

THE
THIRD REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
TOGETHER WITH THE
ACT OF INCORPORATION
AND
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

HALIFAX, N. S.,
PRINTED BY COMPTON & CO.,
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1874.

THE
LIBRARY OF THE
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
AND
ZOOLOGY
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

INCORPORATED IN THE YEAR 1867.

Managers for 1874.

JAMES F. AVERY, M. D., *President*,
 JOHN S. MACLEAN, *Vice-President*,
 GEO. P. MITCHELL, *Treasurer*,
 M. H. RICHEY, *Corresponding Secretary*,
 CHAS. FLETCHER, *Recording Secretary*,
 JOHN DUFFUS,
 W. C. SILVER,
 S. A. WHITE,
 W. H. NEAL,
 STEPHEN TOBIN,
 EDWARD SMITH,
 CHAS. MURDOCH.

Teachers.

MISS ROSS, MR. C. J. FRASER.

Steward and Matron.

MR. and MRS. DILWORTH.

VISITING DAYS: Any day except Saturday and Sunday,
 at the hours of 10 to 12 a.m., and 2 to 4 p.m.

Halifax Asylum for the Blind.

For the founding of this Institution a debt of gratitude is due by the people of this Province to the late William Murdoch, Esq., who died in London in 1867, having a few years previously taken up his residence there, after a long, useful and successful life as a merchant of this city. In his Will he bequeathed, in addition to various other charities, the munificent sum of £5,000 N. S. Cy., towards the endowment of an Asylum for the Blind, on condition that a suitable building would be secured at a cost of not less than £3,000. An amount was raised by subscription shortly after his decease, sufficient for this purpose, and an eligible site having been procured gratuitously from the City on the South Common, arrangements were at once made, and a suitable brick building was erected, capable of accommodating about 40 pupils.

As a Report of the Directors, lately submitted to the Annual Meeting, is annexed, it is unnecessary to make further remarks than to express the hope that the blessing of God may attend this Institution, and that it may do all the good that the benevolent founder had in view in his kindly endeavors to increase the happiness and usefulness of this hitherto neglected class of our fellow beings in this Province.

Halifax, January, 1874.

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An Act to Incorporate the Halifax Asylum for the Blind.

(Passed the 7th day of May, A. D. 1867.)

Preamble.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act to commence when \$12,000 subscribed. Incorporation. 3. Board of Managers. 3. Officers—how elected. | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. By-Laws. 5. City may convey lands. &c. 6. Managers shall report to Governor in Council. |
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Whereas it has been proposed that an institution for the reception, maintenance, and education of blind persons, should be established in the City of Halifax, and it is desirable that such institution should be founded and carried on by individual enterprise and voluntary association.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

1. When it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that not less than twelve persons have associated themselves for the above object, and have subscribed the sum of twelve thousand dollars, and paid thereon into the hands of the treasurer, by them appointed, the sum of two thousand dollars, the Governor in Council shall, by proclamation, declare this act to have come into operation, and thereupon immediately thereafter, such persons, and all such other persons as shall from time to time become associated with them, their successors and assigns, shall be and are hereby incorporated into a company and declared to be a body corporate by the name of the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and by that name shall and may have succession and be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, defending and being defended in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, matters, complaints, and causes whatsoever, and may have and use a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure, and shall be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying any real and personal estate for the purposes of this incorporation and none other, which shall not exceed the annual value of ten thousand dollars.

2. For the better carrying into effect the objects of the said incorporation, there shall annually be elected twelve persons, who shall constitute a Board of Managers and have power to conduct and manage all its concerns, the managers to be elected by ballot at an annual meeting of the members

of the society, to hold their office for one year, or until others be elected in their place: the said election to be held at such times and places as the said corporation shall, by their bye-laws, from time to time appoint and direct; the aforesaid managers shall be elected by a majority of the members present at such election; and in case of any vacancy or vacancies in the said Board of Managers, by death, resignation, or otherwise, then the said Board shall have power to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next annual election.

3. The Board of Managers shall, as soon after the annual election as may be convenient, proceed to elect, by ballot, from among their own number, a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and two Secretaries, who shall serve for one year or until others be elected in their room; and the first election of managers and officers shall take place on a day to be fixed by the Governor in Council in the proclamation aforesaid.

4. The Board of Managers, so elected as aforesaid, shall have full power to make such bye-laws as may from time to time be necessary, relative to the management, disposition of the estate and concerns of the said corporation, and regulation of the persons exercising the offices aforesaid, not contrary to law, and may appoint such other agents and servants as may be deemed necessary to transact the business of the said corporation and designate their duties.

5. It shall be lawful for the City of Halifax to transfer by deed, duly executed, to the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and either by way of gift or for valuable consideration, any land or hereditaments now vested in the said city of Halifax, either by act of this Province or by purchase, so that the value of such land and hereditaments shall not exceed in the whole the sum of twelve thousand dollars.

6. The managers of the said institution shall, on or before the first day of February in each year, make a full report to the Governor in Council of their proceedings.

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The Third Report of the Managers of the Halifax Asylum for the Blind—1873.

The Managers of the "HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND" have much pleasure in submitting to the members and friends of the Institution their Third Annual Report, and in doing so, they would first express the gratification they have experienced in the thorough kindly feeling with which everything connected with the Institution has been conducted during the year now coming to its close. Nothing has occurred with either Teachers or Scholars to cause the disapproval of any of the Committees: all have been attentive and devoted to their duties, and the progress made by the Pupils has amply repaid those who had the oversight of them.

Previous to the Summer Holidays the first examination was held, to which as many of the friends of the Institution were invited as the room would accommodate. Many of the ministers of the city being absent, at their usual summer convocations, there was not as large an attendance as was anticipated; but those who did attend were agreeably surprised at the good progress that had been made in a year by those who had not before had much, if any, instruction; their correctness in answering questions in geography, and mental arithmetic, and advance made in reading, spelling, writing, and cyphering on the slate, showing that although deprived of one of God's choicest blessings, they have it largely made up to them in others, in a stronger power of memory and in the quickening of the other senses. In music, both vocal and instrumental, most of them have also made satisfactory progress.

The female pupils, in addition to bead and wool work, have also this year been taking lessons on the sewing machine, one of which (Wheeler & Wilson's) has lately been purchased, and which will be of great advantage to them. Some of them can now work it very readily, although only attempting it for the first time two months since.

The boys have been chiefly employed at cane-seating chairs, of which they have this year completed two hundred and twenty-three new, and ninety-five of those sent to be re-seated—the latter being done neatly and expeditiously at the small charge of fifty to sixty cents per chair. The Managers hope that when it is fully known that such can be done here

the community will send in sufficient to keep them constantly employed. Every effort was made early in the year to procure an instructor for Corn Broom making, but until lately without success,—they are now pleased to say, that they have made arrangements with Mr. Wright to give instruction in this department, and they anticipate shortly to give to the public samples of this manufacture, which, while it will vary the employment of the pupils, will be another means towards their future livelihood, and will doubtless in time be a source of profit to the Institution.

It is with much regret they have to report, that Miss Mary Dwyer, the blind lady from Philadelphia, who was of so much use in the opening of the Institution, and whose kindly disposition endeared her to all her pupils, was obliged to leave after the summer holidays, her health from a severe illness at the beginning of the year being such that, in the opinion of Dr. Dodge and other medical men of the city, she could not safely remain another winter in this climate,—she returned to Philadelphia in October. They were fortunate in procuring in her place the services of Mr. C. J. Fraser, son of Dr. Fraser of Windsor, who had been thoroughly educated at the Perkins' Institution for the Blind, at Boston, and who has proved himself well qualified to take the place of teacher,—from his high musical talent, and thorough devotion to his duties, they look forward with much confidence to the future. Since his taking charge of the boys, he has taught them self reliance, by permitting them to find their own way through the city; and they now go to their several places of worship alone, and can be met walking the streets as confidently as those who can see,—this adds greatly to their enjoyment, and their independence.

The increase during the year has been four—three males and one female—and there are now at the Institution fifteen in all. Several more are expected, and it is to be hoped that a larger increase will take place in the coming year. The charges to those who cannot afford to pay \$120 per annum (full rate), are extremely moderate, and it is surprising that those who have children so afflicted do not at once take advantage of it, to confer a happiness and usefulness to them which, before acquiring education, they little dream of as being possible.

As the Institution is becoming better known by the many visitors who now favor it with a call, and in the knowledge, in those localities from which pupils have come, of the great advantages they have derived, it is not too much to expect that ere long it will receive sufficient for our accommodation.

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No application has as yet been made for the admission of pupils from any of the other Provinces of the Dominion, although the rest of the Maritime Cities are without such an Institution; and the Managers would invite the attention of those interested in their Blind to ours, in the hope that they may take advantage of it.

Miss Catherine Ross continues in every way to satisfy the various Committees that she is eminently fitted for the work she has undertaken, of instructing the Blind, which to her is a work of love.

The Steward and Marton, Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth, have also given every satisfaction in the faithful performance of their duties. They do all in their power to render the Home comfortable, and study all needful economy in its management.

The Treasurer's account for the year, shows receipts to have been \$3102 06
Expenditure to have been 3284 67

Leaving a small balance on hand of.. .. . \$678 77

Which will soon be required for Books and Maps ordered from Boston.

The Legislature, during the last session, generously voted, in addition to the Annual Grant of \$1000, a further sum of \$250, which has enabled the Managers to purchase Books and Maps which were much required, and also to procure a Sewing Machine and two Broom-making Machines. During the next session of Parliament, the Managers hope to shew the members—by an examination of the pupils—that their bounty has not been misapplied. To make our Blind throughout the Province happy and useful members of society will be gratifying to them, as it is to those who have more immediately the oversight of them.

There has been but little sickness among the inmates during the past year (with the exception of Miss Dwyer), the situation being airy, and the grounds, now about completed, spacious. Thanks are due to Dr. Dodge for his kindly attention to the health of the Institution; to Dr. Cogswell for his attention to the pupils in dentistry; also to the Superintendents of the various Railways for free passes to the pupils returning to and from home during the Holidays.

Mr. Theakston, City Missionary, has been continuing his weekly religious services.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES F. AVERY, *President.*

Halifax, N. S.,
27th December, 1873.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.
OF THE
HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I—NAME.

This Association shall, conformably to the Act of Incorporation, 30 Victoria, C. 50, be styled "THE HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND."

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP.

All original subscribers to the fund for erecting the Asylum for the Blind within the city of Halifax shall be and continue members of this Association so long as they contribute the sum of one dollar or upwards towards the support of the Institution.

Any subscriber to the funds of the Institution to the amount of five dollars or upwards, may be constituted a member on motion of a member of the Board of Managers at one of their regular monthly meetings, and so continue during his annual payment of five dollars.

Donors of fifty dollars at one time, and members who have served the office of Manager not less than three consecutive years, shall thereby be constituted life members of the Association.

Payment of five hundred dollars at one time shall constitute a patron of the Institution.

Patrons and members shall have the right of voting at the annual election of Managers, and shall themselves be eligible.

ARTICLE III—MANAGEMENT.

The management of the Institution shall be entrusted to a Board of twelve members, who shall choose from their own number a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

An annual meeting for the election of the Board of Management shall be held on such day in the last week of the

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year as the Board of Managers may appoint, due notice thereof being given in two at least of the Halifax newspapers. Any number of persons present in a half-hour from the time named in such notice shall be a quorum for the election of Managers, and the transaction of any business to be passed upon at such annual meeting; but any five members then present may, if they shall deem the business to require it, demand an adjournment to some other day and hour within one week therefrom, and the same shall stand adjourned accordingly, and the business so postponed shall at such adjourned meeting be first taken up and finally disposed of.

If for any reason the election of Managers be, pursuant to the foregoing provision, or otherwise, postponed, the Managers of the preceding year shall hold office until the new Board be elected.

The Board of Managers shall have power to supply vacancies occurring therein between the periods of the annual elections.

At the annual meeting the votes shall be taken by ballot, and the first twelve persons named on a list made in the order of the number of votes given for them respectively, beginning with the largest number of votes and so on to the least, shall constitute the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE IV—BY-LAWS, &c.

The power of making, amending, and repealing by-laws, and regulations for their own guidance and the government of the Institution, and the appointment and removal of all officers, and regarding salaries and allowances, is vested in the Board of Management; but no by-law once passed shall be altered or repealed except upon a vote of two thirds of the members of the Board present at a regular monthly meeting thereof, and after notice of such alteration or repeal given at the next preceding monthly meeting.

ARTICLE V—AMENDMENTS, &c.

The foregoing article, together with the provisions contained in the Act of Incorporation, are declared to be the Constitution of the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and no alteration shall be made therein except by a vote of two-thirds of the persons present at an annual meeting of the Corporation upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, of which at least one month's notice in writing shall have been given to the Patrons and Members individually, by letter addressed to the Patron or Member, and mailed at Halifax or left at his place of business or abode.

BY-LAWS.

BOARD OF MANAGERS—MEETINGS.

I—STATED MEETING.

The Board shall hold a stated meeting at the Institution on the first Monday of every month, except when such Monday shall fall on a public holiday, then on the day following, and at such hour as they may from time to time appoint.

II—SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings may be convened by request of the President or three members of the Board, the time, place, and object to be specified in such request, and inserted in the notice of meeting by the Secretary.

At least twenty-four hours' notice of a special meeting shall be given, and no business other than that specified in the notice shall be transacted.

III—QUORUM.

Five of the Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

IV—PRESIDING OFFICER.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he may be present, and he shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees. In his absence the Vice-President shall represent him as well on standing committees as at the Board. In the absence of both President and Vice-President from any meeting of the Board, the chair shall be taken by the first named on the list of Managers present at the hour for commencing business.

V—COMMITTEES.

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Board of Managers at their first meeting in each year:—

(1) *Finance*—

A Committee of Finance, consisting of the President, Treasurer, and four members of the Board, whose duty it

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shall be to devise and recommend ways and means for securing and preserving the financial prosperity of the Institution, to examine and certify the correctness of the Treasurer's annual report, and at the end of every year prepare and submit a full and clear report of the financial condition of the Institution.

Every Standing Committee shall from time to time furnish the Committee of Finance with such information as they may require, and in particular before the close of every year with a full inventory of all the property in their respective departments.

(2) *Instruction*—

A Committee on Instruction, consisting of four members of the Board who shall have supervision of the Educational Department, and shall enquire from time to time into the methods pursued in the instruction of the blind in other places.

(3) *Manufactures*—

A Committee of three on Manufactures to supervise the Manufacturing Department, supply that Department with raw material, and dispose of the articles manufactured.

(4) *House*—

A House Committee of three on supplies, repairs and improvements, to have supervision of all matters connected with the supply of provisions, clothing and other necessaries; the regulation of the domestic arrangements of the Institution, and the care of the building and grounds.

(5) *General Duties*—

Each standing Committee shall visit the Institution at least once a month, and arrange for one of their number to do so weekly. They shall have the entire and exclusive control, subject only to the full Board, over the department allotted to them; shall keep a book at the Institution, in which all their proceedings shall be entered, and especially all requisitions, instructions, or orders given to the Superintendent or other officers shall be clearly set down therein, for the prevention of any misunderstanding regarding the same. The Chairman shall be bound to see that the duties of his Committee are in every respect fully performed, and shall furnish the Board whenever required with the minutes of their proceedings and all other information desired.

VI.—DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds and securities belonging to the Institution, and shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Committee of Finance; shall deposit all moneys of the Institution, on receipt, in some bank approved by the Managers, to the credit of the Institution, and pay by cheques drawn thereon all bills certified by the Chairman of any standing Committee. He shall present at every stated meeting in each year a full report for the year, and in such form as the Board may prescribe.

VII.—DUTIES OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Institution, and submit the same at each stated meeting of the Board. He shall file at the Institution all letters received by him or the Board, and copies of all letters written by him, and keep the same under his charge for the exclusive use of the Board.

VIII.—DUTIES OF RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board, and enter the same in a book of Minutes; shall prepare and issue all notices required in conducting the business of the Institution; and communicate all resolutions of the Board to the committee or officer affected thereby.

He shall have the custody of the seal, and use the same only as directed by the Board of Managers.

He shall see that all by-laws of the Institution are properly recorded in a book kept for that purpose; shall file at the Institution all reports and papers submitted to the Board or placed in his custody, and safely keep the same for the exclusive use of the Board.

Whenever the Secretary is mentioned in any by-law, resolution or other proceeding, it shall mean the Recording Secretary.

In his absence the Managers shall appoint one of their number to act *pro tempore*.

IX.—ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

(1) *General terms*—

Young blind persons of good moral character, between the ages of eight and eighteen, may be admitted to the Institution by paying one hundred and twenty dollars per annum, the payments to be made by half-yearly instalments in advance. This sum shall cover all the expenses of board,

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PUPILS

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E. PERLI
ARTHUR
DAVID B.
JOHN W.
RODERICK
ROBERT V
HOWARD

JANET MA
MARGARET
ELIZABETH
FLORA W
EDITH GE

washing, tuition, and medical attendance. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution.

Their friends may visit them at reasonable times under the regulations of the Board.

(2) *Special cases*—

The Board of Managers may receive special applications for the admission of pupils who are in indigent circumstance, and grant or refuse the same from time to time as in their judgment may be consistent with the state of the funds of the Institution.

(4) *Day scholars*—

The Board may, at their discretion, receive day scholars upon such terms and conditions as they may prescribe.

(4) *Forms, &c.*—

Applications for admission must be addressed to the Recording Secretary, at the Asylum, and made upon the forms and in accordance with the directions prescribed by the Board.

PUPILS IN THE INSTITUTE ON THE 1st DEC., 1873.

MALES.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
EDWARD LEADHAM	12	Musquodoboit.
LEWIS A. FLETCHER	16	Londonderry.
DANIEL REID	17	Pictou.
E. PERLEY FLETCHER	10	Londonderry.
ARTHUR CHISHOLM	16	Gt. Village, Colchester.
DAVID BAIRD	20	Ingonish, “
JOHN W. HILTZ	12	Walton, Hants. [berland.
RODERICK MATHESON	17	Victoria Settlement, Cum-
ROBERT WHITMAN	20	Bridgewater.
HOWARD TAYLOR	“	Musquodoboit.

FEMALES.

JANET MACNEIL	14	Pictou,
MARGARET HUNTER	17	LaHave.
ELIZABETH SMITH	20	Halifax.
FLORA WILSON	“	Tatamagouche.
EDITH GEORGE	“	Halifax.

*Halifax Asylum for the Blind—In a/c with George P. Mitchell,
Treasurer.*

Dr.

1873.		
To House expenses		\$1277.68
" Salaries		667.75
" Books, Printing Report, &c.		134.39
" Coal and wood		233.45
" Furniture, Bedding, &c		179.06
" Repairs, painting, whitewashing, &c		207.36
" Labor at Grounds		262.02
" Manufactures		178.20
" Miscellaneous		89.76
" Fire Insurance		55.00
		<u>\$3284.67</u>

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By balance from last year		\$ 861.38
" Interest from Investments	\$1410.66	
" Manufactures	71.40	
" Donations and Subscriptions	25.00	
" Provincial Grant	\$1000	
" " Extra	250	
	<u>1250.00</u>	
" Grass sold	10.00	
" Board from pupils	335.00	
	<u>3102.06</u>	
		<u>3963.44</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$ 678.77</u>

Amount of Investments, \$24,100.

GEORGE P. MITCHELL,
Treasurer.

Halifax, December, 1873.

Examined and found correct,

W. H. NEAL, }
CHAS. FLETCHER, } Auditors.

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Hon. M.
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John Stairs
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ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE

HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

Provincial Grant . . .	\$2000 00	W. M. Harrington . . .	\$100 00
Hon. M. B. Almon . . .	2000 00	Black Bros. & Co. . . .	100 00
“ E. Collins	1000 00	David Starr & Sons . . .	100 00
Wm. Curard, Esq.	500 00	J. B. Bland	100 00
Sir W. F. Williams	500 00	Bauld, Gibson & Co. . .	100 00
Sir Edward Kenny	400 00	James Scott	100 00
A Friend, per M. H. Richey	400 00	Daniel Cronan	100 00
Hon. A. Keith	200 00	S. N. Binney	100 00
“ J. H. Anderson	200 00	Joseph Wier	100 00
James Donaldson	200 00	J. & R. B. Seeton	100 00
Judge Bliss	200 00	Jas. F. Avery	100 00
Lewis Bliss, Esq.	200 00	Geo. H. Starr	100 00
Bishop of Nova Scotia . . .	200 00	Jairus Hart	100 00
Sir Wm. Young	200 00	Chas. Cogswell, M.D. . . .	100 00
W. J. Stairs, Esq.	200 00	C. D. Hunter	100 00
J. Duffus, Jr., Esq.	200 00	Ann Vass	100 00
The Lieut. Governor	200 00	S. A. White	100 00
W. P. West, Esq.	200 00	Hon. J. Cochran	100 00
Edwd. Binney, Esq.	200 00	George Esson	100 00
Wm. Hare	100 00	George P. Mitchell	100 00
Edwd. Albro	100 00	Edward Smith	100 00
Jeremiah Northup	100 00	John Brookfield	80 00
Hon. J. W. Ritchie	100 00	E. K. Brown	50 00
D. McN. Parker	100 00	Wm. Cogswell	80 00
W. B. Hamilton	100 00	Chas. Robson & Co.	50 00
John Naylor	100 00	E. W. Chipman	50 00
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