

THE AGENT AND COLLECTOR'S SUN.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of Agents, Coin and Stamp Collectors, Literature, Etc.

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The "baby republic" of the world is San Marino in Italy. It has an army of forty men all told, and its total public debt is \$14080

READ THIS!

We desire to introduce our paper into thousands of new homes during the next six months, therefore we make the following liberal offer:

To the person getting us up a club of 40 subscribers at 25 cents each, we will give a Waterbury watch. Or for a club of 20 subscribers at 25 cts. each, which will amount to \$5.00, you may send us \$3.50 and keep the \$1.50 for your trouble.

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Philadelphia has a young lady of twenty years who weighs 532 pounds, and Boston has a young man whose arms each measure over five feet in length. These people seem to have been constructed by a wise Providence purposely for each other, and some means should be employed to bring them together — *Bismark Tribune.*

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

"I thought I would take a run up and see if you didn't want to buy a sewing machine," said the agent to Farmer Grimes.

"I don't know as I do," replied the farmer, "I've got most of my spring sowing done."

"But won't you need it for sowing in the summer."

"Look here young feller, we don't sow in the summer. We cuts and gathers and binds."

"Oh, well, this machine gathers and binds"

"Mebbe you'll be telling me next that your machine will haul in the crop an' put it in the barn. Don't come around here with any of your big stories"

"Don't be ruffled my dear sir, I think you do not understand me. I mean a machine to sew cloth, not grain."

"Ahem! you do, do you? Then you'd better go talk to the wimmin. It's a good thing you didn't mean the other kind, for if you'd kept on telling me about your wonderful machine for plantin' an' reapin' you'd got me a rippin' an' tearin' till I'd basted you"

A boy twelve years old was the important witness in a law suit. One of the lawyers, after cross questioning him severely, said: "Your father has been talking to you, and telling you how to testify, hasn't he?" "Yes," said the boy. "Now," said the lawyer, "just tell us how your father told you to testify." "Well," said the boy, modestly, "father told me the lawyers would try and tangle me in my testimony; but if I would just be careful and tell the truth I could tell the same thing every time."

A stone in the graveyard adjoining the old Concord schoolhouse in Germantown, bears the following inscription:

"In memory of Adam Shisler who departed this life December 22, 1777, aged 969 years.,,

Now, everyone knows that Mr. Shisler was not a second Methusala, so there must have been a mistake. What was the mistake? The explanation is that the stone-cutter marked the man's age 96, instead of 69, by an accident

that might happen to any absent-minded person. To correct this, the "9" was filled with cement, and another figure cut after the "6." But time and frost loosened the cement, and now the once hidden figure appears as distinct as the others.

A Determined Governor.

The following story is told of Senator Groome, of Maryland: "When he was Governor he ran up frequently from Annapolis to Baltimore. One evening, just as the train approached a station half way between the two cities, Groome noticed a large crowd standing near the station; they seemed very much excited. When the train reached the station Groome saw a colored man tightly held by two nervous-looking white men, while the crowd danced around him. Groome jumped off as soon as the train stopped. The nervous-looking white men told him that they were peace officers, that the negro was a murderer, and that the crowd were lynchers. Groome ordered the officers and their prisoners on the train; told the lynchers that he was the Governor of Maryland and that they would stop him at their peril, and then, getting on the train, forced the negro through the cars up to the engine. Putting the prisoner, now half dead with fright, into the cab, he ordered the engineer to cut loose the engine and run back to Annapolis. This the engineer did, leaving the crowd howling in the rear. At Annapolis the Governor turned his prisoner over to the Sheriff and then returned to Baltimore. I am sorry to say, says the correspondent who tells the story, that three nights after that the lynchers came into Annapolis, took the negro out of jail and hanged him. All the same, Groome is a plucky man."

A couple of gentlemen were dining, or preparing to dine, at a certain restaurant. When the eloquent waiter had said: "Roastbeefmuttonchoportenderloin and fried liver?" one of the gentlemen shrugged his shoulders and exclaimed:

"Don't bring me any liver."

"Ah!" exclaimed the other gentleman, "then I take it you are not particularly fond of liver."

"No, not in the least. I don't yearn for liver."

"Any particular reason?"

"Why, yes. You see I can hardly take up a copy of a daily paper nowadays, but I see the advertisement: 'Lost—A liver-colored pointer dog.' So you see the association is not pleasant. So far as I am concerned, it doesn't make a whit's difference whether it is a liver-colored dog or a dog-colored liver with which they tempt my appetite." — *Texas Siftings.*

THE AGENT & COLLECTOR'S SUN.

AUGUSTA, : : OHIO.

THE DIMPLE ON HER CHEEK.

Within a nest of roses,
Half hidden from the sight,
Unf' a smile discloses
Its loveliness aright,
Behold the work of Cupid,
Who wrought it in a freak.
The witching little dimple—
The dimple on her cheek

The Sirens' lays and glance
To lure the sailor nigh;
The perilous romances
Of fabled Lore'le,
And a' the spells of Circe
Are rett of charm and weak,
Beside the dainty dimple—
The dimple on her cheek!

Were these the golden ages
Of knights and troubadours,
Who brighten olden pages
With tourneys and amours,
What lances would be broken—
What silver lutes would speak
In honor of the dimple—
The dimple on her cheek!
—Samuel Minturn Peck, in *Manhattan*.

THE KING OF BEGGARS.

A Chinese Story.

Here is a story for you that my teacher told me.

There was once a boy who studied quite hard; for his parents were very proud of him, and wished him to succeed in life; so they did not give him anything else to do, but let him give his whole time to study. However, he did not study quite hard enough; for when he was examined for his first degree he failed. Shortly after this his parents died and he was left alone in the world.

Now he did not know how to manage the estate at all. He only understood books; so the crops were left to take care of themselves. Of course that was not very profitable; so before long the scholar had to sell house and farm to get food. He lived awhile on the price of the farm; and when this was all eaten up there was nothing for him to do but to beg.

Some days he fared pretty well; but sometimes he got but little, and often nothing to eat. Then he suffered from cold and heat. His body, unused to exposure, could not endure these hardships; and before long he was so ill he could hardly crawl. He crept to the gate of a rich man, and lay down there to die, as he thought.

Now this rich man chanced to be the King of the Beggars. He is a man who is commissioned by the Emperor to keep all the beggars in order. He makes a good amount of money by selling begging-places; but nobody respects him but the beggars.

Well, this day the Beggar King was gone out to look after his army, and had left his daughter at home to keep house. This daughter was very beautiful and good. Her father was proud of her, and vowed she should marry a gentleman. But the King of Beggars, though he had plenty of money, had not a very good name in the world, and no gentleman came a-wooing. So, though the girl was now past twenty, they two were living alone together; for her mother was dead.

To-day, when she had cooked the rice, she went to the gate to see if her father were coming. She saw instead this wretched object at the gate.

She was as good as she was beautiful; so she stooped down and asked him if he were very ill. He had just enough life in him to murmur:

"Not ill, but starving."

She ran quickly into the house, took up her own bowl of rice, brought it out, and fed him with her own chop-sticks.

He gained strength enough to thank her and give her a "*kou-tou*," that is to knock his head on the ground at her feet. Then he said:

"O, miss! I am so very cold!"

She remembered some old garments of her father's and told him to come in and put them on.

Just as he had finished, the door opened and in came the King of Beggars. When he saw the young man of course he was in a towering rage and scolded his daughter well; for, really, what she had done was very, very improper in the eyes of the Chinese—speaking to a young man. When the storm was somewhat abated the girl told him some of the circumstances, and the young man spoke a few words of apology.

As soon as the King of Beggars heard the scholar-beggar speak his face

changed and he invited him into his private office, saying he had an affair to consult him about. There he asked him about his parents, whether he had a wife, then if he was engaged. To these he replied in the negative.

"Well, then," said the King of Beggars, "would you like to be my son-in-law? I have plenty of money, and I see from your speech that you are a gentleman and worthy of my dear daughter."

To the poor, starving scholar this seemed a rare chance, and he accepted.

The young couple were married as soon as arrangements could be made. Then a teacher was engaged and the young man resumed his studies.

At the next examination he passed. But he studied harder than ever, and before many years took his second degree. Both these examinations are held in the local districts. But, for the third and highest degree, scholars come from all parts of the empire to Peking, once in three years, to be examined. By and by he thought himself ready for this examination. His father-in-law was a little anxious at the thought of his taking so long a journey alone. So he decided to place his property in the hands of relatives, and the three should go up to Peking together.

There he tried and won again. Those who gain this third degree can become Mandarins. He passed with distinguished merit, and after some time was appointed Mandarin in a distant province.

The father started the couple on their way to their new home, and then went down to wind up his own affairs, preparatory to coming and living with them. The young couple went off on donkey back, traveling in this way for several days, till they reached a large river, where they took a house-boat.

Now the new Mandarin had a chance to sit at leisure, and take in his new situation. And the devil (for the devil can speak Chinese even if other foreigners can't) "found some mischief still." He set him a thinking about his high position; and gradually he came to think how it would sound to introduce his father-in-law as the King of Beggars. His wife, too; she was beautiful, true; but then she was the daughter of the King of Beggars. That was too shameful. So he forgot how much he owed to both of these, who loved him so much, and thought only of contriving some way to get rid of them.

One night, when all on board were fast in drunken sleep, the Mandarin walked the deck alone in the moonlight. All at once the solution presented itself to him. He went down to his wife.

"Come up!" he said. "The moonlight is too beautiful to be wasted."

He led her to the dark side of the boat.

"There," he said, "just lean over and see the reflection of the stars in the water."

She leaned far over the edge of the boat. He did it almost before he had time to think. There was a splash; but no one woke. The river was deep.

"There!" said he. "That is the last of the daughter of the King of Beggars."

Then he drew a sigh of relief, and went and called the sailors from their drunken sleep. He was anxious to get away from the spot.

"Get up, quick!" he said. "Pull up an anchor and hoist sail! Where you have moored the boat here the water is all full of water demons. I heard them on all sides of the boat just now. We must be gone!"

The sailors rubbed their eyes, and did not hear anything in the water, and felt inclined to doubt the word of their master. But he was a Mandarin, and his word was law. So they were off. The Mandarin sat on deck, watching them.

At daybreak they were many miles beyond the fatal spot. Then for the first time he went into his cabin. A moment after, he came rushing out, grief and consternation on his face.

"Oh! my wife!" he cried. "Those water-kelpies have carried her away! It must have been the time I heard them outside the boat."

So he gave immediate directions to some of his men to go back and search. If they could not find the body they were to dive for it, and stay a whole month searching. He waited some time, but at last could wait no longer. So he left directions about what was to be done if the body was found, spent much money burning paper furniture for the use of her soul, and went on to assume the duties of his office.

He had not been living in the yamen, (Mandarin's palace) very long, when the King of Beggars came, bundles and bedding, to take up his quarters there.

The Mandarin broke it to him gently, then hinted, as his daughter was not alive, the King of Beggars had better return home, and, furnishing him road-money, said he had no further claim on him.

The emotions of the King of Beggars were as much suspicion as sorrow. But since the fellow was a mandarin, he dared say nothing; but took himself off, leaving the money lying.

Meanwhile, where was the young wife?

Fortunately, in her fall she had been caught by the branch of a tree, which was floating on the water; so that, though she sank, she soon rose, and was carried along as on a boat, by the swift current of the river. She was stunned by the fall, and knew nothing, not even when her strange raft dashed her up against the side of a great Mandarin's boat. Some of the servant on the boat, however, saw it and told their master. He commanded them to fish her up; and, seeing it was a woman, gave her over into the care of his wife and the woman servants.

When she came to herself she found the old Mandarin and his wife bending over her, and of course was perplexed. They bade her be quiet then; but after she was better, inquired into the matter. At first she would not tell, but would only cry and weep. But by little and little their love and kindness won her confidence and she told them all, even to the name of her husband. The old couple told her not to fear, that they would adopt her as their daughter.

On arriving at his yamen the old Mandarin made a feast, to which all the lesser Mandarins of the province under his control were expected to come to pay their respects to him. Among the rest came the new Mandarin; for he was under the control of the older one. He brought with him his credentials, for this was the first time he had paid his respects. As the old Mandarin handed them back he said:

"These are all correct. You may stop after the others have retired."

When all were gone the Mandarin took him aside and asked him whether he had a wife.

"No," said the younger. "My father and mother died before they had arranged a betrothal for me."

"Very well, then," said the senior: "That is all right. Now I have a proposal to make to you. I have an adopted daughter for whom I am anxious to secure just such a likely young man as yours is. If you would like to entertain the proposal I will arrange all matters properly for you."

Then the young one chuckled within himself that he had done such a brilliant thing on the river. Now not only was he not tied to the daughter of the King of Beggars, but he was going to be the son-in-law of the grand Mandarin of the district. Of course he consented on the spot.

"I am getting old," said the senior, "and I want this business settled right up. It would delay too much if you should journey home. You can stay here, and I will provide your wedding outfit."

So he staid, and the old Mandarin provided everything needful for the *trousseau* of both. Of course he did not see the young lady. Bridegrooms never do till after they are married.

When the old Mandarin told his new daughter that he had arranged a marriage for her she broke out into protestations.

"He has treated me ill; but I can not be so bad to him!"

But a word in her ear quieted her.

There was a grand wedding, the yamen hung all over with red satin and lanterns. The bridegroom was brought in in robes of state to meet his bride, who was led by the ladies in attendance, her head covered by the usual bridal veil of embroidered red satin. Together they bowed and worshiped heaven and earth, and went through all the prostrations. Then the bridegroom and the bride, led by her ladies, went into an inner room.

As soon as the door was shut, the ladies lifted the veil. The bride took a horse-whip from among a number that were lying there, and that was the signal for each of the ladies to take a whip; and they whipped the wretch until he roared for mercy.

After that they lived happily to a good old age together.

"But," said I, "I don't think it was

very nice for the wife to beat her husband." "Oh," said my teacher, but the Mandarin told her to, and she had to; and the husband deserved it, too." And I think so, too. Don't you?—*Miss Ada Haven, in New York Independent*.

Pleasant Surroundings.

The farmer who does not pay some attention to the appearance of his home will not only lose in an æsthetic point of view, but will actually lose in dollars and cents. The value of his farm will be enhanced by a clean and dry highway in front, beautiful shade trees well kept, and a lawn newly mown. That unsightly pile of wood, with large and small chips strewn about the whole yard, can be made less offensive to the sight, and the dingy-looking houses and sheds might be painted, all of which are more important factors in the valuation of farm property than is generally supposed.

But when we consider how much influence our surroundings have in the development of taste, especially in the young, the question of money value should take second rank as a motive for beautifying the farm. We cannot conceive of a botanist or a fine florist having spent his youth away from flowers; and from scene pleasing to the eye. The natural course of his mind toward his chosen work would have been changed if his youthful eye had rested on none but the rude and commonplace objects around his dwelling-place. It is the duty of parents to educate their children in something more than grammar, geography, reading, writing and spelling; there should be a careful training of the mind towards the appreciation of good books, good manner, and the beautiful in nature. The child cannot grow up a boor or a clown in manners or in appearance if it is early taught to love plants and trees, if its eye is early taught to rest with delight and not indifference on a beautiful object or a beautiful scene. Good books are sought when such a taste is cultivated as naturally as water seeks its level.

Poverty and lack of time are the excuses made by farmers for allowing their farms to look as if they had been visited by a small tornado. But improvement in the appearance of the house and its surroundings requires labor more than the expenditure of cash. Those farmers who find time for this work of beautifying are the ones who plan their farm operations well in advance, with an eye to economy in time; and the farmers whose places are uninviting are usually those who have no forethought in their farm operations and hence are always "rushed."

Probably many farmers that acknowledge with regret the slovenly and bare condition of their premises do not know how to commence and carry on the work of improvement; for in their childhood they were not surrounded by any better scenes, and they developed no natural taste for the beautiful, and have no skill in the simplest operations of landscape gardening and floriculture. But this may be partially overcome by observation, by attending farmers' meetings where some discussion on the subject is likely to occur, or where he can converse with those who can put him in the right track. An energetic farmer can make his home a thing of beauty if he will.—*Lansing Republican*.

A Dog at the Telephone.

The telephone has enabled a physician, several miles away, to detect whether a child had the croup. The child's mouth was held near to the mouth-piece of the instrument, and the physician heard it cough. But more singular than this is the following case of a dog recognizing its master's voice through the telephone: Jack is a coach dog that found his master by telephone. In some way Jack got lost, and fortunately was found by one of his master's friends, who went to his office and asked by telephone if the man had lost his dog. "Yes, where is he?" was the reply. "He is here. Suppose you call him through the telephone." The dog's ear was placed over the ear-piece and his master said, "Jack! Jack! how are you, Jack?" Jack instantly recognized the voice and began to yell. He licked the telephone fondly, seeming to think his master was inside the machine. At the other end of the line the gentleman recognized the familiar barks, and shortly afterward he reached his friend's office to claim his property.—*Sydney (Australia) Eye*.

HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

—Keep the lambs off the pastures where old sheep run, if you would have them free from the disease known under the various names of cough, husk, paper-skin, bloodlessness, etc.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—The Garden—do not pass it by to the advantage of some field crops. Vegetables, besides furnishing the most healthful invigoration, are the cheapest fuel for the human furnace.—*Cleveland Leader.*

—Cheese Cake: Take one pound of loaf sugar, six eggs well beaten, the juice of three lemons, the grated rind of two, and one quarter of a pound of fresh butter. Put these ingredients into a saucepan, and stir the mixture over a slow fire until it is thick as honey.—*The Household.*

—To clean marble, take two parts of common washing soda, one part of finely powdered chalk, one part pumice-stone; mix all together and sift through muslin, afterward mix the powder with water. Rub the marble thoroughly with this and the stains will disappear.—*National Republican.*

—There is frequently much damage done to pastures and meadows by putting stock upon them too early. All the meadows should be rolled as soon as the frost is out of the ground to press down all the raised tufts, stones, etc., and secure a smooth surface for the mowing machine.—*Chicago Journal.*

—Be careful not to over-feed any of your farm animals. Foulness is difficult to relieve, and an animal suffers from the effects of over-feeding for a long time after the temporary pain has been removed. It is much safer to let your stock fast occasionally than to cram them at any time.—*Troy Times.*

—Have you any cabbage stumps? Set them out in the garden as soon as the frost leaves the ground, where they will not interfere with other crops. Cover them half of their length. Green, tender leaves will soon appear, which will give the earliest of greens. The blossom shoots will appear later.—*Exchange.*

—Pyramid of Mashed Potatoes: Well wash and peel two pounds of potatoes, put them in a stew pan with sufficient cold water to cover them, add a little salt, and let them boil until tender, then strain off the water, add one ounce of butter, a little milk, one egg; well whisk them together, then pile in a pyramid on a dish, place in a very hot oven to brown the surface.—*Boston Transcript.*

—Ammonia is very useful in the kitchen. A few drops mixed in the water will take off any grease from plates, dishes, etc., better than soda, and does not injure the skin of the washer as the constant use of soda does. Ladies will find this a useful hint when, as is often the case in these days of sudden "strikes," they find themselves in the capacity of impromptu "maids-of-all-work."—*Prairie Farmer.*

Fits.

Mothers are often unnecessarily frightened during the fits of various kinds to which some children are subject, especially such as are fed without much regard to their health, over-fed and crammed with pastry, meats, nuts, candy, raisins and the like, at a time when only milk is best for them, or during the nursing period. These fits are of no great importance, generally, only so far as they indicate something wrong—wrong treatment to be avoided. The most that can be done, or the best, is to put the little one—if convulsed, if rigid—into warm water, if convenient, or a blanket wet in warm water, covering well, remaining till the rigidity disappears, rubbing the surface thoroughly with the hand while in the tub, or after being taken from the blanket. As soon as possible give a full injection of warm water to move the bowels, and as soon as the child will drink, some warm water may be given, a little soda or mustard may be added, to empty the stomach of its offending substances. Almost any warm drink, filling the stomach, will aid in vomiting. A thorough brushing and rubbing of the whole surface will be of service in restoring consciousness. But better than all, so far as the future is concerned, is to avoid the causes, feeding properly, keeping the bowels open, the head cool and the feet warm.—*Golden Rule.*

—Mr. Ross, who has reported the proceedings in Parliament for the London Times for sixty-two years, has retired.


The Surgeon's Knife.

Required to Remove a Stone from the Bladder—This Dangerous Operation Might Have Been Avoided by the Timely Use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy (of Rondout, N. Y.).

Mr. Simeon Tietzell, formerly of Rondout, N. Y., had been treated for seven years by various physicians for what they called Stricture of the Urethra, without benefit. He finally consulted Dr. David Kennedy, of Rondout, N. Y., who found his trouble to be Urinary Calculi or Stones in the Bladder. The Doctor at once removed the foreign bodies with the knife, and then gave his great kidney and liver medicine, FAVORITE REMEDY, to prevent their reformation. The entire treatment was eminently successful, and Mr. Tietzell's recovery was rapid and complete.

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"And they will tell you explicitly and emphatically "Buchu."

"Ask the same physicians

"What is the most reliable and surest cure for all liver disease or dyspepsia, constipation, indigestion, biliousness, malarial fever, ague, &c.," and they will tell you: "Mandrake! or Dandelion!"

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WANTED, at all times, good articles for this department.

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APPEARED LATELY, AND ARE ABOUT TO APPEAR.

Bahamas.—The new 1½d. reply card is a redish brown, on buff card.

Copenhagen.—The ten ore blue letter card is in use.

Dutch Indies.—It is said that the King's profile has been dispensed with on the 2½c. and the numerals 2½ inserted instead.

Ecuador.—It is announced that a one peso brown will soon appear.

India.—A 4 and 8 anna will shortly appear. The new ½ anna green is now in use. With the word "east" omitted it now reads "Indian Postage."

Portuguese Indies.—The 1½ reis, black 4½ reis, olive and 6 reis green are in use.

Queensland.—The one pound green has been added to the "big value series."

St. Settlements.—5 cents are now printed in light blue.

Sandwich Islands.—The design of the two new reply cards, one and two cents are the same as the single cards.

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A young man wants to know whether when the sexes exchange places at a leap-year party, a gentleman must chew gum, and yell "Don't! you'll rumple my collar and muss my hair!" when a girl undertakes to kiss him; or say "I'll tell my mother if you don't stop!" if she attempts to encircle his waste with her arm. This question should be referred to the Concord School of Philosophy. It is of more importance than the "Whichness of the Why." —*Norristown Herald.*

One Egg for Ten People.

One ostrich egg for ten guests is the pattern of the California ostrich farm. "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten," said Dwight Whiting, counting the guests he had invited to spend at the ostrich farm with him; "I guess one egg will be enough," and giving utterance to this expression, he wended his way to the paddock and soon brought to the house an ostrich egg. The triumph of the feast was the egg. For a whole hour it was boiled, and though there was then some misgiving as to its being cooked the shell was broken, for curiosity could no longer be restrained, and a three-pound, hard-boiled egg laid upon the plate. But aside from its size, there was nothing peculiar about it. The white blueish tinge seen in duck eggs, and the yelk was of the usual color. It tasted as it looked—like a duck egg—and had no flavor peculiar to itself. But it was immense! As it takes twenty-eight hen eggs to equal in weight the ostrich egg which was cooked, it is evident that the host knew what he was about in cooking only one. There was enough and to spare; and before leaving the table the party unanimously agreed that ostrich egg is good.

Wise Words.

He that swells in prosperity will shrink in adversity.

Honor demanded is as worthless as insult underserved is hurtless.

To despise our own species is the price we must too often pay for a knowledge of it.

There is not any revenge more heroic than that which torments envy by doing good.

The two great movers of the human mind are the desire of good and the fear of evil.

The first ingredient in conversation is truth, the next good sense, the third good humor, and the fourth wit.

Open your mouth and your purse cautiously, and your stock of reputation and wealth shall, at least in repute be great.

A wise and good man will turn examples of all sorts his own advantage. The good he will make his patterns and strive to equal or excel them. The bad he will by all means avoid.

He is incapable of a truly good action who knows not the pleasure in contemplating the good actions of others.

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