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ALFRED MARKHAM,

Manager

THE SEMICWEEKLY SUN ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 28, 1898

THE CONSERVATISM OF CHRIST-

MAS. (From Saturday's Daily Sun.)

would have been impossible any number of wise necto invent or deliberately establish a festival like Christ Such a machine creation would have failed in universality and could not have preserved its freshness and vigor through succeeding generations. out growing weary of it. We do nearly the same things and say almost the same things every time, and yet are not conscious of monotony in the routine. In nothing are we more conservative than in this observance. The Christmas greeting preserves its ancient form. The stocking is not exchanged for a boot or a hat. The Christmas tree appears again again and no one dares to suggest a substitute. Santa Claus, bringer of gifts to the last generation, brings them to the boys and girls of today, and will bring his burden to their children and their grand children The forests of the North ray be disinherited of deer, but Santa Claus will always have his team of that breed, No changes in architecture, not even can alter his route of travel, or bring him into the house otherwise than by the roof. Who believes that any daily life could ever produce a shaven

Santa Claus? In our childhood these charmi fictions were absorbed. When the shades of the prison house close abo us the illusion becomes a half truth and disappears. Not the less we enhe fancy in minds that have become too marrow to receive it. So it has been, so it is, so it will

While the old look on the festival with calmer and duller vision, to them as to the young it tells the same story. the it has long borne one meaning for those who observe it. The day of gladness and of bounty, takes us back to the greatest gift that the world ever got, and to the tidings of great

We could not conceive of a Christ. mas based on the doctrine of settmas based on the ordinary preservation, or even on the ordinary natural law of trade. Suppose a day were set apart for the gratification selfishness, a day in which it wo be customery for every one to acqu all he could, a day for sharp barge all he could, a day for sharp bergains, for extra efforts to get ahead at the expense of others, a day in which the rich would take from the poor, in which parents would demand much, from the children and would give them as little as possible, a day of grinding toil, of disputings and bitterness, of hardship and oppression, a day without those delights signified by the Christmas box, the stocking, the tree. mas box, the stocking, the tr the turkey and the pudding. But that the world with all its selfishness could celebrate this spirit. Whatever its conduct, it has kinder ideals.

A TEA TAX.

The Canadian trade appears to be settling down to the idea that a tes duty is impending. This is an ever recurring suggestion and one which has usually been received by the importers with no strong marks of disfavor, The tax on tea is a favorite tariff for the genuine tea trade. It protects no home industry. It is always paid by the consumer. It is an easy tax to collect and can be easily made to yield a million and a half of revenue. The removal of the tea duty was quite in harmony with the principles underlying the national policy. The restoration of the tax would be in exact harmony with the recent statement of the minister of customs that under the present government the first purpose of the tariff is rev-

The tea tax is a level contribution by the people. The poor pay as much of it as the rich and probably more. Having a smaller variety of luxuries the working classes drink more tea. and having less nerves they drink it gained in this way five of ten years stronger. The larger importers do rot object to the tea tax. They know that the people will not abandon their tea because of five cents increase in the price. They understand that the importer will continue to get his profit on the investment for tee, and that he will get a profit likewise on the investment for duty. They perceive tetween each country and the rest of that an all-round specific duty will the world is rapidly changing. The keep out the very cheap goods, which Edinburgh Scotsman and the New are largely imported by cheap deal- York Sun have each been discussing ers. It requires more capital to carry

the wealthier houses would stand to gain some trade by the change.

But the fact remains that if the government raises \$1,500,000 by restor-ing the tea tax, the people, poor and rich alike, or the poorer more than the richer, will have to pay the money A pound of twenty cent black tea will probably pay the same duty as a pound which sells for two or three times as much. The country farmer and the town laborer will pay his one dollar and fifty cents a year, the same as the capitalist. This is the unfair ness of a specific tea tax. At present the government fairly

claims to have a great income. Revenue is rolling in faster than ever it did before. Mr. Fielding had a big surplus last year, and expects a larger one this year. We may assum that he does not propose to add to the taxes. If a tea tax is imposed som other tax should be removed. Or perhaps Mr. Fielding will impose a duty on tea in order that Mr. Mulock may reduce Canadian letter postage to two cents. A tea tax of four cents would more than meet the loss and the taxpayer would be left to calculate whether he would rather pay one cent more on his letter or five cents more for each pound of tea. For we ma assume that the four cents paid a the custom house would mean at least five cents to the consumer.

But the tea tax has et been imposed. This is the first or second or third time that the alarm has been raised. Heavy stocks were brought into the country in 1897 in anticipation of a tea tariff that never came. It is no likely that the dealers will load up cuite so heavily again. If they do the result will probably be the same as when the finance minister, finding that the tea duty could yield nothing for some time to come, turned his attention to other commodities Yet a scare of this sort leads to speculation, so that there are some gainers and some losers even though the gov ernment takes no action. Even a mild share tends to increase purchases swells the import returns, and make present business at the expense of the

BALANCE OF TRADE IN MODERN PRACTICE.

The expert and import conditions of the abolition of stoves and furnaces, the United States and of Great Britain during the past two years show a great exaggeration of the usual relations. United States exports are usuchange of fashion in the beard of ally in excess of imports, but the difference was never so great as now British imports are usually far in exress of exports, but the excess has recently increased. In the exchange of goods between Great Britain and the United States the United States is more than ever the chief seller and Great Britain the chief buyer. The figures for the last fiscal year are startling. The value of United States exports was \$1,231,000,000, while the value of imports was less than half that sum. The value of United States any previous year. The value of imports is lower than in any other year since the middle of the century. These figuees do not include the trade in gold and silver, in which also there was an excess of imports, notwithstanding the great production.

It is estimated that in the year now closing the value of imports into Great Britain will exceed by \$1,000,000,000 the value of exports. In 1897 the shortage was nearly \$800,000,000, and in 1896 something less. A quarter of a century ago the difference between the value of British exports and of British imports was about one-third what it is now. It is a feature of the United States increase of exports that a great part of the larger market is found in Great Britain. It is a feature of the decreased imports of the United States that the decline is largely-we might almost say mainly-in imports from Great Britain. In the current calendar year Great, Britain will import from the United States for home use not less than \$600,000,000 worth of goods, and is shipping to the United States not much more than

\$150,000,000 worth of British produce. It is obvious that this difference be tween British import and export trade with the United States must be settled in some way. We are familiar with the claim that Britain makes enough cut of shipping and commerce to pay off a large balance, and that her investments abroad are so large that the excess of imports only suffices to pay the interest. The old instance of the ship which took away \$100,000 worth of goods and trailed them off for \$200,-000 worth is still in use. It appeared only the other day in a Halifax paper. But the trouble about it is that our knowledge of the people of the United States leads to the conclusion that they are quite as likely to make these good trades as the people of Great Britain, Moreover, there is no sign that Great Britain is making two or three times as much money out of trade and out of shipping as was

If we forget for a moment the academic teaching and examine the facts of the case, we are forced to the conclusion that the relation of debtor and creditor as between Great Britain and the United States, and probably as the recent aspect of the balance of on the tea importing business when trade quotations and agree that the tea is taxed than when it is tree and United States indebtedness to Great

Britain has of late been largely reduced. The railway liabilities have been transferred to this side of the water. The municipal bonds are moving in the same direction. On the whole the United States public and private debts owed in England are much less than they were last year or the year before. "Our own securities." says the New (York Sun in a financial article, "have been returned to us from England to an extent never equalley bfore. It has only been the ready purchase of our railway securities from England and Germany that has made it possible for Europe to pay for its imports of grain during the last fifteen months without seriously overstraining its

credit. This is probably an over-statement of the case, but there is no doubt that the liquidation is going on. Within five years other inde edness to Europe has been wiped out by the insolvency of a great number of railways. This process does not furnish Britain with the power to buy even a temporary supply of bread, but it affects the trade balance for the future, inasmuch as there will hereafter be no interest paid in England on these bonds. It is also pointed out that a large part of the money invested by Eritish capitalists in American breweries has been lost.

On the other hand, while the United States is ceasing to be a debtor to European nations, American capital is seeking investment abroad. cess of United States exports has paid off a large part of the foreign indebtedness, and is now beginning to establish the country in the position of a creditor nation. The Scotsman raises the question that if this process continues, other nations will not have wherewithal to pay for United States produce. When there is no longer an interest account to be settled by imports from the United States, and when the capital on which drafts are now made is all gone, what will the United States get for wheat and cotton and other goods shipped to Europe? The high tariff and great producing capacity of the United States will be against the exchange of goods for goods. It is impossible that payment should be made in gold for even one year, though it is a notable thing that \$100,000,000 more gold came into the United States last year than went out. How then will the ac-

This is not a question which will be likely to trouble the people of the United States. They will be willing to follow the footsteps of England and acquire foreign securities. They will ccept bonds of foreign governments cwnership of European Asiatic and African railways and mines. They appear to be anxious at the present mo ment to establish a position as a shipwning and ship-building nation. The sale of steel rails to Australia and the Cape may naturally be followed by the rurchase of Australia and Cape Colony railway debentures. The contract for rails for Siberia; and armor plate and ships for the Russian fleet has already led to preliminary Russian loan in New York. The United States is in the position of the wealthy farmer, who sells a great quantity of produce and buys little He may find some trouble about in ment and about the sale of his crop, but he would hardly change resition with a customer who does not earn or produce enough to pay for the recessaries of life. .

MORE ABOUT TWO PRICE BRIDGES

The Moncton Times save

The Moncton Times says:

In 1892, when the market price of bridge material was from 30 to 40 per cent, higher according to the sworn evidence of experis, than, in 1897, tenders were invited for a steel span 196 feet in length required at Salisbury. This was previous to the adoption of the system of comming the steel bridge building of the province to one or two favorities of the chief commissioner and the provincial secretary. The tender of the Dominion Bridge company at \$5,500 was accepted. This was for the structure complete in place ready for traffic.

In 1897, five years after the construction of the Salisbury bridge and after the price of bridge material as stated had fallen from 30 to 40 per cent, two very similar spans were required to replace the wooden structure of the Lefebvre bridge in Dorchester panishs. These latter spans were each 200 feet, or four feet longer than the one at Salisbury. The traffic at Selisbury is said to be much greater than at Memnamcook and a bridge suitable for Salisbury ought to be good, enough for Memramcook. The two steel spans of Lefebvre bridge complete are entered in the commissioner's report for 1897 as having cost the province \$16,085.45, or at the rate of \$3,042.72 each. This is considerably more than double the price paid in 1892 for the Salisbury span only 4 feet shorter.

The above figures are taken from the

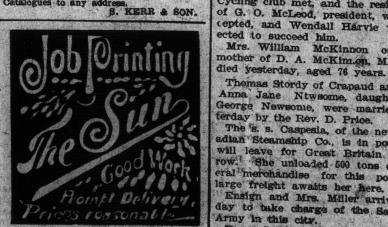
The above figures are taken from the blue books and are not dependent upon the correctness or it correctness of an engineer's report. They can be understood by any country farmer. Mr. Emmerson may have a substantial explanation to offer the taxpayers of the county why he should pay over \$8,000 for a two hundred feet span at Memremook and only \$3,600 for a span four feet shorter at Salisbury.

We Wish All Our



Patrons and Friends a Merry and Happy New Year. Our next term will open TUESDAY, January 3rd.

and we expect, with the latest and best in Book-keeping, Typewriting, and Shorthand method and facilities, to make 1899 the best, brightest, and most successful of all our 32 years of public service. ers of put alogues to any addr



P. E. ISLAND NEWS.

CHARLOTTETOWN, Dec. 22.-Chas. Coles of Milton lost a valuable horse a few days ago from inflammation. estate of the late Benjamir Wright of Royalty was sold under the direction of the court of chancery a few days ago. The farm of 170 acres brought \$5.500, and the mill, with 20 acres of land, brought \$3,125 more, a total of \$8,625. John A. Andrew was

Murray Harbor is to have a bed of ovsters next years. David Kesfe has shipped over ten thousand sheep and 400 head of cattle to different Canadian and United

States markets. The Rev. W. D. Smith of Ferona, N S., has accepted the call to summerside Presbyterian church, and the induction will take place before the opening of the new year.

The death of Mrs. Dorothy Dugga took place at Sea View, lot 20, on th 9th inst., at the advanced age of years.—Angus R. McDougald died Mount Stewart on the 10th inst., in 32rd year, leaving a wife and children to mourn.

been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Heartz, left on Saturday for her home in Vancouver, B. C. Fred Chapman of Mount Stewar nfessed to two violations of the C. T. A. on Friday last before H. J. Palmer, S. M., and was fined \$50 and costs

Mrs. (Rev.) J. M. McLeod, who ha

for each offsice. A boy of three years, son of F. S McPhail of Southport, died on Friday from the effects of being burnt during the temporary absence of his mother, who was attending the barn. He evidently had been too near the stove and clothes caught and were nearly burnt off his body. He suffered much be-

fore death relieved him.
Mrs. Mary A. Ward, relict of the late John S. Stentiford, died in this city on the 17th inst, aged 81 years. Paul Paoli, master and owner of the tug May Queen, died suddenly on Saturday, agel 63. years. He had been working around his ports during the day and was apparently in his usual health, until becoming suddenly weak he was taken quickly to his home and a physician summoned. The priest arrived in time to administer the last lites of the hursh, when he soon after expired. He has been a citizen of Charlettetown about 35 years. He was born in Corsica. A wife and one son are left to mourn his sudden removal.

The freight of the Northumberland of Faturday was valued at \$9,000. Mr. John McGowan has gone to St. Paul, Minn., for the winter. The Metrolist church at Souris after undergoing extensive alteration,

reopened on Sunlay by the Rev. G. M. Campbell preaching three times morning, afternoon and night. This church has been raised three feet, and a good furnace placed beneath it, a more ecclesiastical fount, with porch steps at the entrance to the main building, painted inside and out, and the acetylene gas introduced for light-

Charlottetown division, No. 470, Organized here a few days ago. Kelly; A.C. D., H. McEwin; 2nd A.C. T., N. Campbell; sec, treas., S. F. Muncey; F. S., J. M. Nicholson; O. S., J. J. Trainer; marchal, G. R. McMa-hon; representative to rand division,

J. H. Byene; substitute, J. McTague Montague Debating club has re ganized for the winter with the fol-owing officers: President, G. I. Inman; vice president, A. R. Dauncey: secretary, Ella Cameron; treasurer, Frank S. McDonald. A successful class in mineralogy is

conducted by J. M. Duncan, vice prin-cipal of West Kent school, which is well attended by the city teachers and a few other persons. The class has recently imported about three hund-red speciments for the study.

On Tuesday night the Baotist church and congregation gave the Rev. G. C. P. Raymond, their new pastor, a public

reception

The parsonage of Grace church was sited by a large number of the ladies and gentlemen of the church on Tuesday, who presented Rev. W. J. Kirby and Mrs. Kirby with some flattering addresses. In the addresses it was shown that during the pastorate of Mr. Kirby several hundreds of dollars of old debts had been paid on the quarerly board, and besides meeting the running expenses of the church \$350 additional per year had been rais ed to iquidate an original debt of \$2,500 on the property. The debt has been renow to about \$1,100. The party left a large supply of meats, poultry groceries, etc., piled on the hall table. mough to last the rev. gentleman and nis family for the winter months.

The Prince of Wales college closed on Wednesday for the holidays. Nearly half the students are laid up with German measles and the attendance is ery small. The examinations were in consequence postponed until Febru-

James Diamond, George Matthews and Mrs. Mathews and son, and Miss Mathews, all formerly of this island, are on a visit from Humbolt, Minn., where they have large farms. have been away from the island for 18

On the 14th inst. the Rev. Roderi McLean, at the manse, Valleyfield, married Charles Herbert Godsoe to Mary Catherine Lavers, both of Lot

61. Kings Co. On Tuesday evening the Crescent Cycling club met, and the resignation of G. O. McLeod, president, was acepted, and Wendall Harvie was elected to succeed him. Mrs. William McKinnon of Uigg, nother of D. A. McKim.on, M. P. P.,

Thomas Stordy of Crapaud and Miss Anna Jane Ntwsome, daughter of George Newsome, were married yes-terday by the Rev. D. Price. The s. s. Caspesia, of the new Canadian Steamship Co., is in port, and will leave for Great Britain tomor-row. She unloaded 500 tons of gen-eral merchandise for this port. A

large freight awaits her here.

Ensign and Mrs. Miller arrived today to take charge of the Salvation Army in this city.



Aitken: deputy. D. McNeil: chaplain E. F. Purdy; treasurer, J. H. Bell; financial secretary, Isaac Lane; ecretary, Neil Mc Kevin.

ANOTHER HARTLAND WEDDING.

(Hartland Atvertiser.) At high noon, on Wednesday, 21st inst., the residence of Mrs. A. Tracy was the scene of a festive occasion, when her only daughter, Alberta S., was married to Rev. W. E. Smith by Rev. G. W. McDonald of St. John, assisted by Rev. T. B. Trafton. The bride was dressed in white cashmere. with satin and lace trimmings and smilax, and leaning on her brother's arni entered the room to the strains of the wed ling march, which was played by Miss Ferguson of Woodstock. The rooms were richly decorated for the occasion with evergreens and flowers. There were about fifty guests present. Rev. and Mrs. Smith left or the four o'clock express for their future home in West Eaton, New York state, where he has charge of a church. Many friends were at the station to vish then much happiness and good-bye. Miss Tracy will be very much missed. She was organist of the R. B. church, and a prominent worker in the Sunday school. She repeived very many presents, among which should be mentioned a handsome clock from the R. B. church and Sunday school, of which she was a member; and her Sunday school class of little boys gave her a very pretty silver, pepper and salt castor. Mrs Boyer, the bride's grandmother, gave pretty silver and glass berry dista. The mother and brother presented a beautiful Persian lamb coat with cap and muff. A large number of other rich presents received.

The school in District No. 11. Long Reach taught by Miss M. E. Tippttt. held a very creditable examination on Thursday, Dec. 22. The school nade a substantial advance under the tution of Miss Tippett, who has been engaged for another term at an advance of salary.

In the evening the school children ed with evergreens and flags. Tilley division, S. of T., placed their organ and other articles needed for the ocrasion in the school room, which was crowded by the residents and many from the adjoining district. The following programme was succe carried out: Opening chorus, School Days; recitation, Hastenings White: recitation, Maud Williams; Christma er; schorus Christmas song; tion, Lena White; recitation, Fannie Holder; solo, whistling, Walter Ganong; recitation, Mary E. Williams; restation, Juddie White; chorus, Early Rising; recitation, Edna Fullerton; re-citation, Daisy Williams; chorus, Merry Christmas; recitation, Bessie Wil-liams; solo, Clara White; recitation, Walter Ganong; recitation, Clara White; recitation, Eigene Williams; solo, M. Holler; recitation, Edith Fullerton; recitation, Bert Holder; re titattion, Etta Williams; chorus, Bir die's Ball; dialogue, a Scene in a Pro-tograph Gallery; recitation, Gertie Williams; chorus, Frog Went a Countng; recitation, Geo. Fullerton; recitation, Frank Fullerton; Christmas, an exercise by school; recitation, Charlie Williams; reading, M. Holder; recitation, Charlie Carvell; recitation, Ida Wifilams; recitation, Laura Williams. After the concert a Christmas tree and each scholar was presented with a present from Santa Claus (i. e., teacher.) After this luncheon was assed around and a most pleasant time spent. A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Tippett by the district. Great praise was given the teacher and her school for the success of the evening.

DIED AT LYNN, MASS.

The death is announced at Lynn Mass., on Friday, of Walter McFate, eldest son of John McFate, formerly of this city. Mr. McFate was a promsing young man and died at the comparatively early age of 35 years. The caues of death was consumption, of which he has been ill for some months post. He was a brother of Mrs. A. E. Macauley of this city, who has gone to Lynn to attend the funeral.

ANGLO-SAXON UNITY.

CAIRO, Dec. 25.-A farewell ban quet was tendered this evening to Lieut. General Sir Francis Grenfell the recently appointed governor of Malta, who now retires from the supreme command of the Anglo Egypian forces in Egypt.

The presence of Thomas S. Harrison, United States agent and consul general, and Ethelbert Watts, United States general, led to an Anglo-American demonstration. Gen. Grenfell and James Bonnell Rod, secretary of the legation at the British agency, spoke warmly of Anglo-Saxon friend-ship.

lay to take charge of the Salvation army in this city.

Byrne Lodge, L. O. L., has elected their friendly expressions.

DEATH OF C. A. STOCKTON. Prominent Barrister and Well Known Citizen Passes Away.

The death occurred on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock of C. A. Stockton after a somewhat protracted illness. It will be remembered that the deceased eitended the Easter irm of the supreme court at Fredericton last year and was stricken in the office of the Barker house with an epileptic fit. He lad quite a number of convulsions during the evening, and for a time his condition was considered critical. In about ten days, however, he had sufficiently recovered to admit of his removal to his home in this city. After his return he was able to be about the city and attend to office business. Then he took a trip to Nova Scotia on mining business, and having to drive a long dictance over a rough rad he received considerable of a shaking up. He never fully recovered, and some time afterwards had to take to his bed. A short time ago the deceased became unconscious, and as above stated died Saturday aftermoon of probable ceased became unconscious, and as above stated died Saturday afternoon of probably

Sussex. C. A. Stockton was educated in the common schools and spent some few years at Sackwille. He afterwards went to Harvard ambo graduated. He was admitted an ettorney the this province ion Citober 21st, 1369, and a year later a barrister. He started to study law with the late C. W. Stockton, but the latter died before C. A. Stockton completed his course, which was finished with Dr. A. A. Stockton, M. P. P. Immediately after becoming a barrister he commenced the practice of law. He had a large commercial practice. In 1871 he commercial practice. In 1871 he

rended Miss Ayr of Backville, who survives him.

The dec assed was president of the Young Men's Liberal association and chairman of the Victoria ward liberal committee. In the last dominion election Mr. Stockton took a very active part in the campaign.

The remains will be taken to Sussex tomorow on the C. P. R. to be interred alongside the original ancestor of the Stockton family who came here with the loyalists in 1881. The father of deceased was Sydney Stockton, the didest off the family of C. W. Stockton of Studiolin, Kings county. The next edgest was William A. Stockton, father of Pr. A. A. Stockton, M. P. P., of this city.

All the Stockton family lived to a good old ege. The father of deceased was eightyveers of age at the time of his death, beginning was nearly eighty:

DEATH OF A. L. GOODWIN.

St. John lost one of its most enter rising and highly respected merchants by the death of A. L. Goodwin, which took place on Saturday. A monia, proved too severe a strain for a constittion that had been weakened by a long and severe illness, from recovered. A business career of some twenty years in the wholesale fruit trade spread Mr. Goodwin's name throughout the length and breadth of the maritime province while in this esteemed for his upright dealing and almost envied for his pushing ways. Cut off in his 41st year, Mr. Good-win's death is a positive loss to the usiness life of St. John. He was eldst son of John F. Goodwin and was born at Bale Verte. He wife, who is a daughter of the late Richard Polly, and three children survive him.

THE LOBSTER SHIPMENTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 25.—The pack of canned lobsters shipped from Halifax this season amounts to 133,970 cases, which is some 10,000 cases less than the pack of last year. The lobsters brought higher prices this year than ever before, averaging \$10.50 per ase of 48 cans. Two years ago the shipments of canned lobsters from this ports were 165,598 cases. During the past 23 years, for which agures have been kept, the lebster shipme from Halifax have aggregated in value \$23,890,000.

HALIFAX.

Bank of Nova Scotia and the Havana Street Railway.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 26 .- A despatch says the Bank of Nova Scotia will not start a branch in Havana. The institution is after bigger game and will largely finance the Canadian syndicate that has bought the Havana street railway.

Christmas brought fine weather. Sunday was mild. Last night frost came and male good skating, which thousands enjoyed in all the lakes and ponds today. A tremendous trade vas done by retailers on Saturday.

The str. Vancouver arrived at three a. m. from Liverpool and sailed at nine a. m. for St. John. The stee had a good voyage. She has less than 100 passengers, nearly all of whom disembarked here. She had only fifty tons of freight for Halifax. WE HAVE DISGUSTED GREAT

BRITAIN.

Already we have disgusted Great Britain by proclaiming the trade be-tween Porto Rico and the United States to be coastwise trade, in which none but American ships could art. If we extend our Chinese and our obsolete navigation laws to the Philippines also, we shall add British resentment to German and French and Russian enmity. Is there anybody in authority at who knows what we are doing? there anybody in authority there has the slightest conceptoin w means and involves

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