

The Messenger.
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EDITORS.
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FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1897.

SOME OBSERVATIONS.

There are some communities that, like the heathen Chinese, have ways that are "peculiar." If any proposition materially affecting the public interests is submitted for approval or rejection, the first question asked is—not what are the merits of the proposition—what advantage will it be to the community—but, who has made the proposition or who is advocating it, and the answer is met with this reply: "Well, if Mr. A. or Maj. B. is supporting it, then I am opposed to it." He either bristles up and fights it from the go, or he goes at it in a more clandestine manner. He organizes the opposition and is ready for you when the issue comes.

Before and during the last session of the legislature, there was great pressure brought to bear upon it by the newspapers throughout the State demanding some decided legislation for the improvement of the public schools. Responding to that appeal, a bill was passed, making radical changes in the school law raising the State tax from 18 to 20 cents on the \$100; restoring the office of county superintendent (supervisor); dividing the counties into school districts in a different manner, and in order to encourage the levying of local taxes for the extension of the school term, it was enacted that the additional fund raised from the increase in the State tax, estimated at \$50,000, should be distributed to the different school districts (not exceeding \$500 to each) voting to tax themselves as much as \$500.

Now, there are features of this law which may be objectionable, especially the provision changing the school districts, but it is the law and we have no option as to whether we shall accept or reject it. But on the 10th day of August, next, a majority of the qualified voters in each district is to decide whether or not that district will consent to tax itself and get the bonus offered for so doing, and thus extend its school term to four or five months, or reject the offer and get back none of the additional two cent. State tax.

We propose, in a future article, to discuss some of the arguments, pro and con, on this subject. Meantime, let us divest our minds of all blinding prejudices and consider the question on its merits alone. Let us not be guilty of the folly of saying, "this law was passed by a fusion legislature. I am a democrat and I'll none of it." The Pharisees of old had a saying that nothing good can come out of Nazareth, and they therefore, rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Let us not imitate their example, but, like Nathanael, "come and see," for ourselves.

Remember every dollar up to \$500 that any township votes for itself for the public schools, the State will give the same amount for the schools. The State will have it to pay out, too, when called for. The school law is a clumsy one in one particular, and for some remote districts will incur some expense in re-arranging districts. The law should pay the managers of election reasonably and force them to act (barring unavoidable hindrances). Yet, on the whole, it is a good law. The expense of the election must be borne anyway, and we should make the best of it for the sake of posterity. The gentlemen who have served as registrars, regardless of pay, from patriotic motives, deserve much commendation. Others might have served for the same reasons, but it may have been impossible for them to have done so. A man who pays taxes on \$50 worth of property will pay with the special school tax 25 cents, and 30 cents poll; if he pays on \$500 worth of property, he pays 50 cents and 30 cents poll; paying on \$1,000 worth of property, he pays \$1.00 and 30 cents poll, and so on. In either case it will cost a man very little to send one child to school from six weeks to two months more a year.

Stockholders of the Southern Building and Loan Association, of Huntsville, Ala., have been garbled by Milo Abel on a claim of \$2,000 due him by the company. It is stated that the company has a capital of \$1,000,000, and has always met its obligations promptly. The company has, perhaps, more stockholders than any other similar organization in the South, and large amounts being held in all the Southern States. This action will probably precipitate the whole business into the courts.

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THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE OF 1898.
A correspondent asks the Raleigh News and Observer, "What will be the leading issue in 1898?" After saying in twenty-two lines that in the domain of national politics the issue will be the same in '98 as in '96, our contemporary continues:
In North Carolina the issue that will swallow up all other issues will be the determination to rescue the State and its affairs from the hands of ignorant, corrupt or wicked men, who, in a short lease of power, have manifested their unfitness to govern the State or to administer the affairs of the ninety-six counties, which are even more important than the State government. The only portion of the North Carolina government that is to-day free from scandal is the two and a half city governments, which, with a few exceptions, have not passed into the hands of the Republican party and their allies. Hardly a day passes when in this or some other paper in the State, some new scandal is not uncovered to the public gaze, and the end is not yet. In some of the counties it is really apparent that there are no schools. These schools have been brought into the mire of petty political and nothing but the decision of the Supreme Court kept the charitable institutions out of the hands of the men whose only desire was to obtain the offices that were held by competent men.

The legislation enacted, when it was not vicious, was crude and silly. Meritorious measures, as a rule, did not get a decent hearing, and if, perchance, there was a disposition to enact a good law, the ability to properly draft and enact it was often wanting. Its friendship for education was the only ray of light in a night of blackness, ignorance and corruption. The people of all parties stood against the venal and vicious spirit that dominated the Legislature. They have been astounded again and again as law after law that imposes grievous burdens and unheard-of penalties has come to their knowledge. They are shocked every week at the wretched disregard of every principle of decent government displayed by men elevated to power. In many instances, these ten-dollar men in thousand-dollar places, conscious that they will never have another chance at the public crib, have shown their hogghishness and greed in a way to disgust all decent members of their own party.

The people of North Carolina believe in a clean, honest and frugal government, the kind they have enjoyed for twenty years. They are already sick and disgusted with the reign of incompetence, hate and scandal the change of parties has brought, and their wrath is kindling against that day when they can visit vengeance upon the men who have betrayed their trusts, brought shame upon the State, made bankrupt a treasury, and inaugurated a reign of scandal, petty greed and rottenness that even now stinks in the nostrils of the people. In 1896, all men who wanted to restore the State to clean government by just men, rallied to the standard of the Democratic party, then, as now, the only hope of good government. In 1898, unless they repeat the scenes, the incidents and reap the glories of the campaign of 1896.

If on an average one township for each county in the State votes for local taxation for schools, a good beginning will be made. The entering wedge of success is the final triumph. No good thing ever begins except by a minority. When we have been with majorities for good things it was rather easier sailing—more pleasant; but remember, noble persons hardly, if ever, begin with a great majority whooping for them. Christianity has been in a minority during most of the history of the world, and is in the minority yet, the majority of the human race being unregenerate, infidels and pagans. Yet, Christianity will triumph, and every false religion will bite the dust of defeat, and every knee will bow willingly or unwillingly, to the King of kings. So do not fret about being in a minority, if you are, in any good work. Time is too precious to waste paying any attention to false flings of certain others. Do duty and go straight ahead.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.
The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Sold by Morpheus & White, Marion; W. H. Disoway, Old Fort.

Eclipse of the Sun July 29th.
Our people will have an opportunity of observing an eclipse of the sun on Thursday morning, July 29th, which date, shortly before 8 o'clock in the morning, the earth will enter the moon's shadow. It will be 10:30 before the eclipse is finally over. Three-fourths of the sun's disc will be obscured—a larger obscured segment than has been observed in any eclipse for many years.

Free Pills.
Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of constipation and sick headache. For malaria and liver troubles they have been proved invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Beware of cheap imitations. Sold by Morpheus & White, Marion, and W. H. Disoway's, Old Fort.

THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION
North Carolina Stands Next to Foot in Illiteracy.
THE LOCAL TAX ELECTION.

Blessed With Every Natural Advantage, North Carolina Only Needs an Intelligent Population to Place Her Where She Rightfully Belongs—Corn Cracker on the Situation.
I have written an article or two in a rather humorous vein in regard to the educational tax, on which the people are called to vote in August.
In all seriousness I regard it as a move in the right direction. North Carolina stands next to foot in illiteracy. And this in view of the fact three-fourths of her population are white. Even in States where the negroes outnumber the whites a larger per cent. of the population can read and write than in the Old North State. This forces the unwelcome admission that the whites of our sister Southern States are much better educated than we, and even the negroes lead us. I tell you something is wrong under these conditions. We have the shortest public school terms of about any other State in the South, have from five to six months, while we have about three. We can never have a school till we are willing to pay for it. The next lowest rate of local taxation to us is in South Carolina. She pays 14 per cent. Massachusetts pays 95 per cent. of her school fund by local taxation. We pay 1 per cent. We can never hope to be an educated people while such is the case.

Holy Writ informs us that people cannot hear without a preacher and that he cannot preach unless he be sent. I interpret that, sending part of it, to mean he must be sent by the sending. A teacher must be paid, or he will go to a more inviting field. Twenty-five dollars a month three months in the year will not hold a good teacher when he can get from \$50 to \$75 per month for five or ten months in a favored locality. A man sees more vanity and taxation before the educated pale face, while Columbia is still the gem of the ocean and Old Glory is still floating over the land of the free and the home of the brave.
No backward step will be taken in this fight, and I hope all our State will rally to the support of a cause that will do much to hasten the advent of the reign of peace with healing in his wings. With our forest and mineral wealth, we need an intelligent population to place North Carolina where she rightfully belongs.

CORN CRACKER.
Cherry Mt., N. C., July 14, '97.
WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.
For the Week Ending Monday, July 19th, 1897.
The week ending July 19th has been one of the most favorable of the season. Fine showers occurred on several days, which were nearly general over the State, only five or six counties still suffering from drought. All crops have improved. Cotton is very vigorous and the only complaint is that it is somewhat smaller than the average. Cutting and curing tobacco is now beginning also in the central district.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—Nearly all reports received indicate that the past week has been exceptionally favorable. Genial showers, with moderately warm days and plenty of sunshine, have caused a general advance in crop conditions. The nights have been a little cool, but not sufficiently so to damage cotton. There is, however, one section in the southern portion of the district, including Duplin, Perdue and Brunswick, where almost no rain has yet fallen, and corn is being cut short. In general, crops are flourishing. Cotton is very good; it is a little late in blooming in north portion, where it is being plowed for the last time. Corn is about laid by; it has improved, though it will be short; bottom land corn is fine. Tobacco has improved greatly and cutting is pretty general in the eastern district. Sweet potatoes fine; apples ripe; melons abundant. Strawberry plants are being set out.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—The past week has been an exceptionally favorable one; the drought has been broken in all counties which were suffering and local showers have occurred throughout the district. The nights have been a little cool. All crops made good progress during the week. Corn is tasselling low, with small stalk, and the ears are still comparatively late by chinchbugs; but the damage crop has improved materially, and much of the early crop is safe. Cotton, though still smaller than the average, is very vigorous and blooming and boiling. Prospects for tobacco much improved; farmers topping it; cutting and curing has just begun in this district. Oats all cut. Wheat threshing continues. Sowing turnips has begun.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—Drought still prevails in Surry and Alleghany counties, and over limited portions of a few others, but in general the past week has been very favorable, with good rains and moderate temperature; in fact, the nights have been quite cool in the northern and mountain portions of the district. Too much rain occurred in Mitchell county and portions of others, and some lowlands are too wet to plow. Crops are doing remarkably well. Cotton is perhaps still a little small, but is blooming nicely. Corn is about laid by; it is small in stalk and tasselling rather low, but is looking well. Some complaint of chinchbugs still. Sweet potatoes very fine. Wheat threshing continues. Good stand of peas and many being planted.

NEWS OF THE STATE.
Several cases of small pox are reported from Birmingham.
The large family from Brazil with \$200,000 in gold will settle in Alabama.
Snow storms were prevailing in all the higher portions of Colorado Tuesday.
Miss Winnie Davis has been invited to attend the Logan monument ceremony in Chicago.
There has been a satisfactory rainfall throughout India. The extent of relief work will now be reduced.
Minister to Spain Woodford is directed to press the claim of Mrs. Ruiz for \$75,000, which is but half of the sum originally demanded.
Governor Taylor, of Tennessee, has appointed Thos. B. Turley, a lawyer of Memphis, United States Senator, to succeed the late Senator Harris.
President McKinley, it is reported, will notify Spain that unless the Cuban war ends October 1, he will recognize the Cubans as belligerents.
Dr. W. L. Ryder, who, on Easter Sunday a year ago, bravely shot to death the sweetheart who rejected him, was lynched at Columbus, Ga., Monday night.

The exports for the past fiscal year reached the highest figure in the history of this country. The total was \$1,297,997,938, compared with \$852,606,928 in 1896. The excess of exports over imports was \$287,613,186.
John H. Bradberry, the young California millionaire, and his wife have been reconciled. The millionaire's wife eloped a few weeks ago with Russell Ward, an Englishman, who has a wife and family living in England.
As a result of the work of labor agitators, men in four of the largest coal mines in the southern part of West Virginia may join the miner's strike. The wives of Pennsylvania miners are urging their husbands to fight rather than starve.
Wind, rain and lightning united in creating havoc in Baltimore Saturday. Houses were unroofed, trees broken down and splintered, electric light circuits burned out, cellars flooded, trolley cars damaged and local weather records broken.

Fairview, Senator Gorman's farm, near Laurel, Md., has produced this year the enormous crop of 3,000 bushels of wheat from 100 acres. The Senator sold 2,500 bushels of his crop as it came from the threshing machine at 72½ cents a bushel.
One who has investigated declares that the city directory of Washington City contains 40 George Washingtons, seven Martha Washingtons and 19 Mary Washingtons. "The bearers of these names vary in color from a light gingercake tint to an ebony black that rivals the ace of spades."
The American Baptist Home Mission Society and the American Baptist Missionary Union have, thanks to John D. Rockefeller's \$200,000 gift, succeeded in paying off their joint debt of \$486,000. Rockefeller's gift was contingent on the two institutions raising from other sources an equal sum. Nearly 5,000 persons subscribed.

The famous Broadmoor casino, the \$100,000 pleasure resort of Colorado Springs, burned to the ground Monday morning. It was one of the handsomest buildings, devoted exclusively to pleasure, in the West. The loss will be \$100,000 to Broadmoor Land and Improvement Company, and \$100,000 to Kappler & Miller, of Denver, the lessees.
The prize offered by the Southern office of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad of \$25 for the largest watermelon grown in the South this season was presented to President McKinley yesterday. The weight of the melon was seventy-eight pounds, was forty-eight inches in circumference, and grown by Mr. J. B. Rowan, at Sparks, Ga., a station on the Georgia Southern & Florida Railroad.

A dispatch from Topeka, Kan., says: "It seems incomprehensible that Kansas farmers are appealing for help to save their wheat, offering as high as \$2 a day for day-laborers, while the State is swarming with tramps who refuse to work. But that is the condition now. Thousands of acres of wheat are still in shock because farmers cannot get help to stack it. Tramps swarm along the railroads, but they refuse to go to work. The people in the town and country, however, have organized against them, and refuse to give them food. The women slam the doors in their faces when they come to their homes begging for something to eat, and tell them to go to the fields and work, or starve."
Reports of a great gold discovery in Alaska have caused intense excitement, particularly in the Western States, and large numbers of people of all classes of society are making a mad rush for the new Eldorado. A Seattle, Wash., dispatch of the 18th, says: "The excitement over the Kloyndyke mines is on the increase and hundreds of people are preparing to sail for Alaska. The steamer Portland, which brought down over \$1,000,000 in gold, is on her return trip, and will be crowded to her utmost capacity. Inspector Strickland, of the Canadian mounted police, who came down from the Portland, says: "When I left Dawson City about a month ago there were 800 claims staked out and there were between 3,000 and 4,000 people there. We can safely say there was about \$1,500,000 in gold mined last winter. The wages in the mines were \$15 a day and the saw mill paid laborers \$10 a day." Wages for all sorts of labor are now fabulously high, as is the case on every boom camp, but placer diggings are notoriously unreliable, and there is no telling how long it will last."

NEWS OF THE STATE.
Items of Interest from North Carolina
SUICIDE OF MRS. W. J. COCKE.
The Wife of the Ex-Governor of Asheville Takes Her Life in a Fit of Temporary Insanity—One of the Greatest Silk Manufacturers in America to be Moved to Greensboro—Sad Death of a Bride-Kidnapper's Approaching Relief—Other News.
A. B. Stephens, one of the largest merchants of Rutherfordton, has failed.
It is stated that Governor Russell and Major Hiram L. Grant have "barred the hatchet."
Ex State Senator Carver, of Cumberland, has been arrested charged with moonshining.
The Charlotte Observer says that J. M. Mullen is to be postmaster at Charlotte and W. S. Clanton is to be assayer of the mint.
The railway commission met at Round Knob Monday to assess railway property for taxation. It will be in session all week.
A Greensboro contractor tells the Record that 196 houses have been completed within 60 days or are in course of construction in Greensboro.
It is stated that H. A. Gudger has been selected for the place of consul general to Panama and that the appointment will be made early in September.
It is said that Dr. H. B. Battle will establish a phosphate factory at Winston, and that Prof. Irby, late of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, will be associated with him.
In Charlotte, last week, John Austin, 12 years of age, by stabbing him with a large sewing awl, Austin was held for murder without bail and is now in jail.
The Wilmington Messenger says that a party of gentlemen who left there Thursday afternoon for Southport to go out to sea on a fishing expedition, came back with between 1000 and 1200 fish.
A 3-year-old colored boy fell into a ditch in Charlotte Saturday afternoon and was drowned. The ditch was partially filled with water from a rain and the child was washed under a culvert.
Asheville aldermen have decided to adopt central time—the standard now used by the Southern Railway on most of its divisions. Beginning Monday, Asheville's city clock will mark the hours in accordance with this standard.
Durham Sun: Mrs. Carr and the three younger boys are enjoying the ocean breezes at Morehead, Col. Carr is at Pikes Peak, Rocky Mountain, J. S. Carr, Jr., is touring through Canada, Mrs. Flower (nee Miss Lida) is spending the summer in or near Boston, while Miss Lilla Ruth still lingers in the Orient and Europe.
Salsbury Sun: The train No. 12, west bound, on the Western North Carolina railroad reached a point about three miles beyond Asheville Friday afternoon, the engineer discovered a large boulder lying dangerously near the track. He was moving too fast to stop, and as the train passed the steps on the right side of the train crashed into the boulder and tore all of them off on that side, excepting the rear sleeper.
Atlanta Constitution: It is announced in the North Carolina papers that one of the greatest silk manufacturers in America is to be moved from Patterson, N. J., to Greensboro. This means an investment of a million dollars there in a plant. It means the employment of 1500 operatives and nearly \$1,000,000 a year to be distributed for wages. The product is sold chiefly in the North and middle West; so the money which the industry makes will practically all come into the South from other sections. This move is the direct result of the Southern Railway's industrial department.

An Elkin correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says, under date of the 19th: Wednesday last was the day set for the marriage of Miss Beatrice, daughter of Dr. John L. Smith, of Sparta, and Prof. Olin P. Ader, principal of Wilkesboro High School. The expectant groom went over to Sparta Tuesday and found his prospective bride very sick in bed. Wednesday dawned bright and fair, but the marriage was not any better. The bride was not any better. The marriage took place, however, the bride being in bed when the ceremony was performed. Thursday night, at 12 o'clock, the "mortal soul of Beatrice Smith Ader" took its flight homeward, leaving the bride broken-hearted, desolate and broken-hearted. The remains were interred Saturday at Sparta. The bride was a graduate of Salem Female Academy, and was a very highly cultured young woman.

The Citizen of Monday contains an account of a distressing occurrence in Asheville Monday evening—the death of Mrs. Minnie L. Cocke, wife of ex Mayor William Johnston Cocke, from a self-inflicted wound. She left a letter to her husband, bidding him an affectionate good bye, and giving directions as to the arrangements for her funeral, selecting the pall bearers as well as the flowers for the casket. Mrs. Cocke was Miss Minnie Shawhan Lyne, of Cynthia, Ky., and a member of a prominent Kentucky family. She married Mr. Cocke on the 23rd of September, 1896, in the Christian church at Cynthia. Dr. J. A. Watson, one of Mrs. Cocke's physicians, gave it as his opinion that Mrs. Cocke was suffering from uraemic poisoning, a condition that is occasionally accompanied by symptoms of acute insanity, and that it was while in this condition that she committed the deed. Dr. J. A. Burroughs, another of the physicians, concurred with Dr. Watson in this statement.

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SUICIDE OF MRS. W. J. COCKE.
The Wife of the Ex-Governor of Asheville Takes Her Life in a Fit of Temporary Insanity—One of the Greatest Silk Manufacturers in America to be Moved to Greensboro—Sad Death of a Bride-Kidnapper's Approaching Relief—Other News.
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In Charlotte, last week, John Austin, 12 years of age, by stabbing him with a large sewing awl, Austin was held for murder without bail and is now in jail.
The Wilmington Messenger says that a party of gentlemen who left there Thursday afternoon for Southport to go out to sea on a fishing expedition, came back with between 1000 and 1200 fish.
A 3-year-old colored boy fell into a ditch in Charlotte Saturday afternoon and was drowned. The ditch was partially filled with water from a rain and the child was washed under a culvert.
Asheville aldermen have decided to adopt central time—the standard now used by the Southern Railway on most of its divisions. Beginning Monday, Asheville's city clock will mark the hours in accordance with this standard.
Durham Sun: Mrs. Carr and the three younger boys are enjoying the ocean breezes at Morehead, Col. Carr is at Pikes Peak, Rocky Mountain, J. S. Carr, Jr., is touring through Canada, Mrs. Flower (nee Miss Lida) is spending the summer in or near Boston, while Miss Lilla Ruth still lingers in the Orient and Europe.
Salsbury Sun: The train No. 12, west bound, on the Western North Carolina railroad reached a point about three miles beyond Asheville Friday afternoon, the engineer discovered a large boulder lying dangerously near the track. He was moving too fast to stop, and as the train passed the steps on the right side of the train crashed into the boulder and tore all of them off on that side, excepting the rear sleeper.
Atlanta Constitution: It is announced in the North Carolina papers that one of the greatest silk manufacturers in America is to be moved from Patterson, N. J., to Greensboro. This means an investment of a million dollars there in a plant. It means the employment of 1500 operatives and nearly \$1,000,000 a year to be distributed for wages. The product is sold chiefly in the North and middle West; so the money which the industry makes will practically all come into the South from other sections. This move is the direct result of the Southern Railway's industrial department.

An Elkin correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says, under date of the 19th: Wednesday last was the day set for the marriage of Miss Beatrice, daughter of Dr. John L. Smith, of Sparta, and Prof. Olin P. Ader, principal of Wilkesboro High School. The expectant groom went over to Sparta Tuesday and found his prospective bride very sick in bed. Wednesday dawned bright and fair, but the marriage was not any better. The bride was not any better. The marriage took place, however, the bride being in bed when the ceremony was performed. Thursday night, at 12 o'clock, the "mortal soul of Beatrice Smith Ader" took its flight homeward, leaving the bride broken-hearted, desolate and broken-hearted. The remains were interred Saturday at Sparta. The bride was a graduate of Salem Female Academy, and was a very highly cultured young woman.

The Citizen of Monday contains an account of a distressing occurrence in Asheville Monday evening—the death of Mrs. Minnie L. Cocke, wife of ex Mayor William Johnston Cocke, from a self-inflicted wound. She left a letter to her husband, bidding him an affectionate good bye, and giving directions as to the arrangements for her funeral, selecting the pall bearers as well as the flowers for the casket. Mrs. Cocke was Miss Minnie Shawhan Lyne, of Cynthia, Ky., and a member of a prominent Kentucky family. She married Mr. Cocke on the 23rd of September, 1896, in the Christian church at Cynthia. Dr. J. A. Watson, one of Mrs. Cocke's physicians, gave it as his opinion that Mrs. Cocke was suffering from uraemic poisoning, a condition that is occasionally accompanied by symptoms of acute insanity, and that it was while in this condition that she committed the deed. Dr. J. A. Burroughs, another of the physicians, concurred with Dr. Watson in this statement.

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