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VOL. II.—WHOLE NO. 539. NEW YORK, MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1893—EIGHT PAGES. PRICE ONE CENT.

GHOULS AT THEIR WORK!

Surprised with Ghastly Booty in Washington Early This Morning by Representatives of the "Morning Advertiser" and Evidence Furnished of a Monster Crime That Will Startle the Country from Maine to California.

BODY SNATCHERS BUSY IN THE CAPITAL CITY.

Historic Burial Places Desecrated by Ruffians Whose Audacity Has No Parallel Even in the Records of the Loathsome Calling Which They Have Adopted.

FULL LIST OF THE MANY VIOLATED CEMETERIES.

Potter's Field Is the Main Source of Supply, but the Demands of Science Are Urgent and the Student's Scalpel Knows No Favorites.

THREE COLLEGES SUPPLIED BY THE ROBBERS.

Defiance of All Law, Almost Within the Shadow of the Capitol Building—Desultory and Partial Exposures in the Past, but the Horrible Truth Told for the First Time in the "Morning Advertiser" of This Issue—Graveyards Where Many Eminent Men from All Parts of the Country Have Been Laid to Rest During the Past Century—Revolting Tools of a Revolting Trade—How the Cautious Methods of the Ghouls Have Avoided Detection Up to the Present Time—Oblique Holes Dug So as to Leave Earth Directly Over Graves Undisturbed—Coffin Heads Knocked In and Cadavers Drawn Out with a Hook Fastened in the Neck or Eye-Socket.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 16, 2 A. M.
Special to the MORNING ADVERTISER.

When a representative of the Morning Advertiser came to the National Capital two weeks ago commissioned to make inquiry concerning the unlawful spoliation of graves in the interests of surgical science the task appeared a most difficult one.

Within forty-eight hours the difficulties began to clear away. On the fourth day sufficient evidence had been secured to startle even a community, where the violation of sepulchre is almost as common as house robbery in New York. The details of how the evidence was secured, and how easily it was secured, are given herewith:

During the Christmas holidays, the usual vacation was observed. On Jan. 2, the dissecting rooms of the three medical colleges in Washington were comparatively bare of material, and it became necessary to provide a supply with as little delay as possible. This the investigator learned and on this he based his hopes for ocular evidence of what he already knew circumstantially.

It was expected that on Sunday night, Jan. 8, the demand would be supplied, and a watch was put upon three cemeteries that were likely to be visited. Owing to the frozen condition of the ground, covered as it was with a mantle of snow, no despoliation took place, at least that is the belief. If it did the watchers failed to detect it.

Between last Sunday and yesterday three colleges were under constant surveillance. No bodies were delivered to any one of the three. There must have been a great paucity of material, for yesterday it was learned from employes in two of the three colleges that something was expected yesterday, notwithstanding the hard frost. "Harder," indeed, than that of last Sunday.

Acting on the conclusion that the urgent demands of science, backed by a temporary pecuniary increase in the market price of "subjects" would result in an attempt to give the colleges what they required, the watch was resumed. One man was sent at 11 last night to a favorable point overlooking Congressional Cemetery, one man to Glenwood and one man to Potter's Field. A watcher was placed where he could observe any entry to the Columbian University Medical College and another in a similar position near the Georgetown College. These were the institutions that were greatly in need of subjects.

It was bitterly cold, and the vigil was not only tedious but distressing. Hands and legs became numb, and before an hour had passed the inactivity threatened freezing. At the risk of discovery, feet were stamped and arms were thrust out.

In the absolute quiet of the night the sounds seemed to echo and re-echo, and appeared in the neighborhood of Congressional Cemetery to reach the ears of what appeared to be hundreds of dogs. Their sharp barks and yelps were borne on the frosty air until the chorus sounded, as it grew in volume, not unlike to snarl of a pack of hungry wolves.

At 12:30 A. M. the watchers at Potter's Field saw a canvas-covered wagon box

runners, occupied by three, and possibly four, men drive up to the gully alongside the paupers' burial ground.

About 1 A. M. two men got out of the wagon, what looked like a pickaxe. He crawled through an opening in the fence.

He was followed by another who carried an indistinguishable object. No lights were displayed.

Whatever they secured will probably be delivered at the Washington Medical College before daylight.

At this hour (2 A. M.) no report has been received from the college under surveillance, or from the other cemeteries.

The story of what led up to the exposure is as follows:

CHAPTER I.

It was necessary that the work should be carried on with rigid secrecy. Intelligence and not ignorance had to be coped with. Men of learning and science were involved as well as men of more animal strength and cunning. The MORNING ADVERTISER man first gained the acquaintance of several medical students in Washington. To them he bore letters of introduction representing him as connected with a medical college at Richmond, Va. He attended lectures at the colleges with these students, visited the theaters with them, and spent hours with them in their rooms.

In this way it was learned that all the four medical colleges in Washington secured their "subjects" from graveyard resurrectionists. From the students it was learned what they paid for subjects and what the resurrectionists received from the colleges. On invitation of his student friends the reporter visited the college dissecting rooms. There



VIEW IN CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY.

he saw many human bodies and parts of bodies laid out on tables. In the fresh subjects he saw evidences of the grappling hook's unerring grip, the instrument now used to drag bodies from their tombs.

But the students could not tell from what cemeteries the subjects were stolen; neither did they know the ghouls. The reporter made the friendship of Dan Connor, the colored janitor at the National Medical Department of the Columbian University. The investigator was interested, he said to Dan, in finding out how the Washington colleges secured their subjects. As with the students, he was one of the staff of a new medical college at Richmond. Dan was most obliging. He likes to talk, especially to members of the profession. Knowingly he would not betray his employes.

Dan recounted with zest the discovery of two nude bodies in the college yard. He told of their removal to the dissecting room. It is customary in all colleges for the demonstrator of anatomy to arrange for the supply of dissecting material. Dan did not know the ghouls, he said.

The doctor from Richmond being particularly anxious to secure subjects at once, Dan referred him to "Black" Banks, janitor of the Georgetown Medical College, who, Dan said, received the subjects from the resurrectionists themselves. "Black" Banks was not

averse to giving the grave robbers a new customer. From him the reporter learned that the chief of the resurrectionists was a colored man named Marlowe, and that Marlowe lived in an old barracks out in the west part of town.

Marlowe was found. His wagon and his grappling hook were seen. Several grave robbers working under him were also seen,



DR. WILLIAM P. CARR, Demonstrator of Anatomy.

but it did not suit the reporter's purpose to interview any of the resurrectionists at that time.

Visiting the Health Office in quest of vital statistics, much information was gleaned from Statistician W. B. Moore. It was learned that at one time and another almost every cemetery in the District of



Columbia had been desecrated by resurrectionists. He learned from Mr. Moore of the introduction of a bill in Congress giving medical colleges the right to dissect the pauper dead. From William P. Pollock, Clerk of the Committee of the District of Columbia, the probable fate of that bill was ascertained.

Superintendent O'Neil, of the Congressional Cemetery; Superintendent McKersich, of Glenwood Cemetery; Superintendent Zeller, of Prospect Hill Cemetery; and Assistant Superintendent Wright, of Harmony Cemetery, were pleased to give histories of their several cemeteries, and in a drifting talk told of their experiences with body snatchers.

From one of these superintendents it was learned that a well-known practicing physi-



DISSECTING ROOM, NATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

cian in Washington is virtually at the head of Marlowe and his gang of ghouls. This doctor, it was said, enjoys the protection of the police.

Daniel Tyndall, clerk in the Washington Asylum, gave valuable information leading to the resurrectionists. Each year some of the bodies once buried in Potter's Field are now there.

Dr. G. L. Magruder, Dean of the Georgetown Medical College; Dr. Charles B. Purvis, Treasurer of the Howard Medical College, and Dr. Howard H. Barker, Dean of the



RESURRECTIONIST'S WAGON.

National University Medical College, unguardedly betrayed some secrets in their zeal to stand high as a college in a mythical work to be published soon on "Medical Colleges in the United States."

Artists from the MORNING ADVERTISER had already secured photographs of the medical colleges, the implements used in grave robbery and several of the persons involved. All that remained was the capture.

CHAPTER II.

There is no other city in the Union where, in proportion to its size, grave robbery is carried on so extensively as it is in the Capital of the Nation. The crime is fostered by men of science and winked at by the au-

thorities. Spasmodic efforts have been made now and then to suppress it, but they have not been made with a view to complete success.

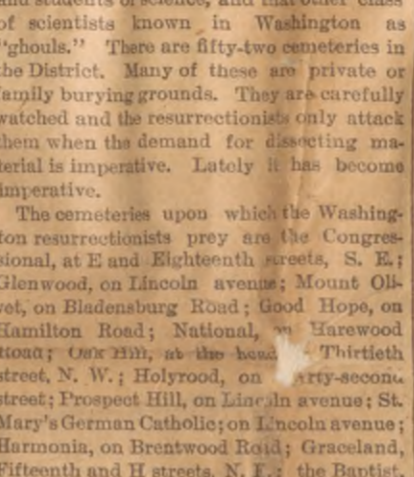
An officer in the Health Department is the MORNING ADVERTISER's authority for the statement that there is not a public cemetery in the District that is not being robbed of its dead for the benefit of science, the professors and students of science, and that other class of scientists known in Washington as "ghouls." There are fifty-two cemeteries in the District. Many of these are private or family burying grounds. They are carefully watched and the resurrectionists only attack them when the demand for dissecting material is imperative. Lately it has become imperative.

The cemeteries upon which the Washington resurrectionists prey are the Congressional, at E and Eighteenth streets, S. E.; Glenwood, on Lincoln avenue; Mount Olive, on Bladensburg Road; Good Hope, on Hamilton Road; National, on Harewood Road; Oak Hill, at the head of Thirtieth street, N. W.; Holyrod, on Forty-second street, N. W.; Prospect Hill, on Lincoln avenue; St. Mary's German Catholic, on Lincoln avenue; Harmony, on Brentwood Road; Graeceland, Fifteenth and H streets, N. E.; the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian cemeteries and Potter's Field, Nineteenth street, S. E.

With the exception of Potter's Field all these cemeteries are more or less guarded against the visits of resurrectionists and other vandals. There is no pretense of a guard over Potter's Field, although grave robbery there is as illegal as elsewhere. The other night the guards at the Harmony Cemetery

were over. Many men of former greatness are to-day picked up in the gutters. They beg drinks and pennies where they once bestowed charity and hospitality with a lavish hand. To-morrow they may be in the almshouse, the day after to-morrow they may be in Potter's Field, and on the third day they will most surely be on the dissecting table of a Washington medical college.

Glenwood, one of the prettiest cemeteries



WILLIAM W. CORCORAN.

in Washington, and covering ninety acres of ground at the head of Lincoln avenue, one and a quarter miles north of the Capitol, was dedicated in August, 1834. There are to-day supposed to be over twelve thousand bodies interred there.

Among the dead believed to be reposing in Glenwood Cemetery are John F. Douglass, James M. Edmunds, Gertrude E. Garrison, Westley M. White, James E. Sprague, Esther Case Packard, Henry Clay Stevens, Mary A. D. Grant, Uriah G. Bowen, Edward G. Ingersoll, Louisa Chandler, of Michigan; Mary A. Logan, of Virginia; Louise Ann Grant and Lucy Elizabeth Hilton. But few public characters are buried in Glenwood. The lot owners are mostly old Washington families.

Superintendent Alexander McKersich admits to two grave robberies in Glenwood cemetery. These occurred during the same week, nearly four years ago.

Mr. Jennie I. Teasdale, wife of the pastor of Queen's Baptist Church, Washington, was buried Feb. 1, 1883, in Section D of the Cemetery. On the following day the husband visited the grave to water the flowers that had been laid in the soil.

Among the flowers on top of the grave he noticed a white rose that he had himself placed on his wife's breast as she lay in her coffin before the funeral. He at once ordered that the grave be reopened. When the coffin

was reached the husband's fears were realized. The head of the coffin had been crushed in, and instead of the dead wife the husband found within the casket a shapeless heap of burial clothes.

The Rev. Mr. Teasdale was a rich man, Director in the Metropolitan Railroad, and a bank officer. The cemetery Trustees employed detectives to search the medical colleges. On a dissecting table in the National Medical Department of Columbian University the desecrated remains of this lady were found. Already the scalpel had been used. Beneath the chin of the corpse was the jagged wound made by the grappling hook.

Possession was taken of the body and it was being driven back to the cemetery when a police officer interfered. He arrested Daniel Heilmann, the driver, for carrying a dead body through the streets without a permit. The driver was fined \$25, which the cemetery authorities required the college people to pay.

A few days later a grave in the single-lot section of the cemetery showed signs of having been tampered with. It was opened and found to be empty. Search discovered the stolen body in the same college. It was recovered and reburied. This was the body of Francis Groswood Dake, fifty-eight years of age, and a prominent citizen of Washington, residing at No. 2110 Sixteenth street, N. W. Mr. Dake's remains had been in the grave a week when they were stolen.

DOG GUARD PROSPECT HILL.

Prospect Hill Cemetery is within a stone's throw of Glenwood. It is on Lincoln avenue and North Capitol street. It covers



seventeen and a half acres and contains 4,815 dead. The lot owners are mainly Washington's wealthy German citizens, and among the dead interred here are Carl Eisenbers, the rich brewer; Andrew Sprass, proprietor of the Germania Hotel; Charles Graff, proprietor of Myers' Hotel, in Pennsylvania avenue; Christian and George Gochler, wealthy business men and real estate owners.

Superintendent Noah Zeller lives with his family in a cozy little house at the side of the cemetery. He keeps several savage dogs and says he would like to see any resurrectionists in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

But less than two months ago he did see one there. The fellow was prowling around

in the dark looking for a grave that had been filled that day. Superintendent Zeller called his dogs, and when the resurrectionist saw what was coming he made quick tracks for the fence. He escaped.

HARMONY A PROLIFIC FIELD.

Colored subjects are as desirable as white subjects, and the Columbian Harmony Cemetery is a prolific field for the operations of the resurrectionists. This cemetery lies out on the Brentwood Road. There are twenty acres of ground in the cemetery, and since the dedication, in 1838, nearly fifteen thousand bodies have been buried there.

Some of the prominent colored people buried in Harmony are the Rev. John F. Cook, Sr., pastor of the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church; Carter A. Stewart, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. and A. M. for the District of Columbia; James Wormley, proprietor of Wormley's Hotel, Fifteenth and H streets, N. W., and William Syphax, Public School Trustee.

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On Dec. 12 last the three watchmen in Harmony Cemetery had a battle with fully half a dozen resurrectionists. The ghouls were at work on a grave when surprised by the watchmen. They turned their flash lights upon the watchmen and fired their pistols. The watchmen returned the fire, and the ghouls retreated from the grave and escaped as they had come, through the woods leading from the Glenwood Road. One of the ghouls was wounded, but he was not

taken. The grave they had been at work upon was that of a young colored girl buried that afternoon. It had been opened half way to the coffin.

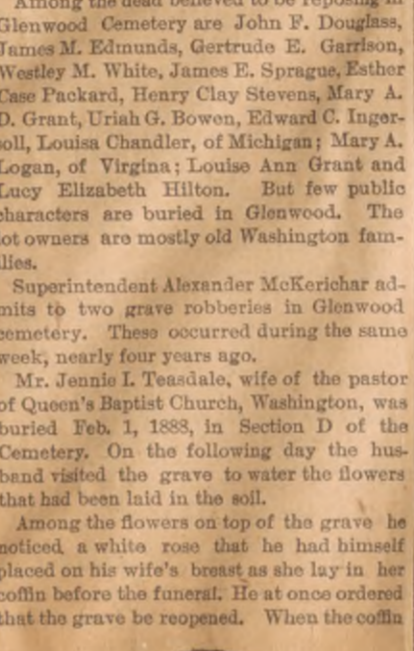
Early one morning two policemen who were chatting together on New York avenue, in Eckington, saw two colored men walking along the street, and over the back of one of the men was slung a bag. The colored men, on finding that they were detected, started on a run, the one carrying the bag dropping it. The policemen gave chase, but were overtaken. Returning they examined the bag. It contained the body of a colored woman, doubled up so that the feet and head were together.

Investigation showed that the body had been stolen from Harmony Cemetery. The grave was in the northwest part of the cemetery, and not far from the one desecrated Dec. 12.

The authorities at Harmony Cemetery only know of desecrations where the ghouls were discovered at their work or after it had been accomplished. A general reopening of the graves in this cemetery would probably reveal hundreds of empty coffins.

OAK HILL CEMETERY SECURE.

When William W. Corcoran gave ten acres of ground to the Oak Hill Cemetery Company in 1848 and became the Company's first President, one of the iron-clad regulations made was that every grave should be bricked in and cemented on all sides and at the top. The great philanthropist did not mean that the resurrection scandal so fla-



VIEW IN CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY.

blackened the Police Department to-day. The hook is made of iron, and is not over eight inches long. It is about an inch in diameter. At the upper end it is in the form of a ring, while the lower end comes to a sharp point.

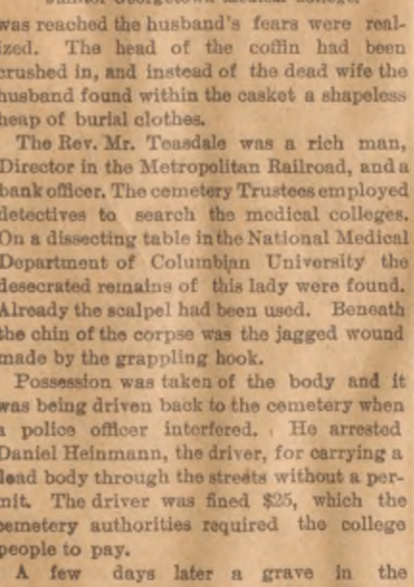
A rope long enough to reach from the top of the grave to the coffin is attached to the ring end of the hook. The hook is lowered into the coffin when the head of the subject is exposed, and by a dexterous jerk the point of the hook is fastened firmly in the neck just under the jaw. Then the body, by a steady movement, is hauled out of the coffin by the jaw.

Probably in no other city in the world are the prominent cemeteries desecrated by body snatchers as frequently as in Washington.

The Congressional Cemetery was laid out in 1807 as the Washington Parish Burial Ground. A few years later Congress took control of the cemetery and removed thereto all the bodies of members of Congress interred in other cemeteries in the District. To-day the cemetery covers thirty-two acres, lying between Seventeenth and Twenty-second streets, E street and the Anacostia River. There have been 43,000 burials in this cemetery.

Here are supposed to rest the remains of Vice-President George Clinton, Edwin M. Stanton, General Jacob Brown, the Revolutionary hero; Attorney-General William Wirt, Judge Philip Barbour, General Lemuel Bowdin, of Virginia; Vice-President Elbridge Gerry, Congressman Richard Stanford, George Munford, David Walker, J. H. Purburn, Nathaniel Hazzard and Jesse Slocum, Commodore Hugh G. Campbell, of Revolutionary fame, and hundreds of other distinguished citizens of the United States. For two months the remains of President Taylor reposed in a vault in the Congressional Cemetery, prior to their removal to his native State.

The last known resurrection in the Congressional Cemetery occurred three years



YARD OF NATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

A A—Where bodies were seen.

grant in the District should attach to Oak Hill Cemetery. There are now thirty acres in the cemetery, and over 8,000 dead are buried there. The cemetery is at the head of Thirtieth street, Georgetown.

Some of the distinguished dead buried in Oak Hill are William W. Corcoran, John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home"; Lorenzo Dow, Secretaries W. H. Hunt, Edwin M. Stanton and John H. Eaton; Major-General J. S. Reno, Charles H. Griffin, E. O. C. Ora, Joseph Casey, T. S. Jessup and Henry F. Clark; Brigadier-General St. John B. Skinner, Admiral John R. Beaumont and Commodore J. H. Uphur; a son of Jefferson Davis, a son of General Longstreet and several members of the Washington family.

Superintendent J. T. Motier says Oak Hill is the only cemetery in the District of Columbia that has not been desecrated by body snatchers. He says it is the only cemetery in the United States where the bricking in of graves is obligatory.

Washington has four medical colleges. They are the colleges connected with the Columbian University, the Howard University, the Georgetown University and the National University. Annually over five hundred students attend these four medical colleges. To instruct these students in the science of anatomy 300 "subjects" are necessary per year. During the three years' course each student must dissect four subjects, two during each of the first two years. The students pay for their own subjects, and to reduce the price they form classes of from four to six members.

Bodies under fifteen years of age are not regarded as desirable for dissection and are not marketable. Statistics show that of the number of persons buried annually in Potter's Field less than two hundred were over

fifteen years of age. To equip their dissecting rooms the colleges have, therefore, bought annually 100 bodies stolen from the graves belonging to the lot owners in the cemeteries where the well-to-do and the wealthy bury their dead.

CHAPTER III.

A body snatcher's outfit in Washington consists of a wagon, a spade, a crowbar and a grappling hook. The wagon used is not unlike hundreds that are seen on the streets of Washington every week day, and its presence on any thoroughfare, even after midnight, does not excite suspicion.

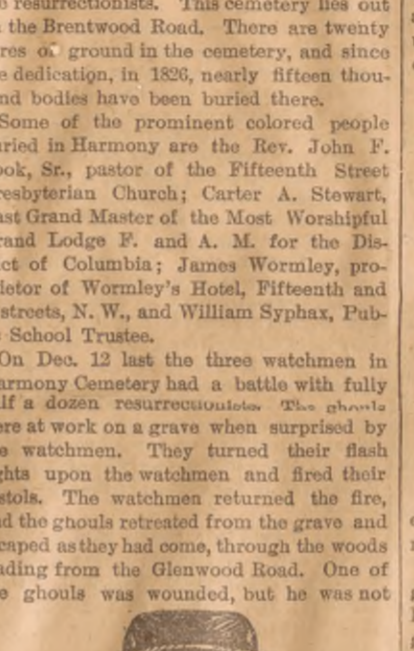
The king ghoul of this city of desecrated graves has a small wagon, with a box just long enough to carry the body of a full-grown man without doubling it up. It has a cover of dingy white canvas, not unlike that which tops a gypsy's caravan. The seat is some distance within the box of the wagon, so that the body snatcher has to sit over the head or feet of their dead passenger. Marlowe's wagon is a one-horse affair. Even when he expects to secure two or three subjects of a night he does not take out more than one horse.

Recently Marlowe lost a horse said to have been worth \$150. He replaced it with one he drives now. It would be dear at \$25. During the day Marlowe puts this horse to use hauling refuse for the Street Cleaning Department.

A spade is a spade and a crowbar is a crowbar. Those handled by Marlowe and his fellow body snatchers for opening the grave and smashing the coffin differ in no way from the regulation spade and crowbar.

But the resurrection hook is something unique. One of these hooks is in possession of

all the bodies were seen.



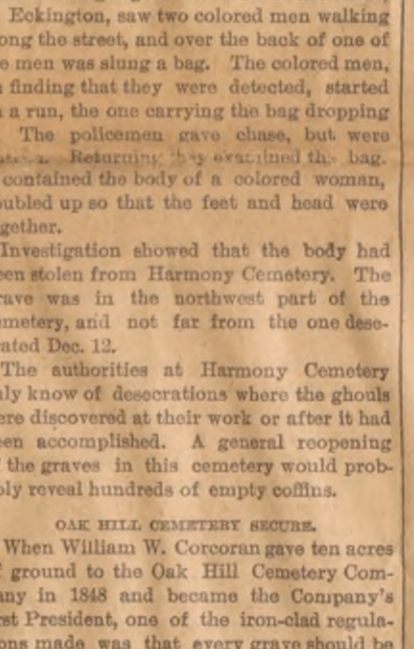
DAN CONNOR, Janitor of National Department Columbian University.

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ALL THE NEWS FOR ONE CENT.

The Daily Mercury, out to-morrow morning, price one cent, will be specially devoted to news of New York and its vicinity.

It will be the only distinctively Democratic morning newspaper of this city, and will also give special attention to home and social features.

"Admiral"

Cigarettes without question the one high grade brand in the market. This accounts for the contemptible methods used to influence dealers from selling them.

Perfect roadbed, four tracks, fine cars, quick time and Grand Central Station—all by New York Central.

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