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SPEECH OF PRESIDENT DAVIS, TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI.

On the 26th day of December, President Davis delivered an address before the Legislature of Mississippi, a sketch of which we find in the Jackson Mississippian. We select the most important portions:

After a complimentary allusion to Mississippi and her soldiers, the President spoke of his love for the old Union. He alluded to it, however, as a matter of regret, that the best affections of his heart should have been bestowed upon an object so unworthy—that he should have loved so long a government which was rotten to its very core.

He had predicted from the beginning a fierce war; though it had assumed more gigantic proportions than he had calculated upon. He had predicted war not because our right to secede was not an undoubted one and clearly defined in the spirit of that declaration which rests the right to govern upon the consent of the governed but the wickedness of the North would entail war upon the country. The present war waged against the rights of a free people was unjust and the fruit of the evil passions of the North. In the progress of the war those evil passions have been brought out and developed; and so far from uniting with such a people—a people whose ancestors Cromwell had gathered from the bogs and fens of Ireland and Scotland—a people whose intolerance produced discord and trouble when ever they went—who persecuted Catholics, Episcopalians and every other sect that did not subscribe to their bigoted and contracted notions—who burnt witches and did a thousand other things calculated to make them forever infamous.

The President was emphatic in his declaration that under no circumstances would he consent to re-union.

He drew a glowing picture of the horrors of war, and the ravages of the enemy; and while tears flowed for those who suffered, yet all these would be endured, cheerfully, before our manhood and our liberties would be surrendered.

The War upon Northern Soil.

He alluded briefly to his desire to transfer the war upon Northern soil, but the failure to do this proceeded not from a want of inclination but of power. We were not an old established nation, with armies and navies at our command. These had to be improvised from the scanty materials to be found within the limits of our own Confederacy. We were blockaded and cut off from other nations, and everybody knows that we had been an agricultural people, and that our facilities for manufacturing materials of war were extremely limited. Notwithstanding this fact, patient to the most casual observer, we had now an army, larger than ever before—our arms and munitions of war were increased in number and improved in quality, and we were in a better condition to day than we were twelve months ago.

The Conservation and Exemption laws were then touched upon, and the necessity of the one and the intention of the other explained. He thought there might properly be a revision of the latter, and trusted there would be no conflict between Confederate and State laws on the subject of the military.

Indigent Families—Reserved Corps.

The President expressed his gratification at the message of Governor Pettus, and cordially endorsed his views in reference to making provision for indigent families, and the enrollment of exempt, who could be ready upon an emergency to go forth and occupy the trenches, while the disciplined and active soldiery could take the field.—The calls for such service could be for thirty, sixty or ninety days, and when the emergency had passed they could return to their pursuits. Raw soldiers, the President contended, could do efficient service in the trenches, and the adoption of such a policy would strengthen our means of defense quite materially.

In his allusion to the vast numbers of the North, the President said that upon any fair field we were willing to fight them two to one; we have often whipped them three to one; at Antietam Gen. Lee whipped them four to one. But this might not be the case always. As the enemy progressed in discipline, they approached nearer to our own troops in efficiency. Hence the necessity of providing something like a corresponding force to that which the enemy are bringing against us.

Stragglers.

The President denounced in terms of scathing but dignified rebuke the habit of straggling from the army. He invoked public opinion to frown it down, and called upon the women to drive the stragglers back to duty.

Fill up the Ranks.

He urged the necessity of filling up the thinned ranks of our regiments. The veterans who had gone through many hard fought battles looked for their kindred at home to supply the places which had been made vacant by the death of their comrades. A brigade which mustered only twelve hundred men, would have to bleed as much as if it had its full quota of 4,000.

Their ranks must be filled; humanity demands it. It was a time for patriots to throw off the shackles of private interest, fly to the rescue of those heroes whom the ravages of war had yet spared, and consecrate themselves to the most sacred cause on earth.

The Real Danger.

The President remarked that when he arrived here he thought the enemy were pressing down upon us from the Northern borders of our State, but when he went to Grenada he there learned that nothing could be seen of them, but their backs.—They were going back, perhaps with the intention of reinforcing the heavy column that was now being thrown down the Mississippi river. The real points of attack were at Vicksburg and Port Hudson; and to all who desired to lend a helping hand to the country in her present exigency he would say, "Go to Port Hudson and Vicksburg without delay!"

Necessity of Harmony—Permanent Military System.

He spoke of the salutary effects of harmonious action between the several States and the government at Richmond, and urged upon legislators, both State and Confederate, the necessity of establishing a permanent military system, for even after the present war was ended we might expect trouble from our enemies unless our military establishment was of such character as to give them a wholesome fear of precipitating a war upon us. The true theory was to adopt a military system which would be permanent and operative in times of peace.

The Question at Issue.

The issue involved in this war was no ordinary one. The question is will you be free, or will you be the slaves of the most depraved and intolerant and tyrannical and hated people upon earth? This was the real question to be decided. Every thing else was as dust in the balance. A people who had demonstrated their utter incapacity for self government, who have destroyed their own liberties in the vain effort to deprive us of ours, seek to be our masters, and inflict upon us such galling chains as have no parallel in the annals of tyranny. Mississippi is the object of their peculiar hatred; upon her it is to be visited their refined vengeance. But our cause is just and vengeance belongs to the Lord! We will resist the power of the enemy.—Discard all other considerations but the public defense, and victory will again be ours.

Aspersions of the Administration.

The President alluded very briefly to the falsehoods which had been circulated relative to the Administration, which he could not disprove, because such a disproof would give the enemy a knowledge of things which the good of the cause required to be concealed from him. That he had committed some errors he did not doubt, though they were never the result of improper motives. For a vindication of himself from the aspersions of some of his fellow-citizens, he confidently awaited the time when the cause would not suffer from such vindication. He however, explained the great necessity of public confidence in the officers of the government, and pointed to that great and good man, Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston, as a shining example of the ill effects of withholding that deserved confidence which the public welfare requires.

Duration of the War.

Though the war had somewhat exceeded his expectations yet he never doubted our final success and he considered it now as absolutely certain. The duration of the war was a question of time. He thought however it was not possible for a war waged upon such a tremendous scale to be protracted. Be it long or short however we could not be the first to cry "hold enough!"

Vicksburg.

The President paid a deserved tribute to Vicksburg. That noble little city had withstood the shock of the combined fleets of the enemy after the great cities of New Orleans and Memphis had succumbed to their supposed invincibility. The heroic women of Vicksburg had cried out give the enemy the soil of it cannot be defended but let him have nothing else. The Governor left his chair and repaired to the scene of danger, and refused to listen to any advice except of defiance to the concentrated power of the enemy.

We are better prepared at Vicksburg now than then. Our defenses are greatly improved and strengthened. Our armaments are much improved. We have better armies, and that gallant soldier (Gen. Johnston) is pouring in reinforcements.—He comes to Mississippi to protect and defend her. (Immense applause.)

Recognition—Foreign Nations.

To the question of recognition and intervention the President devoted only a few words. We had a right to expect recognition long since but it had not come and his advice was: "Put not your faith in princes; rest your hopes in foreign nations." It seemed that England still refused to take any steps toward either recognition or intervention. France had made a move that looked friendly to us and when she extended the hand of friendship we would be ready to grasp it.

No Retrogradation.

The President took a brief retrospective view of the movements of our armies since the fall of New Orleans—an event as unexpected to him as it was to us,—and showed that we had not retrograded, but had gathered largely in strength. Armies are not made up in numbers only. We have now an army that we can safely rely on.—We have whipped gunboats of their terrors. We have improved in all those things which go to make us invincible. Our prospects are much better than they were twelve months ago.

Two objects of the Enemy.

There are two grand objects of the enemy: 1st, to get possession of the river, and thus cut our Confederacy in two, and secondly, to seize the Confederate Capital, and hold it to foreign nations as an evidence that the Confederacy does not exist.

The President dwelt at some length upon the vast importance of thwarting the enemy's designs upon this valley he considered its defense a necessity not only to the people here, but to the Confederacy itself. Vicksburg and Port Hudson were points that must be defended, and every effort must be strained for this purpose.—Vicksburg, he said, would stand, and Port Hudson would stand, if the people were true to themselves. This done, the North west would grow restive and cease to support a war ruinous to them and beneficial only to New England contractors. From the Northwest he looked for the first gleams of peace.

Cheered by his Visit.

Although his duties required his presence elsewhere, yet when he heard of the sufferings of his own State, and her danger of subjugation by a vandal foe, his feelings dragged him to her soil. He goes back with a lighter heart. He finds none of that depression which was reported. At Grenada he found the army sorry that the enemy had gone back. At Vicksburg they were ready and eager for the fray.—Depression existed only among that class of men who were constitutional grumblers and fault finders. He goes back cheered, but still anxious for his heart is here—his attachment to the State has risen since the war began, and he can see dangers though he believes the greatest have passed.

The Trans-Mississippi Department.

On the other side of the river our prospects are brighter than ever before, and ere long he hoped that he would be enabled to proclaim Missouri free. Kentucky, too, was an object of solicitude to him, and he spoke of her gallant people in the kindest and most commendable terms.

Our Cause in the Ascendant.

The President laid particular stress upon the encouraging fact that we had improved in every respect since the war began. Our armies were superior in number, and improved in quality and appointments. Our manufactures had made rapid progress; Mississippi alone had clothed and subsisted the whole army upon her soil. Our people had learned to economize. They were homespun. He felt like taking off his hat to a woman dressed in homespun. He had an unflinching belief in the justice of our cause, and a profound reverence for the decrees of Heaven. He noticed with evident satisfaction the superior morality of our army to that of the invader. In God and the valor of our troops he trusted.

A Speech from Gen. Johnston.

After the cheering had subsided Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was vociferously called for. The scarred hero looked a little nervous while the House rang with loud swelling and prolonged applause. He arose and said:

"FELLOW CITIZENS: My only regret is that I have done so little to merit such a greeting! I promise you, however, that hereafter I shall be watchful energetic and indefatigable in your defense."

This speech was greeted with tremendous, uproarious and prolonged plaudits. Evidently Gen. Johnston possesses the unbounded confidence and esteem of Mississippians.

Had Occurrence.

At an early hour on Friday morning the 11th inst our community was shocked by the startling intelligence that Mrs. L. A. Wilson, wife of W. M. Wilson, of Bush Hill, Randolph County, N. C., had committed suicide by cutting her throat with a razor. The facts in the case, as they have come to light are as follows:

The husband, Mr. Wilson, being well, and two children lying one upon his death-bed and the other very low, two young ladies of the neighborhood had come in to spend the night and assist in taking care of the sick. About 4 o'clock in the morning they all lain down to sleep except Mrs. Wilson, who remained by the bedside of her sick child. In about an hour Mr. Wilson awoke, and in seeing his wife called her several times, and receiving no answer commenced searching for her and about 6 o'clock found her in an out-house near his dwelling, wetting in her own blood, with the instrument of death lying by her side. The parent had, a few days before, buried a very interesting boy about two years old, and at the time she committed the deed another lovely little boy about five years old was lying at the point of death, and died in a few days after.

It is supposed that these troubles falling so suddenly upon one so tender at heart, caused momentary insanity, under the influence of which the deed was committed.

An inquest was held over the body of the deceased, and a verdict returned in accordance with the facts above stated.

The deceased was a young woman about thirty one years of age, beloved and respected by all her neighbors and acquaintances, and almost worshipped by her husband. She was in the strictest sense of the word, a loving wife and an affectionate mother.

Ex-Gov. Morehead's Speech

We regret that we have not space for the whole of the speech of Ex Gov. Morehead of Kentucky, delivered by him in Liverpool on the 9th of October. It has however been published where it was more needed the whole of it appearing in the Liverpool "Mercury." The following is its concluding portion. It will be seen that the Chairman of the meeting declared that the sufferings of the Confederate States were amply recompensed in the permanent fame with which they have replaced the slanders to our discredit with which the world has been filled.

Speaking of Lincoln's attempt at emancipation Gov. Morehead continues

He claims this power in one of two ways—either under the constitution of the United States or as an exercise of the war power. Well he would hardly claim it under the Constitution of the United States. Will you allow me—it is a very short extract—to read what Mr. Webster said on that subject. He was making a speech at Richmond, Virginia, and he said—"I hold that Congress is absolutely precluded from interfering in any manner, direct or indirect, with this as with any other of the institutions of the States." (Cheering, and a voice from the crowd exclaimed, "we wish this could be heard from Maryland to Louisiana, and we desire that the sentiment just expressed may be repeated—"Repeat, repeat.") "Well, I repeat it; proclaim it on the wings of all the winds, tell it to all your friends—(cries of 'we will we will')—tell it, I say, that standing here in the capitol of Virginia, beneath an October sun, in the midst of this assemblage, before the entire country, and upon all the responsibility which belongs to me, I say that there is no power, direct or indirect, in Congress or the General Government, to interfere in the slightest degree with the institutions of the South.—That is the Government under which we lived; that is the Government that I wanted to perpetuate, that I desired to see continued, united, upon that basis, according to the true meaning of the Constitution, which was the bond of Union between us. Well, under the Constitution then, he has no power. Then, let us look at it as a war power. You will remember that in 1812 there was, unfortunately, a war between Great Britain and the United States. That war continued for nearly three years. At the close of the war a treaty was made at Ghent. Mr. John Quincy Adams, father of the present accomplished minister from the United States to the court of this country, was one of the negotiators on the part of the United States, with Mr. Henry Clay, Mr. Boyard and others—five of them. By that treaty Great Britain stipulated to deliver up whatever private property had been taken. The question then came up whether the slaves that had been taken by Great Britain should be delivered up under that treaty. It was resisted. There was a difference of opinion between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Adams, the minister then at the Court of St. James, and they agreed to refer it to the Emperor of Russia. I am not now arguing whether it is right or wrong, but I want to show what has been the settled policy of the United States.

Mr. Adams writes that he had an interview with Lord Liverpool in which he presented to him the argument that slaves were private property and not subject to be taken, and that Lord Liverpool did not object to the argument. When it was referred to the Emperor of Russia, he writes to Mr. Madison, who was our minister at Russia, to the effect that private property was not subject to capture and could not lawfully be taken with the place. "With the exception" he says, "of maritime captures, private property in captured places is, by the laws of nations, always respected.—None can lawfully be taken." I will not read the whole of it, but just mention the principle in the conclusion of his letter.—"The principle is, that the emancipation of an enemy's slaves is not among the acts of legitimate war. As relates to the owners, it is a destruction of private property nowhere warranted by the usages of war." That is the doctrine of the United States. That doctrine was sanctioned by the Emperor of Russia, who decided the contest in favor of the United States upon the principle so broadly laid down by Mr. Adams.—So that I show you Mr. Webster, and I could show you five hundred other Northern men who have admitted the same thing, that there is no power under the Constitution, and no war power, and that the act of Mr. Lincoln is in violation of the law of war, as expounded by the civilized world; Maryland is a part of the United States; Delaware is a part; Kentucky has never seceded; Missouri is a part. All these States have slaves, and Mr. Lincoln, in his proclamation, proposes that if they will send members of Congress to the National Legislature slavery shall remain there—that he will not abolish it there. It is not, therefore, because he is opposed to slavery that he would abolish it; it is as a punishment to individuals. Well, so far as regards that there is another great principle recognized by all courts of justice—that wherever a country is taken possession of by an enemy, the allegiance of the common people of that country is absolved for the time being wherever protection is not extended. The United States has decided it in six different cases. Castine was taken in 1812. We had laws against the importation of foreign goods, and especially from Great Britain, but the citizens of that place after it was taken traded with this country, and introduced a large amount of goods, and at the close of the war they were brought before the courts of the United States for violating the non-intercourse laws.

The judges unanimously decided that as

the goods were imported at the time that the United States laws could not be enforced there the places being in possession of the British Government and the British troops allegiance and protection were correlative terms and that these individuals who had imported goods during that period were in no manner liable for a violation of the States. The same thing has been declared here by statute 11 Henry VII. After the long wars of the Roses they felt it necessary to embody what was a common law principle in a statute which provides that you may obey the ruling monarch whether he is rightful monarch or not and in so doing you are not liable for a violation of the laws of the realm at all. Yet the Federalists attempt to confiscate the whole of the private property not slaves only but all the private property of those citizens who are bound to obey the law of the Confederacy under which they live receiving no protection from the United States.

They confiscate their property, and declare their slaves free. Such an act of despotism is not to be found on the record of any civilized nation or the world. (Hear, hear.) There are many other things, my friends, that I might say to you, but I deem it unnecessary. I have already talked more than perhaps I ought—(cries of "No, no")—but my heart is deeply enlisted in this thing. I have in my own person felt the despotism of this Northern Government. It is a matter of very little moment to the world, or to you, or even to the community in which I live, how a single individual may suffer from despotism, but the infringement of the rights of one individual is but the sanction for a like atrocity to be perpetrated upon every human being that comes under the influence of such a Government as that. I was seized at two o'clock in the night in my own bed, dragged from it and from my family, without a moment's warning and carried across the Ohio river in defiance of the writ of *habeas corpus*. The soldiers took me and ran me by night, by special train, to Indianapolis. One of the judges of the supreme court sent a marshal with a *habeas corpus* to bring me back, but I was carried by a special train to Columbus, Ohio. There I was kept awhile, and afterwards I was carried on to New York, and hurried to the prison of Lafayette. And here I desire to say that I cannot well conceive of any horror more dreadful than that which was experienced in that prison. It has a small court in much larger than this room for exercise.—Thirty-eight of us were placed in one room, five 32-pounder cannons occupying one portion of the room, which was sixty six feet in length and twenty-two feet in depth. The floor was a brick floor, so damp that your boots would be covered with green mould every morning. They gave me 14 lb of straw to sleep on, generally weighed about half rotten. It was placed in a very coarse tick, 1 am, without my shoes, 6 feet in height, and the bed measured four feet seven inches—actually measured by a member from Maryland, Mr. Sangston.—We had one very dirty tin cup to drink out of, and the water we drank was filtered not with animalcula, but with millions of tadpoles. We had to hold our noses when we drank, and strain every drop of it.—We were locked up at six o'clock at night, and kept till six next morning without any natural convenience whatever, suffering the agonies of death. I remember, if you will allow me to tell it—I dislike to follow Mr. Lincoln, but there was an old man brought from Kentucky upwards of 70 years of age. His head was as white as snow.

I never saw him before, but I was amazed to see him, and seeing that he was from Kentucky I went up and addressed him. A friend had sent me some liquors and I asked him if he would not like to have a little whiskey or brandy, and he said yes, it was the only time in his life that he felt that a good dram would be of service to him. So, as is very commonly the case here, he took the bottle and poured out a very heavy drink. [Laughter.] He drank it off without mixing it with water—we had purchased glasses at that time to drink after and he saw the tadpoles. He set it down again shaking his head, and said he could not stand it, and walked away; but the brandy burned him so much that he came back and took it up, and held it between the light of the sun and himself, and soliloquizing, said "Well tadpoles, if you can stand it, I can, and drink it off." [Laughter.] He made a compromise with the tadpoles. We wrote a letter to Mr. Lincoln signed by every individual who was in the fort, telling him of the horrors of this prison, stating that we did not pretend to discuss the rightfulness of our imprisonment, but that we supposed we were entitled to the common rights of human beings. The result of that was, that in about a month we were taken to Fort Warren. They put us on a vessel to be taken there by sea. The Captain told me himself that the vessel was calculated to take about 250 persons, and they took 1,100. We were 50 hours in making the voyage, and all that was given us to eat during that time was a piece of raw fat barrel pork, perfectly raw, about the size of my hand, and I saw the poor soldiers eating that raw meat. We had furnished ourselves with something better, but could not feed them all with that little we had.

We were placed afterwards in Fort Warren upon the naked floor without bed or blanket or anything—not a wisp of straw even; and there in that condition we had to remain until we supplied ourselves with such things as we needed, buying ourselves beds, and being allowed by a very kind and humane officer, Gen. Dymick—who I believe is a thorough gentleman and who did all he could to alleviate our condition—being allowed by him to employ a cook and to buy provisions we lived very comfortably there. This gentlemen is my experience. I trust that the time is not far distant when these things are to cease. [Hear, hear.] I think that

the South has shown that she intends no small circumstances and in every continuing to maintain her independence. [Loud cheers.]

It is not for me, it is not for an American, it is not for a citizen of the Confederate States to ask Englishmen to recognize us; but it seems to me that there is coming up a solemn appeal to the bosom of humanity, as well as of justice, that the time has come when we ought to be recognized among the nations of the earth. I do not ask for such recognition. I have no official position; I am a mere wanderer and an exile. It is for every nation to determine for herself. It is for the people of England to decide—it is for the Government of England to decide, without any interference whatever on our part. We perhaps are not good judges. We feel that we are not; but we think that enough has been shown to the world to convince them that we intend, that we can, and that we will be independent.—[Cheers.] The Governor concluded by thanking the gentlemen present for the attention with which they had listened to him, and returned to his seat amid loud cheering. Rising, again, he said he was reminded by a gentleman that an order came to Fort Warren whilst they were there forbidding them to employ counsel, it being stated by Secretary Seward himself that the mere fact of employing counsel would be a sufficient cause for continuing them in prison.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Governor Morehead having been moved and seconded, The Chairman said—It has been moved and seconded, and I am sure will meet with an unanimous response on the part of all of you, that the thanks of this meeting should be tendered to Governor Morehead for the instructive and deeply interesting address which he has just delivered to us. It needs nothing to be said by me to rivet in your minds the striking facts he has just put before us. As to the question of the war power which has been alluded to and discussed, there is no such thing known in modern warfare

Amongst brave and honorable nations there is no such thing known as the right of assassination, or of inciting assassination. All powers when at war with each other are inclined to take any unusual step or extraordinary measure to consider what it may be and no man for one moment can expect upon this proclamation without having his mind immediately drawn to the probable consequences of such a measure if defective in any degree.

In my own mind I can only liken it to that description of warfare which consists in the poisoning of water, but I am sure it will be a sufficient cause for Gen. Morehead, in reflecting upon the hardships he has gone through and to all Southerners present, in reflecting upon the sufferings which their country has passed through, to reflect that a great and permanent good and gain will remain through all future time, of which this has been the cause.—There cannot be a doubt on the mind of any Englishman here present that the South as a people were unknown to us a few years ago.

They are unknown to us now. (Hear, hear.) We were apt to judge of them by books, many of them romances which had produced an impression upon the public mind. The men of the South were described as idle and luxurious races; the women of the South as effeminate, and still more idle and luxurious; but the manner in which they stood forth to fight for their rights the success which has attended their efforts, and the manner in which the women as well as the men have vindicated the blood and the name from which they descend, I think will have raised them to an elevation on the map of the nations of the world, which will be worth even the terrible cost of the hardship and suffering which they now endure. (Applause.) Nothing more is necessary on my part, for I feel quite sure that you will all cordially respond to the motion.

The motion was carried by acclamation and the meeting separated.

"DISAFFECTED" RANGOLF.—In a late publication, by Capt. Garrett, of the contributions to our troops, it is stated that the 62d regiment of Randolph, Col. Worth, contributed at one time 224 yards of wool cloth, 35 blankets, 23 shirts, 13 pairs, 19 drawers, 3 towels, 1 vest, 116 pair of socks, cash \$2,200. The clothing was contributed by the people within the bounds of this regiment. Let these are the people who are said, by the Raleigh Register, to be "disaffected" to the government. These are the people who, in the opinion of the Richmond Enquirer, are not "patriots." That paper wants the "patriots" of the State to speak out against the "disaffected" in our midst. Let that paper look to its own State. There are thousands of traitors in Virginia to one in North-Carolina.—Standard.

Gen. Van Dorn in his attack on Holly Springs, Miss., captured over twenty three hundred prisoners and paroled them, and destroyed over three million dollars worth of Federal property, burnt one thousand bales cotton, captured the Yankees, took a thousand army revolver, five thousand stand small arms, five hundred horses and made a large amount of other property. He did not go to Memphis, as was being reported, and having no other business, returned at 4 o'clock in the evening, and was met at his residence by a large number of his friends, which was very necessary in their line of communication. His force did not exceed twenty seven hundred and fifty men.

JEFF. THOMPSON.—This famous partisan fighter has been captured again. He fled to Gen. Douglas's lines, and was captured by Gen. Seward's troops, and is now in the hands of the Federal authorities.

Gen. Sherman's Estimate Seminars.—The following is a list of the names of the persons who have attended the Seminars, held by Gen. Sherman, at the Beeson Hotel, Greensboro, N. C., during the present week.

For a admission apply to RICHARD STERLING, Greensboro, N. C.

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