the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette.

Grapes and their Cultivation. There is every prospect of a fine "*vintage*" this year—we mean, of course, in the city. Almost every body's grape vine hangs full of fine bunches, now getting colour for entire ripeness. This being so general, (for almost every body has a grape vine, and every body ought to have one, at least,) we need say nothing of grapes generally. But we went yesterday to look at some grapes cultivated by Dr. J. T. Sharpless, in Arch street. The vine had been conducted to the roof of a three story house and had there been stretched along an arbor. The fine exposure to the sun, and reflection of rays from the roof, had ripened these grapes nearly a month earlier than usual. They are now rotting on the vine. This will show any house-keeper, whose premises may be of the smallest dimensions, that a grapevine may be made subservient to his comfort.

But the great attraction of the vine of Dr. S. resulted from an operation which he last year performed upon it, called "enarching." The main stalk of a hardy home grape was conducted to the eves of the house. Here it was cut off, and the end of one branch was shaved down.—The stalk of another vine, a black Hamburg, for example, was cut off, and shaved down, to correspond with the trimmed branch of the main stalk. The raw side of the Hamburg vine was then placed in close contact with the raw edge of the standing stalk, and both were tied tight together, and the edges carefully wrapped up. Another branch of the main stalk was served the same way, with a *white* grape, and these unions were happily productive of the finest issue. White, red and black grapes, may be seen growing on the same vine, and the hardy character of the main stalk insures the naturalized immigrant against the severity of our winters.

In the case of Dr. Sharpless's vine, as we now recollect, the additions did not prove to be of the same kind, the black and white grape, for which they were purchased; but the success of the operation with other varieties of equal delicacy, shows what may be done, and what ought to be done. And when we drink a glass of the pure unalcoholised juice of these grapes we mean to give the toast:

The union of the vines for the sake of the grapes.

Indeed, if we were allowed to moralize upon the subject, we could make a very pretty lesson upon the blessings of early unions, which might not be so pleasing to some of our bachelor readers as the grapes, the fruit of that union, were to us.

COPPER IN VA.—The Rockingham Register says that a mine has lately been discovered in Green county, which bids fair to rival the famous copper regions of Lake Superior. The value of these, may be estimated by reading the following extract from the New York Tribune.

"We understand that the stock of ore of these companies, on which some $20 per share has been paid in, & this more than refunded in a first dividend is now selling at $700 to $800 per share & is considered too cheap at this. Mr. Henshaw the President (late Secretary of the Navy,) values his at $2,500, to $3,000 per share. This valuation is not all guess work, but is based on the fact that the company owes nothing, has a magnificent tract secured, & $200,000 worth of copper on the bank of the lake awaiting transportation to an Eastern Market."

The Register says that large pieces of the genuine copper have been found at the Blue Ridge mine, to which it alludes. In the immediate neighborhood of this, is the Piedmont Copper Mine, discovered many years ago, and which Mr. Jefferson urged the Government to work on its own account. It was surveyed by one of the most eminent Geologists in the United States, who described its value in terms which would seem almost extravagant to those who are not familiar with the extraordinary mineral resources of the State. Surely, if the mines of La Pointe, so many hundreds of miles from market are of such inestimable value, those of the Blue Ridge ought to attract the attention of capitalists and miners.—*Fredericksburg Recorder.*

A remedy for blight in Pear Trees.—A correspondent states that he has found iron ore, or cinders of iron, placed around the roots of trees drives away the insect which deposits the eggs that produce the worm. Having tried this remedy in a sandy soil, and in a stiff soil, and in places distant from each other, and having driven off the insect when the trees of others were very much injured or destroyed in the neighborhood, he advises all those who are troubled by these insects, to try the use of Iron, rather than be under the necessity of continually topping off the limbs, which contain the worm or young insect. He thinks it probable that the iron is unfavorable to the worm, which drops from the branches; and makes its wintering place at the root of the tree, and then the insect avoids an unfavorable place for its young. But whatever may be the theory, it is sufficient that iron has the desired effect.—*Gardner's Gazette.*

Reduction of Fare. The fare on the Annapolis Railroad has been reduced to $1 50 to Baltimore city; $1 75 to Washington; and 87½ cents to and from the Junction.

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