: : : Of Most Rev. Paul Bruchesi,

The Decline of Christian Spirit and the Taste for Worldly Pleasures.

ance.
It is our intention, to-day, to forewarn you, in all frankness, against the dangers of a tendency so radically opposed to the laws of our holy religion.

We know, dearly beloved, that you cannot avoid living in a world whose temptations surround you on all sides. You are even obliged to exist and to act within that world which Our Lord Jesus Christ has qualified so severely. Nor have we any intention of fettering that fair liberty which God, Himself, has left to the enjoyment of all Christians who are not held, in virtue of a special vocation, to the observance of all the evangelical counsels.

But, as the guardian of faith and of morals, we desire to clearly point out the line of demarcation that exists between the legitimate use and

ists between the legitimate use and ists between the legitimate use and the seriously dangerous or culpable abuse of the things of this world.

Does he not form a false idea of the conditions of our existence here below, who, on the one hand, avoids, with a kind of instinctive horror, the slightest privations, the smallest sacrifices, every painful effort in life, while, on the other, he contrives to allow no occasion of tasting the pleasures of life to be lost, and even grows exasperated and rehe slightest possist sacrifices, every passist sacrifices, every passist sacrifices, every passist sacrifices, every passist scarrifices, every every

what a difference between such conduct and the doctrine of St. Paul! "Time is short," did he say, "let those who weep live as if there were no causes for sorrow; and those who are joyful, as if there were no reasons for joyousness; let those who make use of the things of this world, use them without fixing their affection thereto, for the image of this world is merely passing."

In many families this instruction of the Apostle seems to be practically forgotten. Fatal is that obliviousness! since it has become the source of the most disquieting evils.

Too often the mother is no longer

Too often the mother is no longer the truly Christian woman, that woman of strength referred to in Holy Writ. She no longer lives solely for her husband and her children. She lives beyond her sphere of life, owing to the influence of profane tendencies and the attractions of worldly cares. Her heart, divided between the duties of so holy and so sublime a state and the ever absorbing and often dangerous exigencies of modern society, can no longer bestow that superabundant quota of tenderness and self-denial, which is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of a loving union between the members of the one family. Too often the mother is no longer

the one family.

The father, on his side, is not always the respected and strong head of the domestic circle. Anxious to realize his dreams of honors and wealth, unlucky as he would be were he to refuse his wife and his children the frivolities and amusements for which they so thirst, the energy of will and of mind alike spends itself in feverish activity and in an ill-regulated existence. He is no longer a wise moderator, a faithful and devoted guardian, a beloved and respected master. He is fatally condemned to failure in the noble part which Providence had assigned to him.

part which Providence has assigned to him.

Under such conditions conjugal confidence must disappear; and it does vanish, dragging with it all its sacred combinations of interest, its tender outpourings of affection, and its invincible safeguards. Its departure marks the advent of mutual disagreement and independence.

And, as a logical result, the yoke of filial obedience, which is of such moral effect, and at the same time so loveable and easy to carry, begins to weigh heavily. The deepfelt loys, the screne and pure charms

PAUL BRUCHESI, by the Grace of God, and favor of the Apostolic See, Archishop of Montreal.

To the Clergy, secular and regular, to the religious communities, and to all the faithful of our diocese, health, peace and benediction in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dearly Beloved,—

It is our duty, from time to time, to address you by way of Paternal exhortation, and, in the interest of your souls, to transmit to you our counsel and advice.

At various times, since the Lord confided to us the administration of this diocese, we have congratulated you on your spirit of faith, your fidelity in regard to the precepts of the Gospel, and the unceasing evidences of your charity.

Unhappily, an atmosphere of effeminacy and relaxation in fervor, the attractions of the age's frivolities, a feverish desire for enjoyments, threaten to replace, in far too many families, those salutary traditions of solid piety and Christian temperance.

It is our intention, to-day, to forewarn you, especially, root, following moreover the examptor of twain particles all the domestic in general and of parties given by private family parties given by private families. Decidedly, all meetimes, or other worldly reunions.

Enticed into that life of exaggrations, by light or unwholesome reduction, and, in the interest of your souls, to transmit to you our counsel and advice.

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true! But we have met with too many heart-rending avowals, for our pastoral conscience to permit of the slightest change thereof.

Almost every week, parents come to us with sorrow and grief in their hearts for having used excessive inditigence in regard to the beings confided to their care; for having, both for themselves and those belonging to them, sought to avoid the privations that are inseparable from a well-ordered life; for having desired to satisfy themselves in luxury, ostentation and pleasures; for having, above all, neglected to set those good examples, which are so powerful when coming from the holy altitude of Christian paternity. It is too late! The faults of the children have become vices; and the evil inclinations have become incorrigible habits, weaknesses of character such as no human influence can ever overcome.

Take our word, dearly beloved, the vil has already commenced. You need not look for it beyond that repugnance for all that curbs or mortifies the senses; you need not seek outside those habits, growing daily more general, of easy, intemperate and dissipated lives, for an explanation of the lamentable occurrences which, at brief intervals, have spread consternation in our cities, and even in the midst of our peaceful country districts. Infallibly, unbounded ambition, the inconsiderate expenditure on luxury, an inordinate love of ease and of enjoyment are to be found at the bottom of all those astounding financial disasters, unfortunate failures, losses of reputation, domestic divisions, acts of despair, murders and suicides, over which in the bitter sorrow of our souls, we have all lamented. mented.

mented.

The light and the strength that religion imparts can alone counteract in an effective manner this departure from the Christian Spirit and the deplorable results of its decline.

parture from the Christian Spirit and the deplorable results of its decline.

We beg of you to reflect, during this holy season of Advent, upon these serious truths. It is a time well suited for recollection and good resolutions. Ardently pray for the graces that you need to enable you to repair your thoughtle-sness, your negligences, and your faults. Take an unshakeable resolution. Promise God to give evidence of your determination by henceforth meeting the allurements of the world with invincible resistance. Let parents above all pledge themselves to protect their children against the seductions of the world, instead of encouraging them in the enjoyment of dangerous pleasures, as is sometimes the case through the parents own frioelity, or weakness.

Theatres and worldly reunions are, perhaps, at the present time, the evils most to be dreaded of all those that we have mentioned. You will therefore fear them the more. You will avoid them with the same care that you should have in securing the salvation of your souls. We do not here refer to theatrical representations of an openly obseene character, nor to public balls, nor to certain pleasure excursions that are prolonged into the hours of durkness. Such errings are only too evidently culpable. All who are no-lictious of their reputation would not for a moment, particulate in

suggest the incompatible—God and the World.

Instead of innocent pastimes, modestly attractive toilets, friendly and intimate conversations, governed by a respectful reserve, we behold to-day, in a great number of parlors, according to the testimony of prudent and careful people, dances that shock decency, dresses that outrage good taste as well as modestly, discourses and songs of a character such as would not be tolerated in more private circles. In public, amidst flowers and lights, and harmonies, and perfumes that enervate the senses and hypnotize the will-power, without the least scruple, are practised such trashy acts of imprudence and such familiarities as would cause a blush to arise were the same things done under the eye of a father, or a brother, or a sister.

We even notice with pain that the habit of allowing young girls to go unattended to balls is on the increase, that it is customary to systematically exceeded. crease, that it is customary to systematically exclude the parents from these balls, and to only invite the young people; that at times there is no hesitation in treating, under the guise of refreshments, with strong drinks, those weak beings thus left without protection and without any effective control.

and without any effective control.

What are we to think of morals such as these? Does not conscience impose it as a duty to denounce them with all the power of which indignation is capable? Should not parents, who are desirous of protecting the honor of their daughters and of their sons, banish from the parties that they give all such deplorable abuses? Should they rot establish a holy league between themselves, for the purpose of purging at least their parlors of all that might be a direct cause of evils an immediate occasion of serious wrong doing?

doing?
Let us hearken to the words of a Let us hearken to the words of a Doctor who, to a perfect knowledge of the human heart united all the glow of sanctity. Listen to the noralist, of whom it has justly been said: "That he is the most holy, the most beloved, and at the same time, the sweetest, the most indulgent, the most kindly one, whose rules are accepted as laws even by worldlings." Hear Saint Francis as Sales.

Sales.
"The custom of balls and dancing, Sales.

"The custom of balls and dencing, as it is at present practised, so predisposes to evil, under all circumstances, that it always presents grave dangers for the soul. If you are obliged, by a necessity that you cannot avoid, to attend balls, be careful that the dancing thereat be in every respect in accord with good conduct, decadey, modesty; and be on your guard lest you should form a taste for the same. These rilications recreations always are dangerous for the scal; they weaken the will power, they diminish devotional fervor, they cold holy charity, they develop in the soul a thousand kirks of bad habits; and, even in the case of mecessity, they should only be followed with extreme precautions." of necessity, they should only be followed with extreme precautions."

A man of the world, whose words we have before us, appears, on account of his personal experience, even more severe than the Bishop of Genava.

Genova.

"I always considered balls as dangerous," he says, "and what "has led me to that conclusion is not only young people take part in those assemblies, who have already difficulty enough to resist the temptations that assail them in solitude, and for whom that difficulty is repessarily the greater in such-like meetings. I claim, therefore, that a Christian should not go to balls."

In fine, these entertainments, such as the customs of modern society have made them, are always exceedingly dangerous, and more frequently are they sinful.
"If you do no wrong," said Mgr. Dupanloup, who was not a rigid master, "are you certain that others do not commit any, and that you are treated with the respect that is due you?

"Are you also sure that you can indulge in those dances without giving bad example? and if you are the cause of scandal are you not guilty?"

After all this, dearly belove! "I always considered balls as dan-

cause of scandal are you not guilty?"

After all this, dearly belove, what can we say about those childrens' balls to which fashion amongst us is shaping itself more and more? We never could understand such an aberration on the part of parents.

"It was doubtlessly 'considered,' writes a pious bishop on this subject, 'that the evil tendencies of childhood were too slow in budding, and, in order to histen their blorsoming, this strange discovery was made.'

made."
Fathers of families, mothers families, do you then wish the i parable loss of those innocent atures whom heaven has confided you? Otherwise, why do you has to kindle, by custing ofl or the ithe flames of sensuality and propensities which original ain

Theatrical representations consti-tute another species of worldly getherings, extremely ruinous above tyle another species of worldly gatherings, extremely ruinous above all for youth. It is not possible to realize the extent to which these spectacular attractions excite their young imaginations and disturb the innocence of their hearts. Even when the parents are present, and that they flatter themselves that they have avoided all causes of scandal, a subtle poison flows from the stage into the soul of the youth. It is filthered into that soul, thanks sometimes to the aid of a singular precocity, or at the very least to the childish compliance of glances hungry for unexperienced sensations, and of ears prompt to catch suggestive expressions.

By the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who pronounced such a terrible anathema on whomsoever "scandalizes the least of these little ones," in the name of your most sacred interests, even here below; in the name of the honor and future of your families, we advise you, Christian parents, far from becoming the accomplices of those deadly tastes in your children, and of taking them yourselves to the theatres, to protect them against all such dangerous resorts; be you their law-makers in absolutely forbidding them to

ous resorts; be you their law-mak-ers in absolutely forbidding them to

go there.

But after the cry of indignation and of alarm raised in the press by the unmentionable abominations, which actors in certain theatres made profession of exhibiting in presence of childhood and of youth—Christian conscience should speak out and make itself heard by people of all ages in life.

In her justifiable rigor, conscience not only stigmatizes those shame-less abuses, but condemns every-thing on the stage that is a menace to pure morals; she denounces that infatuation for the spectcular that at present takes possession of every infatuation for the spectcular that at present takes pose-ession of every class in society. We may say that the theatre is our city's great danger of the hour. Lo not find this condemnation too severe. Decidedly it does not correspond with the ideas current in worldly circles. How could it? Testimony of conscience is but an echo of God; and between God and the world there is naught in common. naught in common.

between God and the world there is naught in common.

No; this repudiation is not exaggerated. It is in accordance with all Catholic tradition. It is based on the formal teachings of the councils and of the fathers of the Church, on the unanimous doctrine of theologians and preachers most fillustrious for their virtue and their genius. Experience also has sanctioned it. In fact, while in theory it may be allowed to consider the atrical representations as matters fadificerent in their nature, in reality, even the best theatres are fields prepared for the easy sprouting of all the seductions of luxury, of false-hood, of pride and of sens-tality.

Despite our exhortations, some leading citizens had adopted the contrary view. They had hoped to be able to establish an almost irreproachable theatre, wherein the noble passions and the sublime devotedness of the heroes and heroines of history and of fiction might be offered as examples for the spectators, wherein the short-comings of humanity would be ridiculed and the vices of the human race slocked for the benefit of the moral effect.

humanity would be ridiculed and the vices of the human race alonged for the benefit of the moral effect; wherein people would meet to enly, at the same time a dangerless recreation and to learn lessons in behaviour, in literary style, and in the beauties of language. These entertainments were moreover intended to withdraw the young people from a number of occasions of sin and of ruin.

Facts soon dispelled these Facts soon dispelled these file-sions. The same citizens have, themselves, brought us their sincere avowal and the sadly undeniable evi-dence of the same.

That attempt at purifying the

That attempt at purifying the stage ended in a complete failure. So will it ever be. For theatrical managers always end, for the purpose of increasing their receipts, with one special aim—to draw the public, by flattering the passions, by exciting an unhealthy curiosity, by going a bid higher over rival establishments in all that is most daringly attractive.

In our days, more than ever, the

by going a bid higher over rival establishments in all that is most daringly attractive.

In our days, more than ever, the majority of dramatic writers seek only the profits and the popularity of their plays.

As masters of the trade they know full well that persons accustomed to frequent theatres soon become tired of the beautiful, the grand, the chaste. And they seek success in triviality and in scandal. Their dramas become unclean dissertations or exhibitions of ill-disguised immorality, such as the wise Bossuet calls "vain coverings that hide nothing."

Other writers, considerable in number, are corrupt on principle.

For these the stage easily becomes the tribune of demoralization and irreligion. With the assistance of actors and actresses, who are unforsunately only too clever in the art of seduction, they cast, by the handful, every species of outrage and discredit upon on all that is most sacred and most worthy of our respect—Christian virtues, divine and human laws, the austerity of religious life, the sanctity and indisspibility of marriage, the majesty of paternal authority. Equally do they constitute themselves the apologists of every kind of dishonorable intrigue and of the worst disorders. They draft into their service even licentious tableaux, those fairy-scenes, those ballets, in which the scanniness of dress, the sensuality of attitudes, and the voluptuousness of movements constitute veritable attacks on public purity.

And such spectacles, more permisone, in a like manner, in luxuriously perhaps, than dances, are presented, in a like manner, in luxuriously perhaps, than dances, are presented, in a like manner, in luxuriously etted halls, in an atmosphere

charged with enervating odors and soothing harmonies.

May it not be asked, with a teeling of dread, what can possibly take place in the soul of a woman, in the heart of a young man, or of a young girl, in such a place and during long intervals that are counted by hours? Respect for the hely pulpit forbids our pursuing the examination any further. We, however, can reply with Bossuet. "The empire of all the guilty artifices that is therein set up, under the most glowing tints, flatters the vanity of one sax, degrades the dignity of the other, and subjects both the one and the other to the government of the senses."

That degradation, that government of the senses, is the subjection of the mind to the body, the loss of purity, the tyranny of the passions, the weakening of character, the distaste of duty, of piety and of virtue.

We are aware that your attend-

ter, the distaste of duty, of piety and of virtue.

We are aware that your attendance at balls and theatres was not prompted by such motives. You merely wanted to be in the fashion, to satisfy your curiosity, or your vanity; you wanted to enjoy life to see and hear everything, perhaps even to make yourselves dizzy with pleasure.

But it is written that "who But it is written that "whoseever loves the danger shall perish therein." We have a request to make of Catholic journalists; to discontinue encouraging theatres, no matter of what class, by means of advertisements, of pressing invitations to the public, and such reports as their issues publish almost daily.

We appeal to their Christian sen-timents. They know the harm that articles of the nature to which we refer can do our population and es-pecially our young people; several amongst them acknowledged the same to us and gave expression to their sincer regret.

amongst them acknowledged the same to us and gave expression to their sincer ergret.

The only objection that can be raised is to the effect that these advertisements pay well and are a source of revenue for the papers. Alas! We know it well! But, frankly speaking, is it permissable to aid in the weakening of morals on the pretext that it brings in a profit, no matter how great it may be? The owners and managers of newspapers assume a very serious responsibility; and it is not by drawing a line, in the same organ, between the business and the editorial departments, that they can expect to escape from it.

Moreover a few have already understood the matter. They decided to cease the publication of all theatrical advertisements. They even, for that purpose, asked for an obtained the cancelling of the contracts, that legally obliged them to publish for a given time such advertisements. We congratulate them, and we trust that they may find many imitators.

In any case, what we have a right to do, in common with every Christian family, is to exact from the public papers, that, at least, they refrain from encouraging and praising those troupes of actors and actresses that are unworthy of any recommendations; that they learn

ing those troupes of actors and actresses that are unworthy of any recommendations; that they learn to distinguish between the different theatres and places of amusement, between presentable plays and those that, on account of the dangers they occasion, merit nothing but the contempt of all honest men.

For you, dearly beloved, do not any longer submit to the customs, of worldly vanity; rather return to the strong and chaste traditions of your forefathers and of the ages of Faith.

Give to the poor of Jesus Christ.

your forefathers and of the ages of Faith.

Give to the poor of Jesus Christ some of that money which you spend so unprofitably. Practice Christian mortification. Love self-sacrifice, accept with loving resignation the Cross of your Lord, ever mindful that "the disciple is not greater than the Master," and that to reach heaven there is but one road, the royal road of penance.

In return you will receive the forgiveness of your faults. Divine blessings will come down upon you and upon your families.

You will understand that it is easy to find at home, or with your friends, all the legitimate distractions and recreation, pleasures that are useful and soothing to the heart, devoid of fatigue and of remorse, frank and healthy enjoyments, veritable relaxations, and perfect rest. You can feel the comforting assurance of having met, with the resistance of good example and of a holy life, the disorders so numerous and so great that, from all sides, invade the sunctuary of the home. This is the hope that we form, on the eve of the holy festival of Christmas, and which we beg of our Divine Lord to bless and to realize.

Our present pastoral letter shall be read at the parochiel Mass in all the churches wherein public service is held, and at the chapter of all the religious communities, the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at Montreal, under our sign and seal and the countersign of our Chancellor, the 16th December, 1901.

PAUL, Arch. of Montreal. By order of His Grace, EMILE ROY, Priest, Chancellor.

FOR FINE FURS.

Just bear in mind that there is no firm in Montreal who can sell you such fine garments so reasonably as we can. Every skin we put into a garment matches every other skin, the seams are taped, the lining of the best quality, and the workman-ship—well, it's got to be the best to leave our store. Chas. Desjardins & Co., St. Catherine street.

THE RESELLION OF 1798.

Protestant. The lecturer (Rev. F. W. Henry, B. A., Bellant) had induged in a glorification of the achievements of the yeomany and militia, and in criticising the essay Mr. G. B. Wilkins, solicitor, said he thought there was little good to be obtained by retelling the tale of the terrible svents of the '88 period atter the lapse of a century. The Irish Catholics rightly or wrongly—and he was not going to say wrong-ly—believed that the promises held out to them after the capitulation of Limerick had not been fulfilled. The Protestants were but one-fourth of the population of Iriand, yet every member of the Government was a Protestant, the education of the Catholics was neglected, Catholic emancipation had been asked for in vain, in short, the position of Irish Catholics was one of serfdom unequalled in any civilized country at the time. It was a chapter of hisbory that might well be closed in either side had much credit in the ottempt to arrive at the cause of the rebellion religion might fairly be left out of account. The lesson to be learned from the story of '98 was that the government of a country ought to do its duty by the people of that country or it would be so much the worse for the government. None of the large attendance present dissented from the opinions expressed by Messrs. Wilkins and Hancock.—Irish News.

ALASKA SHAL JACKETS.

These we make so good that no furrier in America can make better. Genuine Alaska Seal, dyed by Rice, of London, England, goes in every garment, and each is lined with the highest grade stilk or satin manufactured. Any lady anticipating the purchase of a Seal Skin Coat will find upon investigation that she can do better here than anywhere else in America. Chas. Desjardins & Co., the largest retail furriers in the world. Come and see our Grand Display of Novelties for 1901 and 1902; at our stores, 1533 to 1541, St. Catherine street, Montreal.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

On Sunday, December 1st, the month devoted to the faithful departed closed with a most impressive function, in Rome. The members of the federated societies and the parochial committees met at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuorille mura. After reciting the Rosary of the federated societies and the parochial committees met at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le mura. After reciting the Rosary for the Dead all walked in procession to the Campo Santo. His Eminence Cardinal Cavagnis, accompanied by several prelates, and escorted by the officers of the societies, carried the Blessed Sacrament. In the central part of the cemtery an altar was erected, where benediction was was erected, where benediction was given. On returning to the church, the "Te Peum" was sung, followed by a beautiful "Tantum Ergo." Another Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament closed this solemn ceremony.

DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS

"I have been often pained and astonished at the frequent appeals of editors and proprietors of newspapers to their subscribers urging them to pay their just debts," remarked a well known member of the hierarchy of this country. "The editors and proprietors of newspapers on their part give their time, the product of a high education and experience, together with their money, for stationery, printing, and wages to employees, and they expert and should have, in common justice, a return often by no means ade uate to their outlay. A man who will not pay for a paper he subwho will not pay for a paper he sub-scribed for, reads the contents of which he enjoyed, is a retainer of another man's goods."

A VICTIM OF SCOTCH LOGIC

A Highland hotel-keeper was one day having a squabble with an Englishman in the lobby of the hotel about his bill. The stranger said it was a gross imposition—he could live cheaper in the best hotel in London. The Highland landford replied: "Oh, nae doot, sir, nae doot, but dae ye no' ken the reason?" "Not a bit of it," replied the stranger hastily. "Weel, then," replied the host, "as ye seem to be a sen-sible bit callant, I'll tell ye. There's 365 days in the Lunnon hotol-keeper's calendar, but we have only three months here. Dae ye understand me noo, freen'? We maun man' hay in the Hielan's when the sun shines, for it's unco seldom she dis't."—Scottish American.

The following incident shows the folly of relying upon punctuation in telegrams. Mr. Wardner was "broke." However, he managed to reach a north country town, and walking into the offices of the railway company said to the manager in charge: "I am Mr. Wardner, and I am an old friend of Mr. S—, the general superintendent. Will you wite him and tell him that I am here broke and want a pass to London?" Back came the replied, "Don't let Wardner walk." He got the pass, and, arriving in London, called at once to thank his friend. "Well, well Wardner, is this really you?" Then, with a twinkle of the eye. "How on earth did you get here so soon if you were broke?" "Why, thanks to your telegram, Don't let Wardner walk, 'of course, I was at once furnished with a free pass, and here I am." "Confound those clerks! It is strange they cannot get my messages through torrectly." "Didn't you telegram, Don't let Wardner walk?" "Certainly not. My answer was 'Don't.

Our

Throughout the week, w True Witness," the liberty of r lance" style, ove subjects. It is i summarize all I even repeat the have been made sider it my sphe ed account events that hav that is now Still I cannot I in the general s belongs to this

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New Year is ousness, festivity forward to it w lebrate it with a which they are ways, from infar happiness, that the twelve mont young year is t admit that a fe a kind of loneling the old year dr the old year dr One cannot help Old friend is goi to return. Each tain amount of sad recollections the year awaken tensity. And, w justed, it seems sombre memo There is a pecul works cannot es spect of twelve one seems to en annunt of sweet bitterness, which perty of lulli dreams that dreams.

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a few friends, children and releach of these each of these eminder when the proaches,—they toned to them, not, for worlds, self.imposed dusual, I made o that of last yea to be effaced; the longer any but to be effaced; to longer any putwo friends, wit such like simple ings at the clost there to receive of affection a When I came to names I paus memory rushed that is no my scenes that have any put when I had to be seen to have a such as the seen to have any put when I came to have the seen that have the that is no m scenes that have ed into the past greet me ever a ears shall not he into those vanishes class that denot sociations that enfully! How we those days, whose days, where of the variedity forgotte readily forgotte vision. I sat th viewing every rence. Yet, it

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