

"The Goodwill of Him that dwelt in the bush be with us."

NOV.

1897.

# CHURCH AND HOME



The Magazine of the Presbytery of St. John

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# CHURCH and HOME

The Magazine of the Presbytery of St. John.

Vol. II.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 11

Gratitude forms an essential part of the disposition which we ought to bear toward God. If "all things work together for good to those who love God," ought not we to thank Him that we are being shaped after the image of His glory?

There are blessings that we enjoy in common, and there are the personal blessings known only to ourselves and God.

We have to thank our Father for the provision He has made for us, and the care with which He has watched over us. We have to thank Him for our powers of mind and body, for the friendships that help to make life glad and alleviate its ills. We have to thank Him for our position in life, and the discipline it affords in correcting our mistakes and perfecting us in those virtues that help us to know the nature and the heart of God. We have to thank Him for our mistakes, if they have warned us against putting too much confidence in self, and taught us to flee to God for help. We can thank God for every chastisement and affliction if they have worked within us patience and hope. There is no duty, there is no experience in life but has something of God in it.

Above all, we thank Him for the revelation in Christ, and for the continued influence of His kingdom

since He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. We thank God for the hope that His gospel has given us—not only that it cheers under the adversities of our lot, but it brings before our eyes a life beyond, fuller and richer than the mind can conceive.

Let us thank God that increased effort is being made to bring all men within sound of the gospel. Let us thank God that we see more clearly than did our fathers of old, and that His kingdom is advancing towards its perfect triumph.

The thousands of people who are gulled into giving to the poor in an utterly unreasonable manner is astonishing. The tale of woe dolefully told with a whining voice and crouching mien is hard to withstand, and the veneer which covers indolence and unthrift is not at all times easily seen through. "He who giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord," but the lender must needs, if he would give judiciously, weigh carefully each case. Who are the deserving poor? We have them always with us, but their distinctive features are lost sight of amongst the myriads of lazy grovelling hypocrites, who sink their humanity for a beggarly dole.

Charity stands crowned queen of the heaven-born graces; but her

sceptre is degraded when, in her name, the ill deserving and indolent are supplied with that which feeds their indolence and robs the deserving poor of what might indeed be theirs. God knows the deserving poor are many, too many, and he would be but a poor specimen of God's creation who would not, if he could, at times put forth his hand and assist his brother. But when, for one who needs, there are a hundred who gull, how are we to judge?

The hand of the giver must be withheld until he has ascertained whether or not the case is a genuine one. This entails more trouble than most people care to incur, and rather than do so the dole is doled. Indeed the only clear course in the matter seems to be—give not at all unless the recipient be known to you as poor and deserving.

The year now ending is memorable as the year in which the Diamond Jubilee of our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria, was celebrated in every country, city, town and hamlet of her vast and ever increasing possessions, when from the four corners of the earth triumphantly waved the British flag, not only in acknowledgment of the longest reign of British history, but in honor of her who for sixty years has wielded a monarch's sceptre in righteousness, justice and love. A Queen indeed, but a woman withal; a sympathizing woman, ever ready to weep with those who mourn, and to rejoice with those who rejoice. A woman

whose heart-strings having been touched by sorrow's cold fingers has been able to appreciate the sufferings of others, and has never withheld her sympathy from the least of her subjects. A Queen and woman in whose service, and for whom the blood of Britain's noblest sons has been freely given, and did she desire to send a message to the remotest corner of the globe on which we dwell, willing hearts and willing hands would count it an honor and a privilege to be the messenger, nor would much precious time be wasted in its deliverance.

But great and glorious as is our Queen, there is a Sovereign greater still, the One by whom kings and queens rule and princes decree justice, the King of kings, the Omnipotent One. Nearly nineteen hundred years ago He gave this command to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," and yet the nineteen centuries have passed away and still the message has reached but a small portion of the world's inhabitants. He, too, is a sympathizing Friend. Having been tempted in all points like as we are, He is able and willing to succor those who are tempted. Not only does He share our sorrows and sufferings, but has given His life to save us from eternal death, and has offered also to share the glories of His kingdom, and to place a crown upon the head of every faithful, loyal subject when the great coronation day of rejoicing shall come.

Not always shall be sung by every

true British heart the prayer "God Save the Queen." The time will come when at half-mast high the old flag, whose proud waving has so often told of victories won, shall proclaim a nation's woe. A nation's tears will flow sincerely when the last prayer shall be said over the grave of Victoria, the good, the virtuous, womanly queen. The Judge of all the earth shall Himself place upon her brow a crown that fadeth not away, and surely it shall be said of her in that day "well done, good and faithful servant."

But the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, has no end of days. His years wax not old, nor change; He ever liveth to make intercession for His people.

Let us be loyal to Queen and country; let us love and venerate our noble Empress-Queen, she is worthy the homage of all hearts; but shall we be less loyal to Him who controls the universe, who holds the corners of the earth in His hands, before whom angels and archangels veil their faces? Shall we lightly treat His wishes and commands, or allow the days and months and years to pass by without making an effort to bring the world under His dominion, that every heart may crown Him Lord of all, and every tongue confess "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

A reign of sixty years,  
With hearty songs and cheers,  
And cannon roar;  
Has honored been by all  
True Britons, great and small,  
In cottage, mansion, hall,  
On sea and shore.

Victoria, Empress-Queen,  
Through every varying scene  
Of loss, or gain;  
Thy subjects own alway  
Thy righteous sceptre-sway,  
And still would fondly pray  
"Long may she reign."

When ends thy blest career,  
When angel-hands draw near,  
And close life's scene;  
Then over Britain's land,  
Must cease the anthem grand  
Now heard on every hand,  
"God Save the Queen."

But He who rules o'er all,  
By whom thrones stand or fall,  
Lives on for aye;  
His kingdom never ends;  
No change His sceptre bends;  
Through ages on extends  
His sovereign sway.

Then let us gladly bring  
To our Immortal King,  
Our hearts' best love;  
His will supreme obey;  
Till all the world shall pay  
True homage to His sway,  
Who reigns above.

G. B. S.

#### St. Andrew's Church, St. John.

On Sunday, November 7th, Rev. L. G. McNeill preached with reference to the twenty-five years which he had that day completed. He was ordained at Maitland, November 12th, 1872. In 1878 he accepted a call to St. Andrew's Church, St. John's, Nfld., where he continued eight years. For eleven years, since 1886, he has been in his present charge. In the 25 years of his ministry he had preached 3,000 sermons, delivered 1,500 addresses and lectures, baptized 630, administered the Lord's Supper 100 times, received

534 into the communion of the church; married 165 couples, and officiated at 351 funerals. The three churches had under his ministry raised a total of \$188,000—of which over \$30,000 went to Home and Foreign Missions. He reviewed the notable changes in the world during those years—especially the changes in Canada and in St. John. He expatiated on the progress of the Presbyterian Church since the Union—it having more than doubled its contributions and membership. Our contributions to Foreign Missions have increased five fold, and our agents fifteen fold. The college has kept pace with the other work of the church. He took a cheerful view of the present and a most hopeful view of the future.

CHURCH AND HOME desires to tender its hearty congratulations to Mr. McNeill on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. We wish him even a greater measure of success in the future than in the past. In three very important congregations has he done good and faithful work for his Master, and any of them would heartily welcome his return to their pulpits. As a preacher, thinker and leader in the Church Courts Mr. McNeill has always commanded not only the love of his congregations but also has gained the respect and esteem of his brethren in the ministry. May he be long spared to help on his Master's cause in this community and Presbytery.

A congregational social was held in the lecture room of St. Andrew's Church, on Tuesday, 26th Nov., at which the pastor of the church, who has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of his pulpit work, was the honored guest. Almost every member of the large congregation of the church was present, as well as many pastors of Presbyterian churches in

the city, to join in the felicitations for Rev. L. G. Macneill. The room had been prettily decorated by the ladies of the church, who were the moving spirits in the affair, with palms, flowers, etc. His worship Mayor Robertson acted as chairman, and before announcing the first number on the programme, made a brief but very happy speech, referring to the special significance of the gathering. The programme was opened with an instrumental sextette, the performers being Mr. S. Girvan, (leader), Messrs. Ewing, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Bostwick, Master Girvan, Miss Goddard accompanying on the piano. Miss Jessie Gordon Forbes then sang a solo, and received a well merited encore, to which the young lady gracefully responded with another charming song. Letters were read from Revs. Dr. Bennet and J. Ross expressing regret at their inability to be present, and congratulating Mr. McNeil on his anniversary. Rev. Mr. Fotheringham, of St. John's, Rev. Mr. Rainnie, of Calvin, Rev. Mr. Fraser, of St. Stephen's, Rev. Mr. Morton, of Fairville, and Rev. Dr. Bruce, of St. David's church, were called upon, and all expressed their cordial feelings toward the congregation of St. Andrew's and Rev. Mr. Macneill, the pastor. All spoke of the great esteem in which Mr. Macneill was held by his brother pastors, of the important position he held in the Presbytery, and of the manner he was looked up to by his associates. A solo was sung by Mrs. Worden, and greatly enjoyed. She was encored, and responded with a Scotch song, which was also enthusiastically applauded. A quartette—Mrs. Worden, Miss Morgan, Mr. Cochran and Prof. Buck—rendered a selection in splendid style, and were recalled.

Rev. Mr. Macneill was called to

the platform, and Mr. Alex. Macaulay, on behalf of the ladies and of the congregation, presented the pastor with a magnificent set of silver spoons and forks in an oak case, and a splendid silver ladle. Rev. Mr. MacNeill was greatly affected, and could with difficulty express his thanks. He would, he said, cherish the gifts, not only for their intrinsic value, but for the kindly feeling of his congregation they indicated. For the warm words of the speakers of the evening he also returned his sincere thanks.

Refreshments, prepared by the ladies of the church, were served by the young people of the congregation, after which his worship briefly complimented the ladies, and Mrs. E. A. Smith responded in a charming speech. This remarkably pleasant gathering was concluded by the singing of Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen.

### Mechanic.

The beautiful autumn weather on Sunday, Oct. 31, brought out a very large gathering to attend the dedication services of the new Presbyterian church at this place. From early morning until noon teams kept pouring in from all directions, from Waterford, Elgin, Penobsquis and Sussex.

The new church was built by T. F. Bustard, who has had considerable experience at church building, this being the third church built by him in two years. The building is 42 feet by 25 feet with a suitable tower at one end 45 feet high, with minaret finish. The inside walls are plastered, with the ceiling cased with exposed rafters. The church was finished by Ross & McPherson of Sussex. Mr. Campbell who has been laboring in this field during the

past four summers, is to be congratulated. Last year he succeeded in building a new church in Waterford. This year this new church, and it is his intention to build new churches at Markhamville and Long Settlement in the near future. When he returns from Pine Hill college next spring he will have completed his studies, and on being ordained will be permanently stationed here. The cost of the building is estimated at \$1,500 although considerable was given in the form of lumber and labour. Today over four hundred were crowded within its walls with crowds standing around in all directions. Miss Etta Moore, the organist, and the Mechanic and Waterford choirs furnished excellent music, especially when the offertories were being collected. The morning service was opened with a short prayer by the Rev. C. W. Hamilton, (Methodist) of Sussex. After the singing of the 122nd Psalm, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton read the first lesson from 1 Kings, vii. The prayer of dedication was then offered by the Rev. Mr. Ross of St. John. After singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul" the second lesson was read by A. H. Campbell, from St Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter three, followed by hymn one.

The Rev. Mr. Ross then delivered the dedicatory sermon from the words found in 1 Cor. III. xi: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The reverend gentleman explained how the Corinthians were divided into Paulites and Apollites, and only looked upon the slight differences which existed until Paul showed them the likeness and pointed to Christ as the only foundation. Mr. Ross then made a personal application of Paul's advice, bringing it home very aptly to all his hearers. He showed Christ to be not only

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the foundation on which to build up our life, but also that Christ is the pattern or plan for our super-structure or character. Speaking of the wisdom of the erection of the present edifice, he referred to the zeal and courage which was necessary for its completion, which, no doubt, would cause the blessing of God to fall upon many of both the present and future generations. After a short prayer the morning services closed by singing hymn 233, "The Church's one foundation."

At three o'clock the second service was opened by singing the doxology. After prayer by Rev. Mr. Young (Methodist) of Elgin, and the singing of hymn 245 he, read for the first lesson Psalm 48. Prayer was then offered by Mr. Campbell, after which he read Eph. v. Hymn 174 being sung, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton of Sussex preached an excellent sermon from the words found in Psalm 15, beginning, "Lord who shall abide in Thy tabernacle, Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?" He claimed that the vital principle of the building and dedication of this building was the necessity of saving souls. Those who shall sojourn in the church of God on earth and shall abide in heaven are those who walk uprightly according to the plan or pattern given us by God. He then dealt thoroughly with the com-

mon evils such as lying, slandering, vileness, bribery and so forth, and pointed out clearly what man should develop into to reach heaven. After Psalm 15 was sung the regular closed and an after service was opened for the celebration of the holy communion. The holy sacrament was administered by Rev. Mr. Ross to seventy communicants.

The evening service was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Sutherland of Sussex, followed by the singing of the second paraphrase and the reading of Psalm 91. The Rev. Mr. Young led in prayer, followed by Mr. Campbell reading Hebrews xi. After the singing of hymn 74, the Rev. Mr. Sutherland preached an appropriate and forcible sermon from the words found in Gen. xii., the first four verses commencing with "Now the Lord said unto Abram Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee."

Rev. Mr. Sutherland spoke of the influence of Abraham upon the world even down to present day. God spoke to Abraham, God also speaks to us. Abraham recognized the command as coming from God. Do we always recognize God's voice when He speaks to us? Abraham would not turn back, feeling sure that God was leading him. He

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gave up home and wandered forth into a strange country. He gave up much. So must we often sacrifice many things in the service of God. If we had nothing to sacrifice we would often be content and forget God. It is best for us to pass through the fire of sacrifice. We must sacrifice what is required of us, sometimes home, friends and even country. Again, Abraham risked all at God's command. So must we risk many things in this world in God's service. Have faith and always answer to the call of duty or of God. Gracious mention was then made to the Gordon Highlanders. By Abraham's obedience sacrifice, risk and faith, God made Abraham a promise of His blessing and kept His promise. So God promises us His blessing if we hear and heed God.

The series of dedicatory services closed by the singing of hymn 176 and the benediction. Large offertories were taken at each service to assist in lessening the debt against the church. This article would be incomplete without referring to the open-hearted hospitality of the people of Mechanic.

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#### St. David's Church.

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The winter course for the Y. P. A. of St. David's church promises to be very interesting. This year the the Association will celebrate its tenth anniversary, and as it has steadily grown in strength and influence, there is a special interest attached to the whole programme for the year as well as to the actual celebration. The Association is a very active one and has a large membership chiefly among the younger part of the congregation. The first meeting of the course was held

on Tuesday, 16th Nov. The programme was a source of great pleasure to those present. Mr. C. J. Milligan, M. A., who is serving his second term as president, opened the meeting with an inaugural which for thought and diction greatly pleased the audience. Rev. H. H. Morton gave a piano solo, songs were contributed by Miss J. G. Forbes and Miss A. Munro. Miss Forbes also gave a reading. Messrs. Bowman, Brown and Bowman gave instrumental selections. Refreshments were served at the close.

CHURCH AND HOME wishes St. David's Y. P. A. as great success during the next ten years as it has enjoyed during the past. May prosperity ever attend the young people; they are the main-stay of our churches.

The following gentlemen have, we understand, been elected as Elders in the congregation of St. David's Church, St. John—Messrs. S. R. Jack, Andrew Malcolm, W. S. Morrison, M. D., and Alex Watson. We congratulate St. David's on securing such men for the work of the church. The new additions to the Session will add greatly to the strength of the already very efficient body of men who rule over St. David's in spiritual things.

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St. Stephen's Church Guild has begun its winter programme with a very large attendance. The musical evening held the other Monday was most enjoyable, and reflected great credit upon the musical committee. Every alternate meeting is open to all who please to go, and the other evening is devoted to informal discussions and papers on subjects literary, biblical, historical and social. Such meetings cannot fail to be a source of strength to any congrega-

tion, and we congratulate St. Stephens on the very excellent papers their own members have proved capable of producing. Mr. Fraser and the committee who so ably seconded his efforts deserve great praise and credit for the work they have done and are doing among the young people of the congregation.

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#### Milltown.

Architect H. H. Mott is preparing plans for the remodelling of the Presbyterian church at Milltown. Considerable additional seating capacity will be provided in the main auditorium, which will be fitted with circular oak pews. There will also be provided on one side a chorus and pastor's room and an extension for the choir and organ. On the other side there will be a large vestry, library and class rooms, and a dining room and kitchen for the ladies. When the changes are finished the church will present a very handsome appearance outside, and will have all the necessary room to enable it to carry on its work successfully.

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The annual congregational meeting of the Richmond congregation, was held in the church at Richmond Corner, on Thursday, 28th ult., at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the attendance was large; the reports were encouraging. Messrs. Morton and Ross were present as a delegation from Presbytery. Mr. Morton conducted preaching services and Mr. Ross presented the claims of the schemes of the Church.

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A member of the First Presbyterian Church, Truro, has generously pledged \$50 for four years for the

carrying on of mission work in Grand Falls. The thanks of the Presbytery are due this lady for her kindly interest in our work.

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The other day when in Halifax attending a meeting of the College Board regarding the proposed erection of a fireproof library building in connection with our College there, Judge Forbes announced that he himself would give \$300 towards the proposed building, and that Dr. Walker, of Carleton Church, had generously promised \$1,000.

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Mr. A. Gordon Leavitt lectured on Ornithology, before the Saint Stephen's Church Guild, on Monday, 22nd November. He illustrated his lecture with birds and parts of birds from his interesting collection. A strong argument was made against the practise of wearing birds as ornaments on the hats or bonnets of the ladies. The lecture was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

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At Greenoch Church Sunday School, on Sunday, the 21st Nov., Rev. A. W. Mahon, on behalf of the school, presented Mr. J. Kennedy Stinson with a handsome Bible and a complimentary address as a token of good will, on the eve of his departure for Montreal. Mr. Stinson has been an active worker in connection with the school, and it is with great regret they part with him.

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The Rev. Thomas Corbett has tendered his resignation to the Presbytery of the charge of South Richmond. A special meeting of the Presbytery has been called for the purpose of dealing with the matter. It will be held on Thursday, 2nd

December, at 2.30 o'clock, in the afternoon, in St. Andrew's Church, St. John.

The Assembly having recommended that the 250th Anniversary of the completion of the work of the Westminster Assembly should be commemorated in some way during this year, Presbytery will be asked at the special meeting, on December 2nd, to make some arrangements for such a celebration.

During November the Presbyterians, Baptist and Methodist churches of Fairville are to have special services conducted by Evangelist Martin. The meetings began on Sunday, 21 Nov., with services in the Presbyterian and Baptist churches, and a mass meeting in the Methodist school-room.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church, Milltown, are making great preparations for a sociable and fancy sale, to be held near the first of next month. They are devoting one afternoon a week to the sewing of fancy articles.

Every great truth is separated by only a short distance from a great error. Even the golden rule may be so handled as to become a fallacy. "Do to others as ye would have others do unto you" is only true when our ideas as to what we would have others do to us are right. A man seeing a thief steal, might let him go scot free, simply because he would like to be set free himself in similar circumstances. Literally this would be fulfilling the golden rule; in reality it would be a shocking violation of it. The law as uttered by our Lord must be taken in relation

to his whole teaching. It presupposes that we are under the dominance of Christian principles and ideals already, and is then a working rule for their application. Through oblivion of this fact, there is no Christian precept more often misquoted or wrongly applied. — *Christ'u*

What Sage, without cause supernatural, both without and within him, can guess at the wonders he views in the growth of a blade of grass, or the tints on an insect's wing? Whatever art Man can achieve in his progress through time, Man's reason, in time, can suffice to explain. But the wonders of God? These belong to the Infinite; and these, O mortal! will but develop new wonder on wonder, though thy sight be a spirit's, and thy leisure to track and to solve, an eternity.

#### The Home Department of the Sunday School.

The Church is under a moral and sacred obligation to preach and teach the gospel to every creature, for the Great Teacher gave a command as well as a commission when he said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." To this end the Home Department plan has been formed, and is a simple and effectual way to secure a systematic study of the Bible as outlined in the Sunday School lessons, by those who for some reason do not attend the session of the Sunday School. The Home Department is a powerful and practical plan of reaching the un-churched masses with the gospel of Jesus.

This is an organized plan to reach the thousands of men, women and children to be found upon farms and

in out-of-the-way places, it brings them in contact with the Sunday School and has the following aims:

1. Promotion of Bible study.
2. Promotion of Christian usefulness.
3. Increased attendance on the main school.
4. To establish a family altar in every house.
5. Increased attendance upon the Church service.
6. To increase the Church membership.
7. To aid the pastor in his house to house visitation.
8. To secure the salvation of souls.
9. The increase of contributions to the benevolent causes of the Church.

A Home Department is formed by the appointment of a Superintendent, and visitors who make a canvass and secure members to join, by simply having them sign a card, promising to study the Sunday School lesson for half an hour each week, each visitor having a class from fifteen to twenty members, but this depends entirely on the condition of the field and the capacity of the visitor; the visitor pays a visit at least once a quarter to the home of each member, receiving their quarterly record of lessons studied, and their contributions, which are kept on and in report envelopes, which are left with the member along with the Lesson Help for the ensuing quarter.

The Home Department is not a separate organization, but is a part of the Sunday School, same as the Primary Department, &c., and all the members should be entitled to the use of the library, and to participation in all the Sunday school socials, pic-nics, entertainments, lectures, &c. The visitors should be ranked along with the teachers of the other departments.

Any church that wishes to increase its hold, that desires to reach out

and have a strong drawing power, will organize a home department and push it; and wherever a home department has been successfully pushed, the result has been the development in the church of a corps of earnest and enthusiastic workers. For this reason, if for no other, the Church should see to it, that its Sunday school has a home department.

These facts being true, that the home department greatly adds to the membership of the Sunday School, increasing the love for Bible study, that it is a Church extension as well as a Sunday School department, that it assists the pastor, and that it develops Christian workers in the Church, then it follows that every Church and Sunday School should be interested in seeing to the organization of a home department and to the vigorous prosecution of this work.

The New Brunswick Sunday School Association, along with its other departments, has a Home Class Department which publishes its own supplies, the Superintendent, Robert Reid, care Reid Bros., 56 King St., St. John, N. B., will be pleased to send samples on receipt of a three cent stamp, and will be glad to correspond with superintendents and pastors who desire further information in organizing a Home Department in connection with their Sunday-school.



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