# PLATTSMOUTH WEEKLY MERGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1888.

# THE RAIN GAMBLERS.

A GAME IN WHICH NATURE "TAKES A THIRD HAND."

### Betting on the Amount of Rainfall in Bombay-Lively Times During the Rainy Season - Cheating Impossible - Simple Tools of the Game.

The Bombay police are at present exercised over a point of public morals which suggests grave reflections to those who imagine that human nature can be regenerated by act of parliament. In England we have done our best to check gambling by the suppression of lotteries, and betting houses, and "list shops" and by withholding all legal protection from the goose who has backed his fancy and finds it hard to collect the proceeds. But still the evil is not exterminated, and so far as risking money on the performances of horses on a race course or of men on the ash path is concerned, the mischief is perhaps more rampant than er it was. In truth, the ennul of existence, among men with no internal resources or external business, must be relieved in some way. And this, the Bombay authorities discovered, is supplied among the native population by means of the rain gambling.

BETTING ON THE RAINFALL.

Whether this form of betting is new or old we are not informed, though, as everything in the east is very antiquated, the chances are that it has been going on from time immemorial, though it is only recently that it has come prominently under the notice of the police. All kinds of gambling are, of course, plentiful in an Indian city-from the purchase of lottery tickets to the vulgar excitement of chuck farthing. But the rain gamblers, though not drafted solely from the upper circle of native society, are in Bombay confined, for the most part, to men with some means. In vulgar parlance, it is known as "sutta," and consists in betting on the amount of rain which will be discharged from a passing cloud.

Naturally in a country where the sky is as brass for more than half the year, this form of speculation can be indulged in only during the monsoon season when business is partly suspended and the world generally in western India is a "peg low." With the southwest monsoon the rainy season in Bombay sets in and lasts with amazing regularity, from the second week in June till near the close of September. At this period the air is moist and clammy and the citizens move, as it were, in a kind of vapor bath, though old residents are fond of declaring that the monsoon is pleasant enough "when one gets accus-tomed to the rain." In any case it gen erally leaves off for an hour or two in the evening, when a ride or walk is possible. But that is just the period when the rain gambler hies him to the sutta saloon. The principal of these haunts-the only one indeed with which the police seem acquainted-is situated in close proximity to one of the principal police stations.

CHEATING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

According to a description in a local journal the place is perfectly easy of access, and there is no attempt to hide anything from the authorities, or from any one else. Nor, in truth, except for the temptation which it affords to people with no money to lose to risk their earnings, or, what is worse, the earnings of their employers, rain gambling is about the most innocuous of all forms of betting.

#### Various Theories or Electricity. What is electricity? The engineer and the physicist are completely at variance

on this point. The engineer regards electricity, like heat, light and sound, as a definite form of energy, something that he can generate and destroy, something that be can play with and utilize, some thing that he can measure and apply. The physicist-at least some physicists, for it is difficult to find any two physicists that completely agree with each other-regard electricity as a peculiar form of matter permeating all space as well as all substances, together with the luminiferous ether, which it permeates like a jelly or a sponge.

Conductors, according to this theory, are holes or pipes in this jelly, and electrical generators are pumps that transfer this hypothetical matter from one place to another. Other physicists, following Ediund, regard the ether and electricity as identical, and some, the disciples of Helmholtz, consider it an integral constituent of nature, each molecule of matter having its own definite charge, which determines its attraction and its repul sion. All attempts to revive the Frank linian, or material theory of electricity have, however, to be so loaded with as sumptions and so weighed with contradictions that they completely fail to remove electricity from the region of the mysterious. It is already extremely difficult to conceive the existence of the ether itself as an infinitely thin, highly elastic medium filling all space, employed only as the vehicle of those undulatory motions that give us light and radiant heat. The material theory of electricity requires us to add to this another incom prehensible medium embedded or entangled in this ether, which is not only a medium for motion, but which is itself moved.

The practical man, with his eye and his mind trained by the stern realities of daily experience, on a scale vast compared with that of the little world of the laboratory, revolts from such wild hypotheses, such unnecessary and inconceivable conceptions, such a travesty of the beautiful simplicity of nature. He has a clear conception of electricity as something which has a distant objective existence, which he can manufacture and sell, and something which the unphilosophic and ordinary member of society can buy and use. -W. H. Preece.

#### Among the Huts of Ireland.

In three days' time I had visited nearly 200 huts and cabins in the wilds of Inishowen. The mere mention of the words, "I am from America," was the magical talisman opening every door and heart. "Heav'n bless ye for that!" "Raally-now-an' ye're' tellin' me?" "May ye be saved for the great journey hom!" "Ah, now, but that's the fine country, alto-gether!" "And did ye see my Dennis?" Wor ye comin' up wid my ould man, sir?" "Faith, but our Katy's there!" "May the blessed saints show ye our Phadrick, when ye're back!"-and a hundred like greetings and questions, with tremors from the region of tears in them, were showered upon me; and may I be forgiven where heart's hunger is counted no crime for the mild and comforting lies that I told them.

But one of the whole simple host, a poor old woman living alone with a goat and a pig in a hut, turned upon me. Had I seen her Michael darlin', who the next blissed year would bring her out? I had not; but would find him. She was as a June day of delight until that fatal denial. No matter for my brilliant exposition of America's geography, its wide expanse, its numberless cities. Ah, where Michael was was her America entirely. And God bless the true old soul of a mother for it, though she did slam the door upon me and glare unassailable defiance through the little window from her stern, white face, until the frills of her ancient cap danced like wind swept heather among the hills.-Edgar L. Weke-

## The Business Booming.

Probably no one thing has caused such general revival of business at F. G. Fricke & Co.'s drug store as their giving away to their customers of so many free trial bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery | tea without the knowledge of the person for Consumption. Their trade is simply enormous in this very valuable article from the fact that it always cures and never disappoints. Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and all throat and lung diseases quickly cured. You can drunkards have been made temperate test it before buying by getting a trial men who have taken Golden Specific in bottle free, large size \$1. Every bottle warranted.

ses 20 and 21: "I am in distress; my system once impregnated with the Specibowels are troubled, mine heart is turned ) fie it becomes an after impossibility for within me. They heard that I sigh, there the liquor appelite to exist. For full is none to comfort me; all mine enemies particulars, address GOLDEN SPECIFIC have heard of my trouble; they are glad" -Cleveland.

COUCH! and COUCH! and COUCH What in the world is the reason you will cough and keep coughing and sell oen trying inferior medicines who BEGGS' CHERRY COUGH SYRUP (41) positively relieve your cough at one This is no advertising scheme, but actual fact, and we guarantee it. S. by O. P. Smith & Co. demosive

# A Sportsman's Recommendation. A British sportsman recommends that the bantam, which is particularly pugna clous and active, be turned wild, in the hope of having it become an available bird for sport.-New York Sur.

#### Bucklin's Amica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts. Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all skin eruptions, and posi tively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co. 51

# Pathos of the Humorous.

"There goes my vacation!" exclaimed . Norwich working woman the other day, but no one saw it go or could comprehend the meaning of the remark until she took her plate of false teeth from her mouth in two pieces. With working people vacations hold by a very slender thread.-Norwich Bulletin.

English Spavin Liniment removes alhard. Soft or Calloused lumps and Blemishes from horses, Blood Spavin, Curbs, Splints, Sweeny, Stifles. Sprains, Pink Eye, Coughs and etc. Save \$50 by use of one bottle. Evera bottle warranted F. G. ERICKE & Co., Druggists, Plattsmouth, Neb.

#### GLEANERS OF FAME.

Hearken not, friend, for the resounding din That did the poet's verses once acclaim: We are but gleaners in the field of fame, Whence the main harvest has been gathered in. The sheaves of glory you are fain to win

#### Drunkenness or the Liquor Habit P tively Cured by Administering Dr. Haines' Golden Specific.

It can be given in a cup of coffee or taking it; is absolutely harmless and will effect a permanent and speedy cure, whether the patient is a moderate drinker or an alcoholic wreck. Thousands o their coffee without their knowledge, and to-day believe they quit drinking of their Lamentations of Jeremiah chapter I. ver- own free will. IT NEVER FAILS. The CO., 185 Race st., Cincinnati, O. 33-1v

> -Cloycland can go fishing next decoration day and nonoory'll kick. Fisidon't bite in Salt River

> > SSUD Row rd.

We will pay the almove remainder an dase of inver complianti, dyspepsia, enbundache, indigestion, constipution ocostiveness we cannot cure with Weist's Vegetable Liver Pills, when the directions are strictly complied with. They are purely yegstable, and never nul to give satisfaction. Large boxes containing 30 sugar coated pills, 25c. For sale by all druggists. Beware of counterfeits and imitations. The genuine manufactured only by John O. We & Co., 862 W. Madison St. Chicago, and Sold by W. J. Warrick.

-The democrats have given up the ghoat.

## WHAT ON EARTH

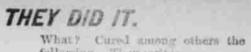
Is the reason people will not, can not, or do not see any difference in cheap nostrums put up by Cheap John houses or irresponsible parties at enormous profits, rather than take a medicine of world wide reputuation and one that is giving universal satisfaction at equal price? No medicine in the world is giving such unparalieled satisfaction for purifying the blood as BEGG'S BLOOD PURIFIER & BLOOD MAKER, and ever bottle that does not do its work will cost you nothing. For sale by O. P. Smith & Co. druggists.

-The republicans are busy collecting debts.

#### HOW CAN PARENTS

allow their children to cough and strain and cough and calmly say: "Oh! it is only a little cold." and keep giving them cheap and dangerous medicines, until they are down with lung fever or consumption, when they can be so easily relieved by BEGGS' CHERRY COUGH SYRUP? It has no superior, and few equals. For sale by O. P. Smith & Co., druggists.

-Several democrats were heard to remark some time ago: "No man in America can deteat Grover Cleveland."



following. They write:

Athlepherese 54, New Haves, Ct. Bir Contail Ave., Clinchmedt, O., Jaonyny Ph. 1883 Athlepherese Fills Increasing and River complexity and for the same bar of the Fills in a frained who is however, with indigentary and he has in provided with indigentary and he has in provided with indigentary and be has in provided with indigentary in the bar of the same deriver of the same bar of the same deriver of the same bar of the same is Resente 54, New Haven, Ct. | February with, 1888. | Athirthmess fills worked wonders in my case of dysperia. Easts L Clans. Ath-lo-pho-rus Fills are small and pleasant to take, yet wonderfully effective. Invaluable for kidney and liver complaints, dyspepsia, indigestion, constipution, headache, etc. They'll take away that tired feeling giving new life and strength. Send 6 cents for the beautiful colored pic-

\*\* Discordata Machines. THE ATHLOPHOROS CO. 112 Wall St. N. Y.



For "run-down," detailutated and overworked Specific for all restorative tonics. It is specific for all these Chronic Weakne It is a poten brun ad Because for an integer through weathrows and Diseases peculiar to Weathrow weathrows and eral as well as therein, for the and movine, it imparts vigor and strength to the whole system. It promptly curves weathrows of an arryone pros-tration, debility and size plasment, in other size. It is carefully compounded by an experienced physician, and adapted to woman's delicato organization. Purely vegetable and perfectly organization. Purely vegetable and perfectly harmless in any condition of the system. "Favorite Prescrip-WABHANTED.

WARRANTED. Government, sold by druggists, inder a positive gnar-sold by refunded. This manuatec has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faitbfully

(31.00) refunded. This manutae has been printed on the hothe-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years. For large, illustrated Traitise on Diseases of Women field mages, who full directions for home-treatment, send for cents in stamps. Address, Women's Dispensary Menical Association, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.



A NATURAL REMEDY FOR Epileptic Fits, Falling Sickness, Hysterics, St. Vitus Dance, Nervousness, Hypochondria, Melancholia, In-

ebrioty, Sleeplossness, Diz-

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SOLD BY DRUGDISTS.

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PETER RAUEN.

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NO. 1 WORRMAN.

THE OLD RELIABLE.

SATISFACTION OF ANAMY

Reis well known to a

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This medicine has a direct action upon the nerve fenters, allaring eliterative and the other the former in the former of the former of

Cleanses the News Product Server, lays Inflammation, Meals the Server, Restores the Senses of Tasko, Smell us. This remedy has been prepared by the Reverend Pastor Koeniz, of Fort Vaccas, Ind., for the pust ten years, and is now prepared under his direction by the



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Cheating is impossible, and though experience counts for something, there can not be any chance of the greenhorn being hoodwinked, since the game is the simplest imaginable, and the fact of Nature "taking the third hand" in the sport precludes the suspicion of the wily "shroff" manipulating the implements of the game.

Implements, indeed, in the gambling sense of the term, there are none; and, so long as a gamester has learned to read the signs of the heavens, the merest tyro has as much chance of winning as the most regular frequenter of the sutta saloon. The room is occupied by the stalls of the shroffs, or bankers, who pay to the owner of the establishment a cor tain percentage of their gains; and to this magnate all disputes are referred, his decision, like that of the umpire in a cricket match, being final.

IMPLEMENTS OF THE CAME.

The only tools of any kind in the place are two rough rain gauges. One of them consists of a long gutter running along the caves of a shed. At one end there is an aperture, to which is affixed a spout. through which the water trickles when the rain comes down in a drizzle. But when it pours the water shoots over the end of the gutter, and it is on this event happening that bets are laid. The other gauge is planted in the center of a trough. supported on four pillars, some seven feet high, and on the amount of rain which will fall in a specified time bets also are made. From morning to evening this meteorological and, it must be confessed. somewhat scientific "gambling hell" is described as crammed with all sorts and conditions of natives, entering bets and waiting for the result.

When a heavy black cloud passes overhead, every swarthy face is anxiously upturned, and then wagers are eagerly made whether it will or will not break, and as to the amount of rain which will be discharged from it. The scene is said to be wonderfully picturesque, the various hued faces, the gay colored garments and the many fashloned costumes of the gamblers of different races giving the place a character altogether apart from the interest which the different passions displayed impart to this curious Indian Monte Carlo .- London Standard.

#### Trying to Keep "Trade Secrets."

A few years ago the writer was visiting a wood working shop, wherein was exe-cuted some of the finest work done in this country. The proprietor, in answer to a request to illustrate and publish some of the methods used by him in manufacturing, said: "No! Don't give away a single point. I don't want those western 'hay-makers' to find out how we do things here. Give the fellows half an idea and they will work it out and make more money out of it than we can here in the east.

Since that time the manufacturer has failed. The western "haymakers" got ahead of him, and he lost more than was gained by his exclusiveness. There are many things in a shop which apparently had better be kept secret, but nine times out of ten, upon revealing the secret to a western or some other "haymaker," he is able to impart even a better way of his own. Thus the man who puts his trust in "trade secrets," and who lives in fear of their being discovered, is invariably behind the times. His methods are obsolete, and the output of his factory is be low, both in quality and quantity, that of the man who is not afraid of giving a kink or wrinkle to the western "haymakers." -Boston Budget.

# An Odd Composing Room.

man.

The internal organization of a Japanese newspaper office is a sad spectacle of daily truggle with difficulties unknown else there and really unnecessary here. The apanese written and printed character consists of the Chinese ideographs, those complicated square figures made up of an apparent jumble of zigzags and crosses and ticks and triangles and tails, and of the original Japanese syllabary called hana. Of the former there are 20,000 in all, of which perhaps 14,000 constitute he scholars' vocabulary, and no fewer han 4,000 are in common daily use; while he forty-seven simple characters of kana re known to everybody. Therefore the apanese compositor has to be prepared to place in his stick any one of over 4,000 different types—truly an appalling task. From the nature of the problem several consequences naturally follow. First, he must be a good deal of a scholar himself, to recognize all these instantly and accurately; secondly, his eyesight suffers fearfully, and he generally wears a huge pair of magnifying goggles; and third, as it is physically impossible for any one man to reach 4,000 types, a totally dif ferent method of case arrangement has to be devised.—Henry Norman in Philadelphia Times.

#### Hard Lines.

Little Flossie came into the house with tears trickling down her grief stricken face. "Why, what's the matter, Flossie?"

inquired her mother. And Flossie sobbed out: "Jest because I wouldn't let Sadie Waffles play with my dolly, mamma, she says she's goin' to buy a thousand dollars' worth of candy marbles and pep'mint sticks this afternoon, and she ain't goin' to give me none."-New York Sun.

#### Only a Question of Half a Century.

"My History of the United States?" replied George Bancroft, pleasantly, to the interviewing reporter; "it is getting along admirably. I have now brought it down to within 100 years of the present time. I shall complete that work," said Mr. Bancroft, as a look of determination settled on his venerable face, "if it takes me fifty years yet!"-Chicago Tribune.

#### An Undeserved Indignity.

"I see that a portrait of Burns, painted by Rubens, sold in Toronto the other day for only \$3," said the literary editor. "I call that low down mean," said the

sporting editor, as he brought his fist down on the table. "There ain't a chap in the whole blamed League that can hold a candle to Burns on third!"- Chicago Tribune.

#### Could Give Joe Miller Points.

Not very long ago a Kansas City gentleman was glancing over a fac-simile copy of Joe Miller's "Joke Book" (the wit's vade mecum). "Why, these," said he presently, "these are all chestnuts. We've got a feller out in our town that tells these fool yarns a great deal better than this man Miller does."-Chicago News.

ig since were stored round many a househo name. It caused many a republican to sinile.

The reapers of the Past, who timely came, And brought to end what none can now begin. Yet in the stubbles of renown 'tis right To stoop and gather the remaining ears, And carry homeward in the waning light What hath been left us by our happier peers; So that, befall what may, we be not quite Famished of honor in the far off years. -Alfred Austin in The Sometator

### Guying the British Detect

There is something about the i dilish detective that acts as an incentive to crime. I do not mean this in the use of a joke precisely. Nobody ever found my particular delight in larking with American. Russian or French detectives, but all foreigners who have any intercourse at all. with the English detective force feel thistemptation to guy them.

I made a tour of the slums of London on one occasion, which extended over several nights' steady work. At another time I made it a point to "do" the slums at least once a week, and this practice extended, more or less, through an entire winter. I always had a detective with me on these occasions, and usually tipped. him to the extent of 10 shillings for his trouble. A New York man would expect \$10 or refuse everything. I made it a point to have a different officer on every trip, as much for novelty's sake as any thing else; and I was much impressed throughout with the remarkable stupidity and lack of intelligence displayed by the officers of her Majesty's government who have charge of this important branch of the service .- New York Cor. Globe-Democrat.

#### Oatmeal as a Food.

Many of the keepers of big groceries in this city tell of the large extent to which outmeal is used as an article of diet. In thousands of families a plate or a bowl of oatmeal porridge, which ought to be of the best quality, well boiled, and taken with cream, is the first thing at breakfast. The children arc apt to be very fond of it. It is wholesome, nutritious and advantageous to the digestion. It is surprising that more people do not learn how to pre-pare for the breakfast table oatmeal cakes, those thin, crisp, most excellent biscuits which one finds in all households in Scotland, and which ought to be eaten with fresh milk. They are easily made, worth making, possess most of the merits of porridge, and are a desirable change from it at times. The Scotch are also large consumers of peasemeal, which they make into bannocks or brose, good for hungry people and racy to the taste. When the wheat crop is short and flour is dear, both catmeal and peasemeal might be used to advantage in more American families than have ever tried them .- New York Sun.

-An ancient Irishman named Tom Brown, who has been employed on the grading work here for several days, has ceased to labor since he drew his pay and several young men of the city fitted him out in a new suit of cloths and "set up the drinks" for him occasionally. Judging by his conversation, he is a staunch democrat, and since he recognizes himself as being so creditably attired, his hobby is to start out as a stump speaker in the interests of his party.

-THE DAILY HERALD delivered for 15cts, per week.

TO THE EDITOR .- Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely Plattsmentin, N is use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post office address. Respectfully, T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 181 Pearl st., New York. tf -An election makes lots of fun. We

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED.

guess ynes.

Brace Up.

You are feeling depressed, your appetite is poor, you are bothered with headache, you are figity, nervous, and generally out of sorts, and want to brace up. Brace up, but not with stimulants, spring medicines, or bitters, which have for their basis very cheap, bad whisky, and which timulate you for an hour, and then leave you in worse condition than before. What you want is an alterative that will purify your blood, start healthy action of Liver and Kidneys, restore your vitality, and give renewed health and strength. Such a medicine you will find in Electric Bitters, and only 50 cents a bottle at F. G. Fricke & Co.'s drug store. 3

-The democrats don't ask now "What's the matter with Cleveland."

Don't

let that cold of yours run on. You think it is a light thing. But it may run into catarrh. Or into pneumonia. Or con-

Catarrh is disgusting. Pneumonia is dangerous. Consumption is death itself. The breathing apparatus must be kept healthy and clear of all obstructions and offensive matter. Otherwise there is

All the diseases of these parts, head, nose, throat, bronchial tubes and lungs, can be delightfully and entirely cured by the use of Boschee's German Syrup. If you don't know this already, thousands and thousands of people can tell you They have been cured by it and know how it is, themselves. Bottle only 75 cents. Ask any druggist.

-A democrat made the statement that the most brainy men of the country belong to the republican party.

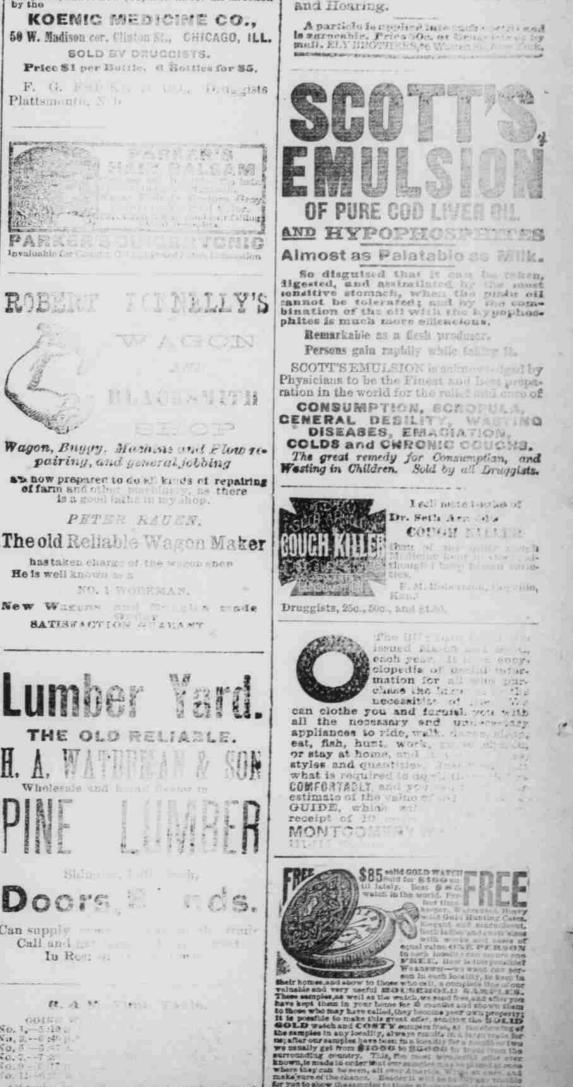
Itch, Prairie Mange, and Scratches of every kind cured in 30 minutes by Wool ford's Sanitary Lotion. A sure cure and | Can supply

perfectly harmless. Warranted by F.G Fricke & Co. druggist, Plattsmouth

# Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, When she had Children, she gave them Castoria

Sec. 111 No. 19 Is a stub from Pucific Junction at 118.m.



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