

bloated villains in the country. The train robbers of Arizona, the men who roast the women's feet to make them confess where family treasures are hidden, are gentlemen beside these tenement house fiends who burn and plunder."

Steinberg's Confession.

The first to confess was Steinberg. It has been said he was offered a guarantee of protection for turning State's evidence. This is denied. He was told that if he threw himself on the mercy of the officers they would see that he was treated with appropriate leniency, not that he should go free. Steinberg implicates Leopold Lederer and Furrin, and also Schoenholz, who is serving a sentence of forty-eight years. Steinberg's statement in part is as follows: "Leopold Lederer was a printer, and living in the same house with me at No. 181 East Broadway. In 1894 he made the first overture for a fire. I had a picture store in the building below. He came to me one day and asked if I carried an insurance on my store."

"I told him no, and added that I did not believe in such things as insurance and the fire that came after insurance. He was very persistent, argued long and earnestly, and repeated that I could make hundreds of dollars if I would work with him in the insurance scheme."

"Almost immediately after this interview business began falling off. In a few weeks my affairs began to look serious. In going over the books I found that I had lost about \$300 since my first interview with Lederer. Says Lederer Tempted Him.

"Two months later I met Lederer again. He came to see me in Henry street, New York, whither I had moved just previous to our second interview. The first thing he asked was how I was getting along. I said I was in a bad way financially, and told him all about my failure in East Broadway. After we had talked a few minutes he suddenly asked me if I had any insurance on my household goods."

"I replied: 'Yes; to the amount of \$800. He wanted to know the name of the company. Not recalling the exact title, I told him that I would look it up. Then I went home to consult the policy. At his request I called at his house in East Broadway a few days later. As I approached the house Mrs. Lederer, himself and Mrs. Bloom, who were sitting on the door step, greeted me, and after a few moments' chat I was invited into the house by Lederer. We went downstairs into his printing office for a private talk."

One of the Arguments.

"Lederer's private office was in the back part of the room, cut off by a partition from the front office. In a dingy corner Lederer unfolded his scheme for making money and gradually he induced me to enter into his plans for destroying property. One of his strong arguments, and which made a deep impression on me, was that no money was necessary. He said I could give them a note the amount Blum, Schoenholz and himself provided I went into the business and joined in doing up jobs in good shape."

"It was nearly twenty months from the time of my first meeting with Lederer, before I finally made up my mind to join the combination. The insurance on my furniture amounted to eight hundred dollars. But when the fire took place I received only one hundred dollars for my share. Schoenholz took all the rest of the money. I should explain that Lederer and Blum were the 'contractors' in the business. In Lederer's printing office all the plans had been projected and thoroughly gone over. As I remember, hundreds of people entered and departed from the place during the conferences."

Agreed to Have a Fire.

"I should also explain that after a while I found that my financial condition would not justify my living in New York any longer. So I moved to Brooklyn, taking up quiet quarters at No. 146 Snedeker avenue. David Furrin lived in apartments directly above me. Again the fire business was brought up. After frequent talks and receiving much encouragement from the three men—Lederer, Schoenholz and Blum—I agreed with Furrin to have a fire. I only came to this understanding after arrangements had been made with the other men. This time my insurance policy was for a thousand dollars. The fire came off all right, yet out of it I received but \$135. Furrin got \$100 or, perhaps, a little more, his policy being for the same amount as mine."

Says Mrs. Lederer Was Implicated.

"Trina demands that I should say that Mrs. Lederer was as fully implicated in having our business a success, so far as the fire was concerned, as her husband, and I cannot understand why she has not been arrested."

"These are all the fires that I had anything to do with personally. Schoenholz did all the firing. Blum and Lederer made the contracts, while I agreed to everything and set around and watched the proceedings. I state truthfully that I never touched a match to a fire, and when I am given my liberty I shall work with the authorities in ferreting out many other of these crimes, and shall help bring the guilty men to justice who have cold-bloodedly originated this system of making money by destroying property and imperiling human life."

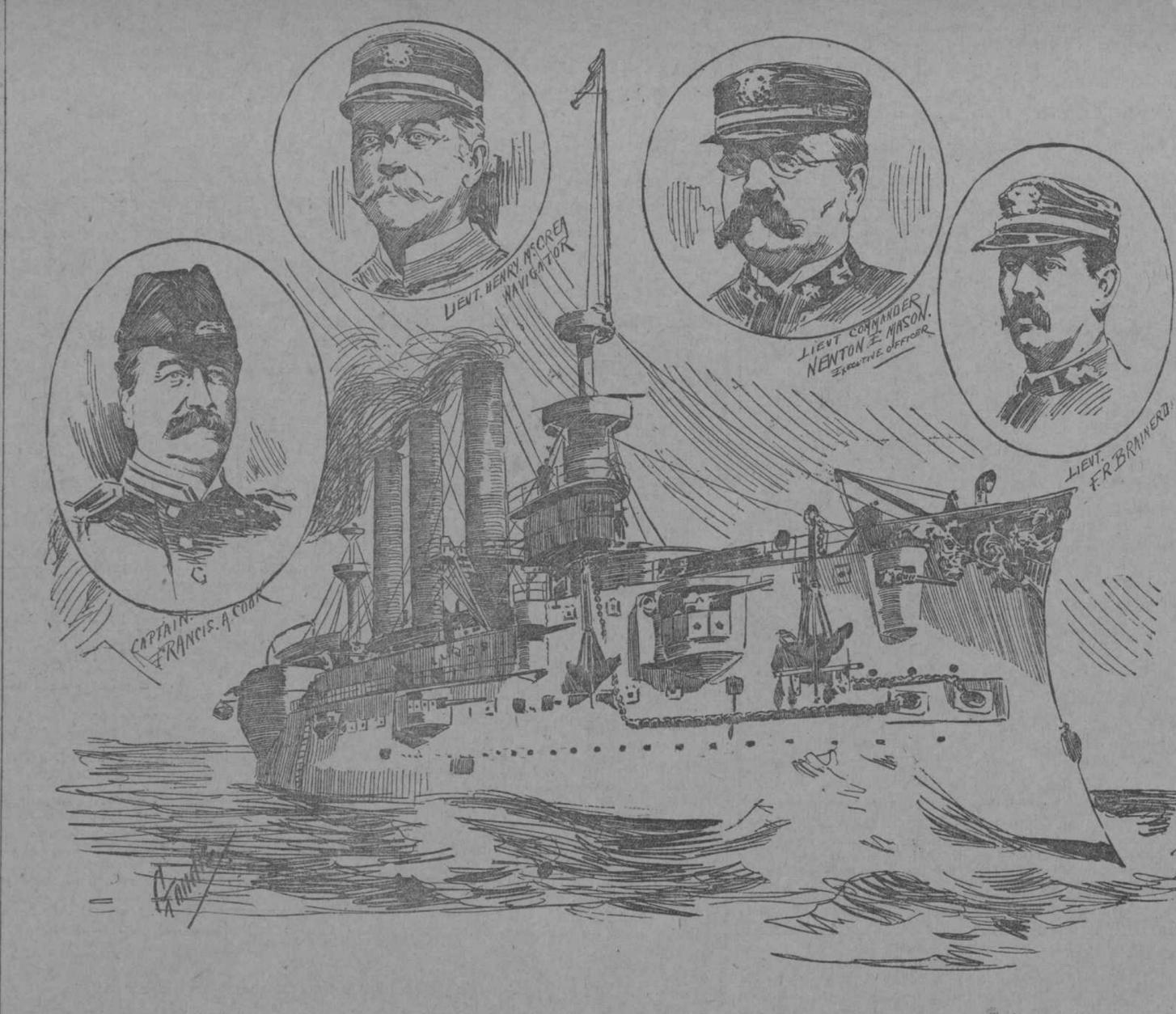
"It will be observed that references to other fires are omitted and the names of men withheld, as it would prevent their being brought to trial. To reveal their identity might cause them to escape."

Will Be Witnesses Against Blum.

"It was expected that Steinberg would be sentenced last week, but sentence was suspended for good reasons. When his case comes to trial, Steinberg will be star witness against Blum, who is skulking around the suburbs of a neighboring city and fancied that he will escape. It is claimed that Lewis Washburn, who was arrested with Lederer, and who is now in the Raymond Street Jail, is innocent of the charges made against him. At the same time there are certain facts in his case that will probably come to light later on and create a sensation."

In addition to the above statement by Lederer, there is another story to be told, of a startling character, regarding the fire that a woman played in his scheme to burn buildings and rob the insurance companies. It is also said that two ex-officials were more or less in the conspiracy."

of the Gang's Performances. Blum has a record outside of New York and Brooklyn. It is said that he was an associate of Zuker, and was his alleged accomplice in the Division street fire; was also accused of the same crime ten years ago in Philadelphia. Lazarus Stein, a clothier, had his store destroyed by fire in May, 1885. The police thought that Blum was one of the principals in this fire. He was arrested and prosecuted, and a Philadelphia jury were only half an hour in finding him guilty. He was sentenced for four years."



UNITED STATES CRUISER BROOKLYN AND HER OFFICERS.

The big cruiser Brooklyn on Saturday while proceeding down the Delaware struck on Schooner Ledge, which has long been a peril to navigation. The rock had been blasted, but the debris had not been removed, and where the ship struck there was not over twenty feet of water. The outer compartments of the cruiser were stove in and the steam pipes burst. The vessel is now anchored off South Chester, hedged in by ice.

ago in Philadelphia. Lazarus Stein, a clothier, had his store destroyed by fire in May, 1885. The police thought that Blum was one of the principals in this fire. He was arrested and prosecuted, and a Philadelphia jury were only half an hour in finding him guilty. He was sentenced for four years."

Morris Schoenholz was sentenced to forty-eight years for lighting a fire in Suffolk street, in which a little girl was burned to death. Adolph Hirschkopf was sentenced for life for being implicated in the same fire, and the verdict was murder in the second degree."

Lederer is thirty-five years old and has a neat and attractive home. When arrested he was seated at his dinner table, with his family around him. It was a scene of peace and contentment. He is accused of firing his former home in Fifteenth street, South Brooklyn, in 1894. He claimed \$900 out of \$1,000 insurance. He claimed that he would be the last man to fire his own dwelling. He said he was secretary of the United Hebrew Society, and when Schoenholz was taken away he (Lederer) had his children committed to the Hebrew Home for Orphans at his own expense. He swore he was a respectable man of a good reputation."

Washburn had his house fired January 17, 1892, on Third avenue. His family were in the building at the time it burned."

A. MARTIN TO WED MISS POST.

Continued from First Page. lander, Miss Helen Brive, Mrs. Lloyd Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Ward Hale, Miss Katherine Duer, Mrs. Beadleston and Mrs. Wilton Peckham."

Mrs. Francis Burrell Hoffman has de-cided on a superb Venetian costume of white and gold. Another very handsome dress suggestive of Grand Canal and gondolas, not only her own portrait, painted in Gainsborough fashion, but prints of the celebrated artists' paintings."

Mrs. Edith Devereaux Clapp will go as the Duchess of Devonshire. Peter Marie will be Cardinal Mazarin."

Copy Their Own Portraits. Some of the matrons will present a noticeably familiar appearance at the ball. They will copy their own portraits, which have been viewed time and again at the New York portrait shows. Mrs. Astor, for instance, will appear as in the painting of herself by Carolus Duran. The painter selected for her at this time a dress of the Sixteenth Century. The material is blue velvet with trimming of gold braid and close velvet cap edged with pearls."

Mrs. Frederic Edger has not taken her own portrait as a model, but one of an English beauty by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Mrs. T. Sufferer Tailor has studied for her costume not only her own portrait, painted in Gainsborough fashion, but prints of the celebrated artists' paintings."

Mrs. Reeve Merritt has now decided to copy the feminine figure in Millais's picture of the "Huguenot Lovers."

ROBERTS'S IDEAS IN A BILL. Comptroller Preparing a Measure Regarding an Increased Inheritance Tax.

Albany, Jan. 31.—State Comptroller Roberts is preparing a bill for introduction in the Legislature carrying out the recommendations contained in his annual report that an increased inheritance tax be levied on all estates over \$1,000,000. Senator Higgins, chairman of the Senate Committee on Taxation, is investigating the question and will introduce the bill if he becomes satisfied that there is no constitutional objection to Comptroller Roberts's suggestion."

SEVEN LOST IN THE FIRES.

Continued from First Page.

of the mother and her five little ones while Schroeder still sat in the saloon spending the money for which the woman had worked."

Two hours later, Henry Mangels was awakened by smoke, which was filling his flat. His first thought was for his family. He, too, had a wife and five children. He worked hard every day for them. Without stopping to dress he awakened them. All ways of escape were cut off except by the roof. To reach that it was necessary to climb a rough ladder and crawl through a small scuttle. They had nearly reached the roof when eight-year-old Mabel slipped on the ladder and fell back into the fire, from which she was escaping. The father, mother and her eldest daughter rushed back to save her, but, terrified by the flames, she had run into the midst of them. Mrs. Mangels and her daughter were severely burned before they would give up the little one, but they were finally forced to flee for their own lives. Mabel's body lay beneath the tons of brick."

THE DEAD: MANGELS, MABEL, eight years old, No. 157 Fourteenth street. SCHROEDER, MRS. NELLIE, forty years old, No. 410 Newark street. SCHROEDER, HENRY, eleven years old, No. 410 Newark street. SCHROEDER, KATIE, nine years old, No. 410 Newark street. SCHROEDER, MAGGIE, seven years old, No. 410 Newark street. SCHROEDER, JOHN, three years old, No. 410 Newark street. SCHROEDER, WILLIE, three months old, No. 410 Newark street.

THE INJURED: MANGELS, MRS. MARGARET, No. 157 Fourteenth street, burned on hands and face while trying to save her daughter. MANGELS, FLORENCE, sixteen years old, seriously burned on the head, breast and arms while trying to save her sister; now in St. Mary's Hospital. Until a few months ago Henry Mangels was a prosperous grocer in Hoboken. He had a store at Seventh and Bloomfield streets. Then reverses came and he lost all except the furniture in his home, which was on the top floor of the apartment house at No. 157 Fourteenth street. He was trying to make a new start in life, and seemingly everything was favoring him. When he said "Good night" to his children on Saturday he thought that to-day would see the end of his troubles."

At 3 o'clock yesterday morning Mangels was awakened by shouts of "Fire!" Half awake, he left his bed and opened the door leading to the main hall. A cloud of smoke rolled into the room, and through it Mangels could dimly see that the halls of the lower floors were ablaze. Realizing that there was not a moment to lose, he roused his wife and their five children. These were Florence, who is sixteen years old; Mabel, who was eight; little Henry, ten years of age; Nellie, who is only six, and the baby."

There was no time to stop even for clothing, though the night was bitterly cold, and the little ones were gathered in the front parlor with their parents, dressed only in their night garments or such wraps as they could hastily snatch in their flight from their rooms."

By this time the entire rear part of the building was on fire, and the flames had burst through the windows in the kitchen of the flat. The only fire-escape was located just outside of those windows, and

THE FIRE LEFT MANY DESTITUTE.

Not Only Were Seven Lives Lost, but Twenty-four Families Were Left Penniless After Years of Toil and Deprivation.

The two fires in Hoboken, in which seven lives were lost, left twenty-four deserving families destitute and almost without clothing. In each case the property lost was that which had been purchased with the savings of years of toil. To help these families in their distress has been a hard work for the people of Hoboken, though they have done their best. The following is a list of those who lost their all, together with the estimated value of the property destroyed:

- No. 155 Fourteenth Street. CHARLES BUCKENTH, wife and four children; loss, \$1,500. CHARLES HANSEN, wife and two children; loss, \$1,000. PATRICK KEOGAN, wife and three children; loss, \$1,200. DAVID LEE, wife and four children; loss, \$2,000. HENRY LIVINGSTONE, wife and four children; loss, \$1,500. CHARLES SCHESTER, wife and six children; loss, \$1,000. JOHN SEWALL, wife and three children; loss, \$800. FRANK SUEMAN and wife; loss, \$750. AUGUST STENICK, wife and four children; loss, \$1,000. No. 157 Fourteenth Street. HENRY MANGELS, wife and four children; loss, \$2,000. JOHN FARREL, wife and two children; loss, \$1,500. GUSTAV LANDBLEED, wife and one child; loss, \$1,800. CHARLES JACKSON and wife; loss, \$1,500. WILLIAM NIXON and wife; loss, \$1,000. JOHN BITTERHOFF and wife; loss, \$1,200. HERMAN VOIGHT, wife and two children; loss, \$1,600. No. 150 Fourteenth Street. CHARLES BROWN and wife; loss, \$2,000. EDWARD HICKS and wife; loss, \$2,500. EDWIN LANCHETT and wife; loss, \$1,800. VINCENT PERREZ, wife and two children; loss, \$2,000. JOHN SULLIVAN, wife and three children; loss, \$2,000. JAMES WILSON, wife and two children; loss, \$1,500. No. 410 Newark Street. JAMES BLANCHFIELD, wife and six children; loss, \$2,000.

was as useless as though it did not exist. Flight by the main stairway was equally out of the question, for the flames barred all progress beyond the first steps. The only way left was through the scuttle leading to the roof, and across that to some place of safety."

Only Avenue of Escape. In the hall was a rude ladder, by which the scuttle in the roof could be reached. Mangels seized it, and putting it in position, climbed up and removed the fastenings of the scuttle. The ladder was shaky, and to make it more secure for his family he climbed out on the roof and, kneeling in the snow, held it so that the children could mount it."

Florence started up the ladder first, half carrying her ten-year-old brother. She pushed him safely upon the roof and then went back to make room for her mother, who had the baby and little Nellie in her arms. They were handed up to their father and then Mrs. Mangels tried to carry Mabel up. The child was half crazed with fright and was not only powerless to help herself, but unwittingly interfered with the efforts of her mother, who began laboriously to climb the ladder, Florence being close behind her."

Mrs. Mangels had nearly reached the roof when the child managed to free herself from her mother's arms and jump from the ladder back into the hall, which was now ablaze. Florence saw the insane act of her sister and sprang after the little one. But Mabel, frightened by the flames which were bursting through all the rear windows, rushed frantically for the front of the house. Florence tried to stop her, but could not."

Blind Search for the Child. In a moment Mrs. Mangels and her husband joined in the effort to save the child. Where she had gone they could not see, but they blindly searched the rooms in the flat until they were forced to fly for their own lives. They did not give up until Florence had been severely burned on the face, breast and arms, and Mrs. Mangels's face and arms were blistered. Even then the father had to force them to climb the ladder and seek safety on the roof."

From the roof of their own burning building they made their way to that of the adjoining apartment house. There a scuttle was opened for them, and they were sheltered in the homes of the neighbors. By this time the firemen had come. They were worn out by their work at the fire in Newark street, which they had been fighting when summoned to the more dangerous blaze. Their coats were covered with ice and they were nearly exhausted, but they went bravely to work. As soon as they knew that a child was in the burning building they made desperate efforts to rescue it, but the flames were too fierce, and, though at one time they succeeded in entering the burning building, they were driven back before they could reach the flat of the Mangels."

Hope Gone, the Mother Fainted. Mr. and Mrs. Mangels were standing in front of the building while the firemen were trying to enter it, and when they gave up Mrs. Mangels fainted. She was carried into a neighboring house and a physician summoned. He dressed her burns and at last succeeded in quieting her by the use of opiates. Then he turned his attention to Florence, whom he finally ordered sent to the hospital. There she is now, and it will be many days before she will be able to leave."

By this time the flames had gutted the building at No. 157 and had spread to the companion building, No. 153, and to No. 159. The latter building was separated from the other by a party wall, and the flames entered it through the rear window. In a few moments it was burning as freely as the others. In spite of the fact that they were so badly handicapped, the firemen worked bravely, and finally extinguished the flames, but not until the building at No. 157 had been entirely gutted and the rear walls had fallen in. The adjoining buildings were not so badly damaged, but the loss to the occupants of them will be as great, for all their furniture was destroyed."

In all there were twenty-two families in the two buildings. Of the property of these not \$5 worth was saved. Some of the occupants carried small amounts of insurance, but most of them are left almost without clothing or other possessions. They had been awakened by the smoke, which came pouring up the stairways, and had fled, taking with them only such clothing as was in easy reach."

Refuge in a Police Station. It was difficult at first to find places where the victims of the fire could take refuge. There were so many that the neighbors could not care for all of them, and Captain Fanning at last threw open the squad room of his police station, two blocks away from the buildings which were destroyed. There they found refuge."

The urgent need of the sufferers was soon known throughout the city, and early in the morning charitable citizens began sending supplies of clothing to the station house, where they were distributed among those who could wear them. But the supply was far from being sufficient to meet the needs of all. As a result, Mayor Fagan called a special meeting of the City Council to suggest means of relief and make preparations to meet the immediate wants of the sufferers."

The burned buildings were erected less than a year ago, and were finely finished and carefully built. Those at Nos. 153 and 157 belonged to John Bodenstedt. The entire structure will have to be torn down and rebuilt. The building at No. 159 belonged to Charles Mohr. It was erected at nearly the same time as the others. Each of the three was valued at about \$25,000."

The origin of the fire is a mystery, and for this reason some of the citizens of Hoboken jumped to the conclusion that one of New York's firebugs had gone to meet the immediate wants of the sufferers."

As the Kaiser has arranged to pay a visit to Spain and has received intimation from Queen Regent Christina that she will be glad to receive the Emperor and Empress in Madrid."

Kaiser Going to Madrid. Berlin, Jan. 31.—Court report says that the Kaiser has arranged to pay a visit to Spain and has received intimation from Queen Regent Christina that she will be glad to receive the Emperor and Empress in Madrid."

U. S. SHIP ALLIANCE FLOATED. Proceeded Immediately to Hampton Roads, Not Being Damaged at All.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 31.—The Merritt Wrecking Company's steamer Coley succeeded about 4 o'clock this morning, after but little effort, in pulling off the United States training ship Alliance, stranded about one and a half miles west of Cape Henry. The Alliance immediately proceeded to Hampton Roads. She is not damaged at all."

For many years a vessel has not struck where the Alliance went ashore. It is probable the navigator lost his bearings in the darkness. A court of inquiry will doubtless be ordered to make an investigation."

Effects of a Blast. For some months past Contractors Dunbar and Sullivan have been at work on the removal of Schooner Ledge as a part of the harbor improvement proposed by the city of Philadelphia. This entire surface, 100 feet in length, was blasted and the rock left in that condition waiting the arrival of a huge dredger. Rock was thrown several feet higher than when it was in a solid state and it was upon this that the Brooklyn struck, her pilots evidently not calculating upon the upheaval. The tide was unusually low at the time and, according to the best authorities, the ice was so thick that Captain Cook decided not to risk the danger of pushing through it. Pilots Walls and Bennett both stated that it would be perfectly safe to take the vessel down the river to the Marcus Hook anchorage and the vessel turned about and started down."

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