



The Siege of the Seven Suitors

By MEREDITH NICHOLSON

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ed the others to her on the plea that she wished to ask them their opinion touching some matter. I believe it was a late rumor that Andree, who had gone ballooning to discover the Hyperboreans, had been heard of somewhere.

Cecilia appeared distraut, and I wondered what new turn her affairs had

CHAPTER XVII.

Loss of the Silver Notebook.

THE memoranda of my adventures at Hopefield Manor fall under two general headings. On the one hand were the ghost and the library chimney, on the other the extraordinary gathering of Cecilia's suitors. As I followed at Miss Octavia's side she seemed to have dismissed the ghost and the fractious chimney from her mind. Her humor changed completely. As in the morning, when, unaccountably abandoning her habitual high flown speech, she had asked me about Cecilia's silver notebook, she seemed troubled, and when we had reached the second floor she paused and lost herself in unwonted preoccupation.

"Let us sit here a moment," she said, indicating a long davenport in the broad hall. For the first time her manner betrayed weariness. She laid her hand quietly on my arm and looked at me fixedly. "Arnold," she said—"you will let me call you Arnold, won't you?" she added plaintively, and never in my life had I been so touched by anything so sweet and gentle and kind—"Arnold, if an old woman like me should do a very foolish thing in following her own whims and then find that she had probably committed herself to a course likely to cause unhappiness, what would you advise her to do about it?"

"Miss Hollister," I answered, "if you trusted Providence this morning to send you a corps of servants when yours had been most unfortunately scattered by ghosts or rumors of ghosts, why will you not continue to have confidence that your affairs will always be directed by agencies equally alert and beneficent?"

"I don't know the game, but I have found out a lot of things without being told, so tell me nothing! Remember that I have something quite remarkable, startling even, to show you tomorrow. I have even overcome, you know, the obstacle you placed in the way of my discoveries by sending in ahead of me Pepperton. That was when I still believed."

"Well, I burned them the moment Hilda brought them back," she laughed. "I had faith in you, and I wanted you to manage it all for yourself. I rather guessed that you would go to Pepperton. That was when I still believed."

"But you must go on believing. Makebeliving is the main cornerstone and the keystone of the arch of the happy life." "You are sure you are not mocking a foolish old woman?" "You are the wisest woman I ever knew," I asserted, and my heart was in the words.

"I believe you have persuaded me, but Cecilia?" "Leave it to me; trust me; lean upon me. I assure you that all will be well."

She bent her head and yielded herself to reverie for a moment. Then she sprang to her feet in that indescribably light, graceful way that erased at least fifty of her years from the reckoning and was herself again. "Arnold Ames," she said, laughing a little but gazing up at me with unmistakable confidence and liking in her eyes, "we will go through with this to the end. And whether that slipper really fell at your feet in Beacon street or in the even less likely precincts of Rittenhouse square or under the windows of the Spanish embassy in Washington, I believe that you are my good knight and that you will see me safely through this singular adventure."

And I, Arnold Ames, but lately a student of chimneys, bent and kissed Miss Octavia's hand. She led the way to the library, where I thought it well to appear for a moment, and I was heartily glad that I did so. It was joy enough for any man that he should have earned such glances of hatred and suspicion as the suitors bent upon me. There they were, some standing, some seated, about Cecilia. I bowed low from the door, feeling that to offer my hand to these gentlemen in their present temper would be too severe a strain upon their manners. As Miss Octavia appeared several of them advanced courteously and engaged her in conversation. She found a seat and called

Ben and kissed Miss Octavia's hand. taken. She rose as I crossed the room, and from her manner I judged that she welcomed this chance of addressing me. "You have scorned the library tonight. Has there been trouble? Is Aunt Octavia alarmed about anything?" Cecilia was a beautiful, charming woman of the world, but I felt her spell less tonight. It may be that the presence of Hezekiah's slipper in my inside coat pocket, pressing rather insistently against my ribs, acted as a counterirritant. "You are in difficulty, Miss Cecilia," I said. "Please tell me in what way I may serve you." "I don't know why I should appeal to you—" "No reason is necessary. I have told you before that you need only to command me. We may be interrupted at any moment. Pray go on." "I have lost an article of the greatest value to me. It has been taken from my room." For a moment only I read distrust and suspicion in her eyes as it occurred to her that I had access to every part of the house, but my manner seemed to restore her confidence. And she could not have forgotten that her own father had met her secretly on the roof of a house that was denuded him and that I was perfectly cognizant of the fact. "I am sure you can be of assistance," she said. "There's something behind this ghost story. Some one has been in and about the house. You believe that?" "Yes. There has really been a sort of ghost, you know." She shrugged her shoulders. Cecilia had no patience with ghosts, and we were losing time. My conversation with Cecilia was annoying Wiggins, as was plain from his nervousness. "I went to my room for a moment while Aunt Octavia was above, with you, I suppose, just after the chimney gave another of its strange demonstrations. I remembered that I had left my little silver bound book, that I usually carry with me, on my dressing room table. It contains a memorandum of great importance to me. It positively cannot be duplicated. I am sure it was there when I came down to dinner. But it was not on my dressing table or anywhere to be found." "You may be mistaken as to where you left it. You would not be absolutely positive that you left it on the dressing table?" "There is not the slightest question about it. I had been looking at it just before dinner. I had sent you a note, you know, immediately after you came back and hurried down to see you." "Yes; I recall that. You were in the library when I came down. And I think I remember having seen the little trinket—slightly smaller than a card-case, silver backed and only a few leaves. You had it in your hand the other night when I came in after Mr. Hume had left."

She flushed slightly at this, but readily acquiesced in my description. Miss Octavia's inquiry as to whether I had seen the book came back to me and no less clearly her withdrawal of her question almost the moment she had spoken it.

I felt the sudden impingement of Hezekiah's slipper upon my own conscience, if I may so state the matter. Hezekiah, playing ghost, had confessed to me that she had visited Cecilia's room. Hezekiah, amusing herself with the library chimney and frightening the servants by stealing into the forbidden house through the coalhole, was a culprit to be scolded and forgiven. But what of Hezekiah mischievously fishing an article of real value to her sister? I did not like this turn of affairs. I must get back to the roof. And Hezekiah and compel her to return the silver book. Only by tactfully managing this could I serve well all the members of the house of Hollister. But first I must leave Cecilia with a tranquil mind.

"I thank you for confiding this matter to me, Miss Hollister. Please do not attach suspicion to any one until I have seen you again." "But if you should be unable to restore—" "I assure you that the book is not lost. It has been mislaid, that's all. I shall return it to you at breakfast. I give you my word."

"Do you really mean it?" she faltered. "Please keep this from Aunt Octavia! I can't tell you how important it is that she be kept in ignorance of my loss. The consequences, if she knew, might be very distressing."

Miss Octavia was carrying the invincible John Stewart Dick away to the billiard room. He glared at me murderously as he trailed glumly after the lady of the manor. The others were crowding about Cecilia again, and I yielded to them willingly. As I sauntered toward the door Ormsby detained me a moment. His manner was arrogant and he hissed rather than spoke.

"I'm directed to command your presence at the Prescott Arms tomorrow at 12 o'clock. The business is important."

"I regret, my dear brother, that I shall be unable to sit with you at that hour in committee of the whole, and for two reasons. The first is that I am paired with Lord Arrowood. You refused to take him into your base compact and allowed him to be thrown out of the inn for not paying his bill. The act was deficient in generosity and gallantry."

"Then I suppose you would think it a fine thing for such a pauper to marry a woman like that—like that, I say?" and he jerked his head toward Cecilia.

"I consider a lord of Arrowood as good as the proprietor of a knitting mill any day, if you press me for an opinion," I replied amiably.

"And this from a chimney sweep?" he sneered.

"You flatter me, my dear sir. I've renounced soot and become a gentleman adventurer merely to prevent a type that long illumined popular fiction from becoming extinct. I advise you to fill the void existing in the heavy villain class. Believe me, your talents would carry you far. Study Dumas and forget the wool market and you will tend a happier life. My second reason for declining to meet you at the Arms at 12 tomorrow is merely that the hour is inconvenient. I assume that you mean to urge luncheon upon me, and I never eat before 1. My doctor has warned me to avoid early luncheons if I would preserve my figure, of which you may well believe me justly proud."

"You're a coward—that's all there is to that. I dare you to come!" "Well, as I think of it, I'd rather be dared than invited. If I find it quite convenient I shall drop in. But you needn't keep the waffles hot for me. Good evening."

(To Be Continued.)

LOUISVILLE. Courier.

Fred Diers of Madison came down this week for a few days' fishing and to visit his brother, W. F. Diers, and family.

News comes from Crete to the effect that Ollie Ellis of Omaha, formerly of Louisville, will be married to an Omaha young lady May 20.

Mrs. Lizzie Bryan-Parker died at her home in Detono, Minn. She will be remembered as having taught school in Louisville eleven years ago.

We are glad to report that P. C. Stander is able to be up and around again after an illness of several days, during which he was confined to his room.

Mrs. C. V. Mayfield and children are here from Breckenridge, Okla., having been called home on account of the illness of Mrs. Mayfield's father, Julius Ragoss.

Mrs. Dorothy Jones and three children are here from Colorado visiting at the home of Mrs. Jones' father, Amos Keiser. They expect to remain for an extended visit.

Dr. Allison came down from Omaha last Friday evening and performed an operation on Mrs. E. C. Twiss, removing a growth from one of her arms. The operation was most successful and Dr. Worthman, the physician in attendance, gives out encour-

aging reports which are gratifying to her many friends.

The new fire proof elevator of Keekler & Schafer is completed and is perhaps as conveniently arranged as any elevator of its size in the state. It is 26x46 and 50 feet high built of lumber and covered with iron. The foundation, bins, driveway, etc., is of concrete, which makes it as near fire proof as it is possible to erect a building of this kind.

W. G. Starkey, Burlington station agent for a number of years, has been transferred to Ashland, J. H. Enlow of Randolph succeeding him. The Starkey family will be missed in Louisville, where they have lived for so many years, and their many friends will join with the Courier in wishing them happiness in their new home. We welcome Mr. Enlow (the new agent) and his family to our town.

EAGLE. Beacon.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roekenbach, Sunday, May 4, an eight-pound girl.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stewart, Friday, May 2, a seven and one-half pound girl.

L. M. Mielenz of Lincoln was in town the fore part of the week shaking hands with old friends.

D. W. Morrow and family moved down from Lincoln the fore part of the week and are now occupying the Eagle hotel.

Mrs. Lucy Miller of Davenport, Ia., and Mrs. Sylvia Ashworth and daughter of Lincoln visited the Burdick brothers Sunday.

Mrs. Jack Lyell, who was recently operated of at the College View hospital, is getting along nicely and is expected to arrive home this Friday, today.

Bruce Thorp and family moved down from Lincoln the fore part of the week and are occupying the Elta Kent property just north of the tracks. Mr. Thorpe is employed at Betts' garage.

E. P. Betts autoed to Nebraska City last Thursday, where he met Mrs. Betts and Pearl, returning home with them that evening. Pearl was forced to leave her school duties for a few days on account of sickness.

Eagle, Talmage, Syracuse and Burr are the teams which will battle for honors in the Otoe county league. It is probable that Dunbar and Palmyra may enter, but in case they do not the first four teams will play out the schedule, which will be real interesting.

WEEPING WATER. Republican.

Harold Kunkle came down from Lincoln Tuesday and will assist Ray Norris on the farm near Nehawka till summer.

Mrs. Oscar Johnson and children came in from Cozad, Neb., Friday and are at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olander.

Torrence Fleming was an Omaha passenger Tuesday morning to consult a doctor regarding his health, which has not been the best of late.

W. S. Bateman's left hand came in contact with the sharp end of a screw driver a few days ago and now W. S. has it in a sling to keep it away from such tools.

Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska Samuel McKelvie will deliver the high school commencement address on the evening of Friday, May 23. No admission will be charged for this event this year.

Henry Christensen while handling some hot rabbit last week got some in his left eye and concluded Tuesday that it wasn't working right so had Dr. Welch take it out and then was when it hurt.

Our old friend, Harmon Beck, met with a painful accident last week in being kicked in the face by a horse. Aside from a black eye and a pretty sore face he got off lucky. It was a gentle horse, of course, or he would have been watching it.

Prof. C. V. Williams, who resigns his position at the head of the botany department at Wesleyan university to become head of the new agricultural school at Curtis, Neb., is a Cass county boy and taught at one time in Mt. Hope school, southwest of here.

Mrs. Kirch, who has been spending the winter here with her niece, Mrs. Jake Domingo, and family, left Friday morning for her home at Sister Bay, Wis. She was accompanied as far as Omaha by Mrs. Jake Domingo and Mrs. Mary Robinson. Mrs. Kirch moved to Wisconsin with her parents when quite a small girl and this was her first trip on the train as that part of Wisconsin was a timbered country and quite a distance from railroad.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET

Plattsmouth, Neb., May 7, 1913.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present, C. R. Jordan, C. E. Heebner and Julius A. Pittz, county commissioners, D. C. Morgan, county clerk.

Minutes of previous session read and approved, when the following business was transacted in regular form: County clerk filed his report of fees earned for first quarter, \$240.31. Communication received from the Union Commercial club asking the commissioners to proceed with the work on bridge across Weeping Water creek, west of Union. Same was placed on file.

County commissioners selected the following list of names from which to choose the jury for the next term of district court:

- Tipton Precinct—C. L. Creamer, M. J. Eads, C. H. Hudson.
- Greenwood Precinct—Herman Stroemer, P. J. Lynch.
- Salt Creek Precinct—J. V. Stradley, C. Johnson, Dan Kelly.
- Stove Creek Precinct—L. W. Roetter, L. A. Tyson, Joe Mullin.
- Lincoln Precinct—Christ Miller, William Wilken, E. T. Tool.
- South Bend Precinct—Frank Romme, M. W. Smith.
- Beacon Precinct—Henry Wolf, Robert Jameson.
- Center Precinct—L. P. Wolcott, Alex Miller.
- Weeping Water, First Ward—Frank Jameson.
- Weeping Water, Second Ward—O. M. Cope.
- Weeping Water, Third Ward—George Spahn.
- Louisville Precinct—A. R. Stander, Jacob Keiser, C. G. Mayfield.
- Avoca Precinct—Peter Jorgenson, James Johnson.
- Lincoln Precinct—George Wiles, Frank Massie.
- Eight Mile Grove Precinct—John Hennings, Charles Fetzer, John Gauer.
- Shelton Precinct—V. P. Sheldon, Nels Anderson.
- Liberty Precinct—M. G. McQuinn, Claude Everett, C. F. Harris.
- Rock Bluffs, First District—C. L. Creamer, John L. Smith, D. C. Rhoden.
- Rock Bluffs, Second District—Charles Shura.
- Plattsmouth Precinct—B. W. Livingston, J. N. Elliott, Henry Hitz.
- Plattsmouth City, First Ward—John Hart, Fred Black.
- Plattsmouth City, Second Ward—M. L. Friedrich, William R. Hunter, Charles C. Hinds.
- Plattsmouth City, Third Ward—William Holly, G. W. Rhoden, Charles Troop, George Oldham.
- Plattsmouth City, Fourth Ward—Val Burkel, John Ledway, August Kopp.
- Plattsmouth City, Fifth Ward—William Gravel, J. V. Haynie.

The following claims were allowed on the road funds:

M. Hill, chair seats to court house and mdse. to county farm	17.00
P. E. Kiefer, mdse. to county farm	7.90
Plattsmouth Journal, printing and supplies to county	27.50
Julius A. Pittz, salary and mileage	31.40
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Bamford	3.70
C. D. Quinton, same	2.10
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Gardner	2.70
C. D. Quinton, same	4.80
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Tower	3.50
C. D. Quinton, same	2.20
The Manson Campbell Co., machinery to farm	40.00
J. E. Tuez, mdse. to Mrs. Joe Perry	5.00
J. H. Tams, salary	85.00
C. E. Jordan, salary	40.40
Warren Tuene, digging grave for A. Kern	5.00
University Publishing Co., examination questions 4th qtr. A. U. Lodge No. 8, room for election Plattsmouth	11.50
Third ward	6.00
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Fred Wampler	7.81
Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co., rents and tolls	34.30
Mary S. Foster, salary and expense	155.41
Henry Kaufmann, seed potatoes and plants to farm	11.40
C. E. Heebner, carpenter work at court house	8.00
C. E. Heebner, salary and mileage	41.40
H. C. Guthrie, appraiser road No. 373	4.00
C. H. Boedeker, same	4.00
H. C. Long, same	4.00
Plattsmouth Water Co., water to court house	12.99
M. M. Butler, M. D., room for office at court house	5.00
Geo. A. Schneider, postal supplies	21.40
C. A. Welch, carpenter work at Mrs. Williams' home	5.50
John Wagner, assessing South Bend precinct	79.75
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Thomas	3.80
C. D. Quinton, same	2.10
James Johnson, same	2.50
Allen J. Beeson, State vs. Walter Hessefflow, same	2.50
Walter Schneider, same	2.50
Allen J. Beeson, approving official	7.50
C. W. Baylor & Co., coal to Denison and Brandt	32.42
Fred Patterson, salary for April, 1913	49.00
Hammond & Stephens, supplies to county superintendent	12.25
D. C. Morgan, salary and expense, April, 1913	206.19
Nebraska Lighting Co., gas to jail, court house and street	21.14
O. P. Monroe, mdse. to court house and farm	19.30
Warga & Cecil, supplies to county	8.65
F. R. Gobelman, papering at jail	7.15
Hans Pflizer, janitor salary and laundry	78.00
E. Manspenger, salary deputy sheriff	45.00
Frank Pflizer, same	5.55
C. D. Quinton, same	4.85
C. D. Quinton, same	1.00
A. J. Beeson, same	1.00

Richard Parr, same	1.99
B. I. Clements, costs A. E. Walker	7.90
Aug. Bach, mdse. to Kustinsky and Monroe	19.90
Dr. E. D. Cummins, insane case	3.00
Nellie Majors	3.00
J. M. Layla, same	2.50
James Robertson, same	5.25
D. J. Quinton, same	2.80
C. J. Majors, same	2.00
Dr. E. W. Cook, same	2.19
Mrs. Ina Sheldon, same	2.00
Streight & Streight, burial of A. Kern and J. E. Denison	56.63
Dr. L. Muir, report of births and deaths	1.75
B. I. Clements, same	4.25
A. R. Stander, same	3.25
Wm. H. Lymann, same	6.70
Geo. Reitter, Jr., same	2.50
Le. R. Upde, same	2.00
W. E. Hand, same	2.50
Mrs. I. D. Jones, same	2.75
H. M. Soennichsen, same	2.75
G. D. Mastman, same	3.25
H. F. Kropp, same	.50
C. H. Taylor, salary and expense	126.57
Warren Tuene, digging grave for J. R. Denison	6.00
G. P. Eastwood, hardware to jail and court house	2.70
G. P. Barton, constable services	5.00
Peters & Richards, work at jail	6.45
Troyer, undertaker, preparing body of J. R. Denison, deceased	69.95
J. Hart & Son, mdse. to Lambert, Mayes and county farm	45.20
The following claims were allowed on the road funds:	
Water Byers, road work road district No. 27	31.55
Aug. F. Krecklow, same district No. 8	194.40
P. J. Lynch, same district No. 4	10.90
W. J. Althouse, same district No. 4	14.20
D. B. Eberzole, road work, road district No. 9	5.50
A. F. Seybert, road work, road district No. 2	145.90
G. W. Leach, same district 14	42.60
J. C. Lomeyer, same district 5	100.80
A. H. Weichel, same district 3	63.00
T. F. Stroud & Co., accpers on road, road district No. 1	13.90
T. F. Stroud & Co., same district No. 8	19.50
T. F. Stroud & Co., same district No. 10	13.90
T. F. Stroud & Co., same district No. 27	6.50
T. F. Stroud & Co., same district No. 6	32.75
C. R. Jordan, freight, road district No. 8	.80
Sid James, road work, road district No. 15	17.20
Ed. Gustin, same district 15	2.60
J. A. Wallinger, same district 14	21.60
W. M. Boucher, same district 8	56.20
J. F. Wehrlein, same district 1	15.60
W. B. Banning, lumber, road district No. 11	47.70
C. H. Spohn, road work, road district No. 13	135.55
Ben Beckman, same district 13	235.10
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., culvert district 1	32.44
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 2	98.80
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 10	62.20
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 12	43.84
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 10	33.44
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 12	33.44
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 9	89.65
Nebraska and Iowa Steel Tank Co., same dist. 11	46.82
C. E. Heebner, freight, dist. 12	1.75
J. Adams & Son, lumber, dist. 16	4.67
Lee Arnett Co., culvert, dist. 15	16.80
J. C. Niday, road work, dist. 1	29.24
J. D. Allen, same dist. 16	20.05
Mrs. Ruth N. Thomson, spikes, dist. 2	5.90
John C. Larson, lumber tank dist. 5	13.50
E. T. Tool, lumber, dist. 7	23.18
Johnson Hardware and Implement Co., hardware, dist. 11	51.97
Wm. H. Rush, road work, dist. 7	211.00
The Austin Western Road Machinery Co., drag, dist. 7	15.00
C. H. Noid Lumber Co., lumber, dist. 5	5.04
C. H. Noid Lumber Co., same dist. 6	5.88
J. M. Hoover, road work, dist. 3	32.40
J. W. Homan, helping surveyor, inheritance tax fund	15.00
Fred Patterson, surveyor fees, inheritance tax fund	39.29
M. E. Patterson, livery to surveyor, inheritance tax fund	6.50
M. E. Manspenger, livery to surveyor, inheritance tax fund	13.00
George Poole, road work, road district No. 12, commissioners' road fund	481.50
The following claims were allowed on the bridge funds:	
A. F. Seybert, bridge work	15.30
Sid James, same	5.80
J. A. Wallinger, same	29.90
W. B. Banning, bridge lumber	29.95
J. Adams & Son, same	131.50
Kates Lumber and Coal Co., lumber	19.80
Wm. H. Rush, bridge work	9.00
Walter Byers, same	1.95
E. T. Tool, bridge lumber	42.37
Geo. W. Voss Co., bridge material	79.90
Joe Allen, bridge work	26.10
C. H. Noid Lumber Co., bridge lumber	35.96
Nebraska Construction Co., material delivered and work completed	1,000.00
Board adjourned to meet Thursday, May 8, 1913.	
D. C. MORGAN, County Clerk, Plattsmouth, Neb., May 8, 1913.	
Board met and adjourned to meet Friday, May 9, 1913.	
Plattsmouth, Neb., May 9, 1913.	
Board met as per adjournment with all members present, when the matter of the Sheldon road petition presented on May 7 was taken up and the petition refused as prayed for; when the following resolution was adopted:	
Whereas, The board of county commissioners find that the public good requires that a road be established and opened on the section line as follows: Commencing at a point where road No. 103, Cass county, Nebraska, crosses the section line between sections 8 and 17, township 10, north range 13, Cass county, Nebraska, running thence east on said section line to road No. 155, between sections 16 and township 10, range 13, Cass county, Nebraska.	
Therefore, it is ordered that a road on the section line as above described be and the same is hereby established and hereby ordered opened in the manner provided by law. The county clerk is directed to give notice to land owners and have same assessed.	
Board adjourned to meet Tuesday, May 20, 1913.	
D. C. MORGAN, County Clerk.	

GEORGE HALL RECEIVED A VERY BAD FALL YESTERDAY

From Wednesday's Daily. Yesterday afternoon while working on a porch at the residence of James Sage, George Hall, the tinner, slipped and fell to the ground, a distance of sixteen feet, and as a result received a very severe injury to his head and shoulder and it is a matter of good luck that he was not injured more seriously, as the fall was a very serious one, and falling in the shape he did might easily have broken his neck. Dr. E. D. Cummins was at once summoned and the injured man removed to his home and made as comfortable as his injuries would allow him to be, and it is hoped that in a few days he will be able to be out and around again as good as new.

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