

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

Vol. IX.

RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 5th, 1882

NUMBER 34

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION—7, Rua Nova das Laranjeiras.
THOMAS A. OSBORN, Minister.
BRITISH LEGATION—No. 8, Travessa de D. Manoel.
EDWIN CORBETT, Minister.
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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL—No. 8, Travessa de D. Manoel. GEORGE THORNE HICKETTS, Consul General.
AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICE—No. 5 Rua Fresca.
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—No. 15 Travessa da Barreira. Services in Portuguese at 11 o'clock, a. m., and 7 o'clock, p. m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock p. m., every Thursday.
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—Services in the Sunday-school chapel at *La casa de Cattete* on each Sunday, as follows: Preaching in English at 11:20 a. m., and in Portuguese at 1 and 7 p. m. Sunday-school in English and Portuguese at 10 a. m. J. J. KENNEDY, Pastor.
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FRANCIS CURRAN, Missionary.
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JOÃO M. G. DOS SANTOS, Agent.
IGREJA EVANGELICA FLUMINENSE—No. 44 Travessa das Parilhas. Services in Portuguese at 10 o'clock, a. m., and 6 o'clock, p. m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock, p. m., every Wednesday. Sunday school at 4:30, p. m.

TRAVELLER'S DIRECTORY

RAILWAYS.

DOM PEDRO II.—Through Express: Upward, leaves Rio at 5 a. m.; arriving at (Barra Junction) at 7:45 a. m., Entre Rios (central line) 10:11 a. m., Barbacena 3:45 p. m., Porto Novo (branch from Entre Rios) 12 m., Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 11:45 a. m., São Paulo (per S. P. & Rio R. R.) 6 p. m. Downward: leaves São Paulo 6 a. m., Barbacena 8:12 a. m., Porto Novo 12:13 p. m.; arriving at Barra 4:11 and Rio 7:12 p. m. Connects with Valenciana line at Desengano; Rio das Flores line at Commercio, União Mineira line at Serriaria, Oeste de Minas (S. João del-Rey) line at São Jo; Leopoldina line at Porto Novo; Recente e Areas line at Sarubá; and S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line at Cachoeira.
Litoral Express: Upward, leaves Rio 7:15 a. m.; arriving at Barra 10:26 a. m., Rio Novo (central line) 10:57, Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 5:28 p. m.; Downward, leaves Cachoeira 6:48 a. m., Rio Novo 5:59 a. m.; arriving at Barra 12:42 and 1:57 p. m., Rio 5:43 p. m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santa Cruz branch at Sappopenha, and Macaëos branch at Belém.
Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 9:10 a. m., 3:12 and 4:10 p. m.; arrive, from Belém 7:15 a. m., from Barra 8:15 a. m., from Entre Rios leaving 6:07 a. m. at 3:28 p. m.
Sabbath Trains—Passenger trains leave at 5:00, 6:30, 7:49, 8:40 and 10:22 a. m., and 7:00, 10:15, 2:30, 4:30, 5:50, 7:20, 8:30 and 10:00 p. m. all stopping at Cascadura except the 10 p. m. train, which runs to Sappopenha. Returning, the trains leave Sappopenha at 2:30 and Cascadura at 3:30, 6:10, 7:49, 8:40, 10, and 11:35 a. m., and 1:10, 2:20, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8:30 and 9:40 p. m.
CANTAGALLO R. R.—Leaves Niterói Santa Anna 7:30 a. m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 1:05. Concluido 1 hour per tramway from Cantagallo 4:25 and Macuco 5:45 p. m. Return train leaves Macuco 6:30, Concluido 7:50 and Nova Friburgo 11:10 a. m., arriving at Niterói 4:35 p. m. A ferry boat runs between Rio and Sauf Anna, connecting with trains.
PETROLIENS STEAMERS and F. R.—Steamers leave Traphic Mauá at 1 p. m. week days and 11 a. m. Sundays and holidays, passengers arriving at Petropolis at 5:30 p. m. week days, and 3 p. m. Sundays. Returning, diligence leaves Petropolis at 6 a. m., the boat arriving at Rio at 9:30 a. m.

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GEORGE BUCKERIDGE, Librarian.
BIBLIOTHECA NACIONAL—Rua do Passio No. 48.
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DE RAMIZ GALVÃO, Librarian.
BIBLIOTHECA FLUMINENSE—No. 37 Rua do General Câmara.
MUSEU NACIONAL—Praça da Acclamação, cor. Rua da Constituição.
LADISLÃO DE SOUZA MELLO E NETTO, Director.

Business Announcements.

PINHEIRO & TROUT
SHIP-CHANDLERS & GROCERS
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SANTOS and São PAULO.

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WM. D. CARSON, Proprietor.

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and all articles pertaining to their use.
Also materials for lightning conductors.

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Discases of the Eye.
PROFESSOR SICHEL, of Paris, will give consultations gratis to the poor, daily, from 11 to 12 a. m., at
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THE COMPANY
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Commercial lines:
Per quarter, from..... 80\$000 to 50\$000
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Per quarter, from..... 60\$000 to 40\$000
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Each subscriber receives gratis books of coupons which entitle him to free use of the public stations of the Company.
N. B.—Special attention is called to the exceedingly low rates at which these most valuable and convenient telephonic facilities are now offered.
May 1st, 1882.
W. Hensley, Manager.

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Good, airy rooms; a fine shower bath; a healthy location; and an exceptional neighborhood.
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CHAS. S. HOWLAND, Treasurer.
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WILLIAM B. DEMING,
133 Rua da Quitanda,
Rio de Janeiro Office of the
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Manufacturers of Steam Force and Gistern Pumps, and all varieties of Hydraulic machinery.
Also Mardica Presses and other machines for agricultural purposes.

A. WHITNEY & SONS,
CAR WHEEL WORKS.
(Established 1847)
Callowhill Street, sixteenth to seventeenth streets, Philadelphia, Penn.
Chilled cast iron wheels (steered by the Hamilton process for railways, street cars, and mines. Axles of iron or steel.
Illustrated catalogue furnished on application of customers

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Monograms, autographs, etc., made to order.
Metal-Bodied Rubber Type.

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No. 79, Rua Sete de Setembro,
Rio de Janeiro.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet
the French packet of the 15th., and Royal
Mail packet of the 24th. of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs
a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock
quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, and a
other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian
trade.

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Ovidor.

All subscriptions should run with the calendar year.
Back numbers supplied at this office from April 1st, 1879.
Subscriptions and advertisements received at the

EDITORIAL ROOMS:—79, Rua Sete de Setembro.
CITY TELEPHONE ADDRESS:—No. 112.

Agent for the United States and Canada:
THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER AGENCY,
New Haven, Conn.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The remaining numbers for the
present year will be sent gratis to all new subscribers for
1883.

RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 5TH, 1882.

In discussing the question of coffee pro-
duction, the *Correio Paulistano* of the 30th
ultimo lays down some very good doctrine
for the benefit of its readers. After quoting
some remarks of a colleague on the great
fertility of some of the new districts and on
the expected action of the government in
the matter of reduced freights, the *Correio*
remarks that it should not be forgotten that
the best way to meet the present crisis is
not to abandon the contest, but to overcome
foreign competition through the superior
quality and preparation of the Brazilian
product. Instead of seeking to produce
enormous crops, as has heretofore been the
rule, more attention should be given to the
preparation of the crop for market. "To
produce less, but better," seems to be the
Correio's to be a wiser policy just now than
to merely increase the quantity. To attain
this object a higher cultivation (*intensiva*)
is essential in place of the old system of
extended cultivation (*extensiva*). The latter
has had its day, with its large areas scanty
cultivation, large crops, and speedily ex-
hausted soil. The former, with its restricted
areas, high cultivation, fertilized soils, and
augmented product, must henceforth be the
system to be followed. The object of the
industry, as in all others, should be quality
instead of quantity. And in this the *Correio*
is perfectly right. One of the first steps to
be taken to meet the present crisis in the
coffee trade is an improvement in the
quality of the product. The day of high
prices has gone by, never to return. It is
possible that war or the failure of a crop
may bring about a temporary rise in prices,
but like the permanent face of prices on
wheat following the enormous production
in the Mississippi basin, it is evident that
coffee has gone down to remain. The only
remedy, therefore, is to decrease the costs
of production, and to increase the quality
of the product so as to command the best
and largest market. It is a very general trait
among men—and a good one withal—to
be willing to pay a better price for a better
article, and it is just this trait of character
to which the Brazilian planter should appeal.
With such an effort the government can
have no part, and the planter is wasting
time in expecting it. The most the govern-
ment can do is to abolish its export duties,
and to reform its legislation which discrim-
inates against small planters. In general
terms, the greater the number of small
producers the better will be the product, for
the small planter will employ a higher

cultivation and secure better average results
than the old-fashioned planter ever dreamed
of. As a beginning however, the planters
will find the *Correio*'s advice good and
worth putting into practice without delay.

The Paraguayan government, according
to a private telegram from Paraná of the
24th ultimo, has abolished all export duties
on Paraguayan tea (*herba mate*), the exemp-
tion to take effect on the 1st of January
next. This step, says the telegram, has
produced a great decline in prices in River
Plate markets, from which it is inferred
that, "If the Brazilian government does not
protect our industry of Paraná, it will shortly
disappear, not being able to undergo the
competition." All of which is very true.
It will be interesting to know just here what
kind of protection the good people of
Paraná desire. Manifestly the remedies
of Dr. Felício dos Santos and the Club
Industrial will not serve to good purpose
here. No discriminating duties can be levied
on the Paraguayan product, because it is
outside of Brazilian jurisdiction. In none
of the stereotyped ways can the Brazilian
enterprise be protected. It might be, how-
ever, that the government could help the
Paraná industry by paying it a bonus
equivalent to the difference in cost as
compared with that of Paraguay, or—in
an extreme case—it might abolish the
Brazilian export tax altogether. This, how-
ever, is quite out of the question. The
government has just taken 2 per cent.
off of this tax, in connection with cotton,
sugar and coffee, and the loss has been so
great to the imperial revenue that an
additional "10 per cent." has been put
upon imports, and the ware house taxes
have been largely increased. Were the export
duty of 7% on *mate* to be abolished, there
is no telling what might happen to imports.
It is against both tradition and established
usage to let up on one single tax, or rate of
taxation. The precedent would be fatal.
And then, were the *mate* gatherers to be
exempted from export taxation because of
Paraguayan competition, the cattle-raisers
would claim a similar exemption on jerked
beef because of Platine competition, the
cotton-growers because of American com-
petition, and the sugar-planters because of
Cuban competition. Under the existing
system—that of extreme taxation on both
imports and exports—the only safe way is
to open the public treasury to all crippled
industries, and to keep up the taxes to the
top notch, even "if we don't make a cent."

ONE of the coolest propositions that we
have lately seen is that of the Villa Isabel
tramway company of this city. Outside of
Buarque de Macedo's offer to give away the
Botanical Garden line at the termination of
its privilege, this proposal is unequalled.
After having secured a concession on certain
terms and conditions, among which were
the opening of an avenue, the establishment
of a zoological garden at Villa Isabel, and
various other so-called improvements, the
company has now come to the conclusion
that all these undertakings will cost a round
sum of money. They now estimate the
cost at over 4,000,000\$. Whether they
were mistaken or not at the outset, we are
not informed. It may be, as sometimes
occurs, that they were quite willing to
promise anything at the outset to get the
concession, and trusted that time and effec-
tive lobbying would help them safely out of
all their onerous engagements. They now
propose that in compensation for opening
an avenue between Villa Isabel and Rua do
Senador Eusebio, the construction of a
permanent exhibition palace on the grounds
of the old slaughter house, and the establish-
ment of a zoological garden at Villa Isabel,
that the government shall grant them the

following favors: 1st, an extension of time
the privilege to date from the opening of the
avenue; 2nd, a track through the new
avenue; 3rd, the use of the lines of the São
Christovão company after the expiration of
their privilege; 4th, a privileged area, in-
cluding that now belonging to the São
Christovão company in addition to their own;
5th, their 35-years' privilege to date
from the termination of the privilege now
held by the São Christovão company; 6th,
limitation of free passes to postal agents and
policemen in actual service; 7th, the use in
usufruct of the old slaughter house grounds
and the rental of the proposed exhibition
palace. It sounds like a great deal to ask,
but the directors of the Villa Isabel company
have not been frightened at that. They
evidently believe in asking and in asking for
just a little more than it is possible to get.
The São Christovão privilege has eleven
years yet to run, and, if we mistake not, the
company is not required to surrender its
property to the state. To grant the modest
request of the Villa Isabel directors, the
government would have to either buy or
confiscate this property. This must be
accepted, however, as a legitimate outgrowth
of a system which compels the ultimate
surrender of property as the price of a per-
mission to carry on an enterprise, and which
makes the government's will the supreme
law.

The Paraná tax complication still remains
unsolved. In response to the protests of the
mercantile classes against the new tax of 2
per cent. upon the gross amount of their
sales, the president of the province telegraphs
to the ministry that the tax has been reduced
to 1½ per cent., and that the production of
books will not be obligatory. He states
also that the assessments will be based upon
the written declarations of the merchants
themselves, except in cases of omission or
fraud, when recourse will be had to a com-
mission of arbitration. This is, of course, a
slight concession to the protests of the mer-
chants—and a very slight one at that. The
concession of one-half per cent. on an op-
pressive and most vexatious tax is hardly
worth consideration. Bardsensome as a tax
of 2 per cent. on the gross sales of a mer-
chant will certainly be, the principle of such
a tax is by far the most objectionable.
Even were the tax but a small fraction of
one per cent., the mercantile classes should
resist it to the bitter end. A tax on gross
receipts would be bad enough under the
most favorable circumstances, but in this
case it is even worse. It is a tax on the
gross sales, including cash sales—of which
unfortunately there are very few—on credit
sales, on cost sales, on bad debts, on every-
thing. Those who know the system on
which business is done in this country
—the long credit system—will at once
understand how oppressive and unjust this
tax will be. The merchant, who sells his
goods on long credit, as the great majority
of them do, and with all the risks of hard
times, stagnant industries and scarcity of
money which at present characterize the
state of affairs all through the country, cer-
tainly can not afford to take off anything from
his margins as a tax. At this time his profits
are not at all certain, and even if they
were there is no warrant whatever for a tax
upon all his bad debts and time accounts.
Add to this the necessity of paying this tax
in advance, which makes it in large part a per-
centage upon unliquidated accounts, and the
gross injustice of the measure becomes
clearly apparent. Were the government
to make this an income tax on all citizens
possessing an income above a certain ex-
empted sum, there could then be no com-
plaint. This, however, is just what is not
done, and what the government does not
wish to do. Such a tax would affect classes

which now escape many of the burdens of
taxation, and would give relief to the
mercantile classes upon whose shoulders
the major part of the burdens are now
piled. Then as to the relief from the oblig-
atory production of books, the concession is
more for effect than for practical use.
There still remains the "except in cases of
omission or fraud," which will be suffi-
cient to keep the merchant under official
inspection and annoyance. The whole
measure is iniquitous to the last degree,
and can have no other result than the
injury of all honest mercantile enterprise.

At the session of the municipal council
on the 27th ultimo, Alderman Malvino
Reis presented a project relating to the
acquisition of industrial statistics which
merits more than a passing notice. We
may be mistaken in our interpretation of
this measure, but until it is modified in
some particulars we shall be compelled to
look upon it as a bit of legislation in the
interests of a few favored individuals. The
project provides that licenses will be granted
to industrial establishments in this mun-
icipality only after the applicant shall have
filled out a chart, in duplicate, stating the
class of his industry, the motive power
employed, the number of operatives employ-
ed, the annual valuation, and all other
information required. One of the copies
so filled out is to be deposited in the mun-
icipal archives, and the other handed over
to the Associação Industrial, of which, if we
mistake not, the above-named alderman is a
member. At first glance this measure
appears to be all right, because it is designed
to place certain valuable statistics in the
hands of the city government. But is this
all? If the object is merely to obtain certain
statistics, why is one of the reports to be
handed over to a private association, com-
posed mainly of manufacturers? Why would
it not do just as well to take a census every
five or ten years, and then secure all desired
information on such general points as may
be of public interest? Why is the relation
of subjects, on which information is desired,
left so indefinite? Are we not justified in
suspecting this to be a shrewd move on the
part of the Associação Industrial to get
control of the granting of licenses, or to
acquire an opportunity to secure private
information upon industries which may
compete with those represented in its mem-
bership? And what right has this private
association to a special copy of these reports?
If we mistake not one of the officers of this
association is largely interested in cotton
manufacturing, and is constantly claiming
government protection for his enterprises.
Why should this gentleman be provided
with detailed information as to the establish-
ment of a competitor, which may enable
him to crush or forestall the projected com-
petition? Another officer of this association
is a printer and bookbinder, who has already
been highly protected in the customs legisla-
tion of this country. Why should this
gentleman be specially informed as to the
plant and administration of a new com-
petitor? Another officer of this association
is interested in a foundry and iron-works,
and is an ardent advocate of restricted com-
petition. Why should this gentleman be
supplied with all the details of an enterprise
which proposes to compete with him in the
open market? And then there are hatters,
and furniture-makers, and biscuit manufac-
turers, and brewers, and "artificial wine"
manufacturers, and scores of other industries
represented in this society. Why should
any of them be so specially favored, and in
a way which can easily be turned to their
advantage, and to the detriment of every
applicant for permission to carry on a
competing industry? There can certainly

be no objection to supplying the proper official with all needful information on these matters, but the compulsory answering of all possible questions about a man's private affairs, and in the interests of a private corporation like the Associação Industrial, is decidedly objectionable. It will reflect no credit upon the municipal authorities who so readily play into the hands of private societies, and will serve no useful end either statistically or as an encouragement to the establishment of new industries.

On the afternoon of the 22nd ultimo the merchants of Bahia met at the rooms of the Commercial Association for the purpose of drawing up a formal protest against the continued imposition of additional provincial duties on imports. Although the government had promptly acceded to the demands of the merchants of Pernambuco and had suspended a similar tax, the same impost remained in force at Bahia, and no steps whatever had been taken to abolish it. It is true that the last General Assembly enacted that the provinces should not impose taxes of this character, but still the merchants of Bahia were called upon to pay the obnoxious and doubly illegal "10 per cent." The result of their meeting on the 22nd ultimo was a resolution—signed by three hundred merchants—not to dispatch any more goods until the suspension of the tax, and to petition the government for relief. All business was at once brought to a halt. No more goods were taken out of the custom house; the steamship companies were embarrassed because of the sudden accumulation of goods in the lighters; and there was an abrupt suspension of all classes of labor dependent upon the moving of imported goods. Telegrams were at once sent to the imperial government asking that the tax be suspended, and that the importers of Bahia be relieved from a tax both illegal and discriminating. On the 24th the prime minister informed the president of Bahia that the imperial government could do nothing in the matter, and that the solution depends upon the provincial assembly. This resolution was an express abandonment of the position assumed in the Pernambuco case. Our readers will remember that the response of the government to the protest of the Pernambuco merchants was an immediate suspension of the tax, on the grounds of its unconstitutionality. The precedent once established, all merchants were equally entitled to its protection. Since the Pernambuco case, however, the General Assembly has enacted an express prohibition upon all such provincial imposts, thus making their further imposition doubly illegal and strengthening the hands of the general government in their suppression. Notwithstanding all this, the ministry deliberately goes back on its previous action, and denies the relief demanded by the merchants of Bahia. The two cases are exactly identical—the taxes being the same both as to character and amount. The case of Bahia is even stronger than its predecessor as it has a subsequent legislative prohibition on all such taxes. And yet the government refuses to interfere, and delegates the matter to the provincial assembly. In other words, the imperial government whose constitution and laws have been broken, refers the whole matter to this very law-breaker for settlement. A more impotent solution of an important matter can not be imagined. We are glad to note, however, that the Bahia importers held firm, and that a satisfactory compromise with the president of that province has been effected. In consideration of the demands of commerce, and of the justice of the claims put forward by the merchants, the president has suspended the tax until the meeting of the provincial assembly, which is called for the

10th instant. During this interval the merchants will dispatch their goods free from the additional provincial tax, and business will be resumed. It is to be hoped that the provincial assembly will lose no time in abolishing the obnoxious tax and in satisfying the just claims of the mercantile classes. Should it refuse, however, or fail to enact the requisite repeal, the difficulties will be even greater than at present. The general government having abdicated its powers, and the provincial legislature feeling inclined to collect the impost just as long as it can be done, the merchants will be placed in a most embarrassing position. Knowing that their claims are just and that the tax is illegal, they will have no redress whatever. Were there a competent court to which they could appeal, or had the general government retained its power to settle disputes of this character, there would then be some recourse for them, but as it now stands they have nothing of the sort. For protection against an encroachment they are referred to the encroaching power itself, and there abandoned. The case reflects very little credit upon the Paranaíba ministry.

COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24th November, 1882.

To the Editor of THE RIO NEWS.

Dear Sir.—We have noticed with pleasure your several attacks on the glaring mistakes which continually occur in the *Journal do Commercio's* commercial statistics. Will you allow us to call your attention to the following in yesterday's commercial report furnished by the *Journal* for transmission to Europe and elsewhere.

Gorbas.—Graça do Rio Grande, pipas. 530 reis
 hexagas não ha.
 We do more or less business in this article, and it happens that this week we have had several orders from Maranhão, S. Paulo, and so on. "Graça do Rio Grande em pipas" we can not find a single pipe in the market. We have, however, succeeded in buying a small quantity of Montevideo grease which is generally considered inferior to that from Rio Grande, at 580 reis. Rio Grande grease in bladders, of which the *Journal* says that none is to be had, is easily obtainable; we could refer you to an importer who at the present moment holds a fair stock. Now, what are our customers to think of us when we advise having bought an inferior article for 10% over the price quoted in the leading commercial newspaper? We sincerely hope that your exposure of the irregularities contained in the *Journal's* commercial columns will have the effect of making that paper's reporters seek for confirmation of what they are told before they publish it.

We are, Dear Sir,
 Yours very truly,

The error above quoted, we regret to say, is only one in the countless many which our influential contemporary has inflicted upon this community. Why it is done we can not determine. The *Journal* certainly has a staff large enough to procure the fullest and best information the market affords, and its income is so large that the expense would scarcely be felt. Considered professionally, the *Journal do Commercio* is an anomaly in the newspaper world. Its income is unquestionably among the largest in the world, and if taken in proportion to its circulation and the expense attending its publication, it is undoubtedly the largest. Nearly everything which goes into its columns is paid for, even to valuable communications from prominent men in science and literature. And yet, this newspaper, whose columns are mines of wealth, is so unreliable and in-

accurate that no dependence whatever can be placed upon it.

As we have before said, we do not say these things in a carping or unfriendly spirit. In common with hundreds of others we have been misled by the *Journal's* incorrect statistics, and that too through the belief that so wealthy and influential a sheet could not be mistaken. Its professional pride, if nothing else, should naturally lead to the realization of the best possible journalistic work, instead of the poorest. Knowing that it is the foremost among Brazilian journals, a foreigner would expect nothing else. Instead of this we find daily errors of the character above given, and others of a kind which no self-respecting journal should tolerate for one single moment.

That our corrections and those like the above will improve the commercial work on the *Journal* we are compelled to doubt. As long as this public continues to pay so magnificent a tribute to its proprietors and lessees just so long will it be careless of the opinions and requirements of the few who look upon accuracy as one of the essential elements in commercial statistics. We have again and again corrected the *Journal's* errors, but to what purpose? It evidently lacks professional pride and is most liberally paid for poor work; good work, therefore, is clearly out of the question.

THE SNAKE IN SONG.

To the Editor of THE RIO NEWS:

Sir.—The thrilling snake story reported in your last issue merits, if you will permit me to say so, something more than the bald account which you have abridged from the Ceará paper. It is a theme, sir, to wake the muse! nay I have been daily expecting to see our old friend the "Musa do Povo" throw off one of those inspired lays which used to be as unfailing in the columns of the *Journal* as the milk-jug and butter-dish upon our breakfast-tables. But some occult influence—the comet it may be, the meteorological conditions which in this country are always interfering with things, or some other phenomenon,—has caused the Pierian spring to run dry at last, and the song of the minstrel is hushed.

I hope therefore that I shall not appear too obtrusive in forwarding you the accompanying lines for insertion in your next number. I do not seek to influence your judgment in their favour; but I may say that I have been emboldened to take this step, because friends [too partial it may be] who have read them, have assured me that they found in them something which recalled Byron's noblest lyrical achievements.

I remain, &c.
 A MINOR POET.

THE TALE OF THE SERPENT.

That snake he croke down like a wolf on the fold,
 And his scales were all gleaming in purple and gold,
 As he went for five swells in their dug-out so brave,
 Where they rowed lightly on o'er the Solimões' ware.
 Like young leaves in the summer, so joyous and green,
 Those five in their bark for a moment were seen.
 Like the leaves of the forest, when autumn hath blown,
 'Those five, in a jiffy, were scattered and strown.
 For that serpent he spread himself out for the lot,
 And he chortled as João he nipped up like a shot:
 And the eyes of his victim waxed dead and chill,
 As he bolted him whole, like a Holloway's pill!
 And there lay the snake, with his nostrils all wide,
 (For João was a tough 'um to cram down inside)
 And the foam of his gasping lay white on the main,
 As he reached to swallow his victim in vain.
 In his jaws was poor João, quite pale with affright,
 With the dew on his brow, and his legs out of sight:
 "For my family wite!" he shrieked out in his woe;
 —He could tell them no more, for the snake dived below.
 And the four who steepled are loud in their wail:
 And they row they will never more go for a sail:
 For the thought of that snake, as he flourished around,
 Hath melted their courage like snow on the ground.

FATAL MISREPRESENTATIONS.

We are informed by the *Journal's* Paris correspondent [vide *Journal do Commercio* of November 13th] that "the propaganda destined to make our country better known is

going forward in a methodical manner." In support of this statement—which in itself is matter for hearty congratulation—reference is made to an article in the *Nord*, of Brussels, which was written from Buenos Aires and evidently based upon the Brazilian exhibit at the Continental Exposition, and to an article in the *Paris Figaro* of the 19th ultimo upon "Baron Hübler in Brazil." This latter article contains copious extracts from the "impressions" of the eminent Austrian traveler, of whom it might be said, in Humboldt's characterization of a famous traveler and writer, that "he has traveled more and seen less than any other man living." Our readers will remember the well founded criticism of the *Provincia* of S. Paulo upon Baron Hübler's trip through that province, and its wish to see what he would find to say in his voluminous impressions. The *Provincia's* wish will now be gratified. Figuratively, the Baron slipped into the province one day and out of it the next, and so quickly was it done that the friendly Paulistas entirely lost sight of him until his name appeared in the Rio papers. And yet, according to the extracts from his "impressions" published in the *Figaro*, the Baron saw everything that a traveler and writer could wish to see, and now writes authoritatively of the country. Poor country!

We have no purpose at this time to enter into any discussion of Baron Hübler's views of Brazil, for the simple reason that we have only a few extracts of them which have already passed through one or two translations. From these extracts, however, it is manifest that his observations were most superficial in character, and are full of the grossest errors. If the *Figaro* does not misrepresent him, he has been telling the European public that he found here an intelligent, spirited, brave, progressive, highly civilized nation which willingly receives foreign elements whose value is fully appreciated. Above all things he found Brazil to be a charitable nation, for she excels all other countries in alleviating want and suffering. He states that beggars are very rarely seen in Rio de Janeiro, and was informed that this is also the case in the provinces. He was also informed that police agents, so common in Europe, are likewise rarely seen throughout the interior, and asserts that there reigns a most perfect concord in all parts of the empire.

There can be no criticism, of course, upon those impressions of the eminent traveler growing out of his reception at the palace, and by the many officials and prominent personages whose hospitality he enjoyed here. All that is perfectly natural, and will lead no one into error. But when Baron Hübler tells a foreign public that beggars and police agents are rarely seen in Brazil, he either proves himself a very defective observer, or a very untrustworthy narrator. If his observations are all of this character, his narrative will hardly be worth the paper it is written upon. In respect to the reception of foreigners, Baron Hübler is certainly statesman enough to know that his statement must either be modified or it will be dangerously misleading. In the sense intended, that of pure hospitality toward a guest, he is certainly right, and his praises are not overdrawn. A traveler will find this one of the most hospitable countries in the world. In a political sense, however, his unqualified assertion is radically misleading. Had he read the speeches upon the electoral reform bill as to the propriety of admitting naturalized foreigners to full citizenship, and the assertions of an eminent senator that a foreigner could not become a Brazilian at heart, and had he experienced the frequent jealousies and obstacles placed in the way of a foreigner who seeks to be something more than a machine, he

—A man who was smitten with a spirit of enter- prise made an experiment in preparing meat for export and sent an experimental lot home, when, true to our policy of crushing all such demonstra- tions, the government of the province dashed down upon him, and its law officers advised a fine of \$25,000 m/c for such unlawful practices without first taking out a patent.

—The Provincial Bank has resolved to increase the capital of its branches in the country by the following amounts: Ayacucho branch by 10 mil- lions; Tandil, 12 millions; Azul, 25 millions; Lobos, 15 millions; 25 de Mayo, 11 millions; San Nicolas, 25 millions; San Pedro, 6 millions.

—The municipal engineer has been instructed to prepare the plans for the monument that is to be erected in the northern cemetery, in honour of the late lamented explorer M. Crevaux. It is hard to say how the corporation will reconcile this pro- ceeding with the dictum of its council in the case of the projected monument of General Garibaldi. The two cases are identical.

—We wish to write no word to hinder any possible success of La Plata, but we suggest that it will be prudent to consider carefully before invest- ing in lots, for speculative purposes. We confess frankly that to us it seems that there will be 'no money in it,' even though all reasonable success should attend La Plata.

—Captain Vucassovich, the special commissioner of La Platense and the Chargeurs Reunis steamboat companies, leaves shortly for England, to super- intend the construction of six new steamers for the navigation of the Paraguay river. The other six ordered by the same gentleman, for the Uruguay and Parana rivers, may be expected here in August.

—According to the latest statistics there are in the republic of Uruguay, 7,500,000 head of cattle, so it may be safely estimated that the slaughter for the saladeros and markets this year will not come under 1,200,000, considering the drawbacks encountered last year, which prevented the usual amount of slaughter.

—There is much activity in laws at the present moment in all the districts of this province.

—According to the new statutes of the National Bank, the remuneration of the board is to cost three thousand patcones per month, divided as follows: The President will have 700 hard dollars per month, in lieu of four hundred and fifty as formerly, and the remaining twenty- three hundred fuertes will be equally divided among the directors, raising their stipends to a very handsome sum.

—The square in Cuyo, between San Martin and Reconquista, will be paved by Mr. Nettleship in wood, and from Reconquista to the beach also in wood by a French system and by another man. Mr. Nettleship has the system which is generally used at the West End of London, and which has actually been placed in New York by an English company, and we predict great success for Mr. Nettleship.

—Sr. Reboresola, chief of the *resguardos*, has sent a note to the administrator of national revenues, stating that 5,000 packages were despatched from the custom house mole during the last six days of October, belonging to immigrants who arrived in the *Christoforo Colombo*, the *Biaguetta* and the *Sud America*. In one of the packages, concealed by a false bottom, were found 1,026 articles of gold jewellery.

—The European papers which do not know the funny proclivities of our senior colleague, which affects to be known as the English organ, are publishing the discovery of diamonds in Curumalan. If a few or many unfortunate men come here diamond-hunting, to lose their money and their courage, and go home our defenders, we shall have to thank the *Standard* for adding this misleading, instance to the many of which it has been guilty. It is heartless to mislead people to their loss, and no pain, spangles or grotesque antics will excuse heartless cruelty. We only wish there might be found gold, diamonds and all other riches in Curumalan or anywhere else, but we protest against false proclamations or misleading intentions.

LOCAL NOTES

—His Majesty the Emperor Dom Pedro II com- pleted the 57th year of his age on the 2nd inst.

—The new city hall on the Campo da Aclamação was formally inaugurated on the 2nd inst.

—The American line steamer *Bughese* left Newport News for Brazilian ports on the 2nd inst.

—The chief of police took occasion on the 29th ult. to inform the president of the board of health that we have a considerable epidemic of small-pox in this city.

—The inspector of the marine arsenal of this city has lately decided to use home-made sail-cloth in all naval vessels in place of the English article heretofore employed.

—The board of directors of the English Bank of Rio de Janeiro, Limited, has declared a dividend of 8 shillings per share, payable on and after the 9th inst.

—By the valuation of 1879 the property of the Rio Gas Co. is estimated to be worth 5,385,589\$124. The interest on this sum at 5 per cent., should the government take the works, will be nearly 270,000\$ a year.

—According to the latest returns Counselor Fleury, minister of agriculture, has been defeated in Goyaz in his effort to secure a re-election. He has as yet shown no purpose to resign, but will, it is reported, contest the election.

—Counselor Diogo Velho, to whom was entrusted the task of preparing regulations for the new law of privileges, delivered a draft of the same to the minister of agriculture on the 25th ult. It is expected that they will soon be published.

—The local press has not yet been able to determine whether the government intends to place an internal or an external loan. It is evident, how- ever, that some kind of a loan is under considera- tion, and will soon be announced.

—The American minister at this capital, Thomaz A. Osborn, Esp., left for the United States with his family on the 25th ult., on a leave of absence. He will be absent during the hot season. The legation, in the mean time, will be in charge of Mr. John C. White, secretary of legation.

—In order to aid the new propaganda the *Diario Official* made its appearance on the 22nd inst. with an official report in French. Like in all efforts of this character there was a perceptible absence of accuracy and truth in the statements made.

—By an imperial decree of the 30th ult. the general plan of state lotteries has been changed. The new plan provides for lotteries of 120,000\$ each, with 1,700 prizes aggregating 75,600\$, 6,000 tickets, a benefit of 11,100\$, and a tax revenue to the state and its officers of 33,300\$.

—A movement is on foot to have Brazil represented at the coming horticultural exhibition in Belgium. It is a desirable object of course, but after the refusal to send representatives to the important cotton exhibition at Atlanta, United States, it will seem just a little inconsistent.

—The minister of finance has instructed the treasury inspectors not to receive stamped papers or documents, whose stamps have been cancelled with dates, names, or any thing foreign to what is specifically required.

—The Buenos Aires authorities have decided to impose a quarantine on all vessels arriving there from Brazilian ports. In view of the fact that we have not had a case of yellow fever here in a long time, this regulation seems just a little too pre- vious.

—According to the new water works regulations the supply will be obligatory within a specified perimeter, and at the following rates: for all build- ings renting at less than 60\$ the supply will be gratis; for buildings renting from 60\$ to 300\$ the tax will be 12\$ per annum; for those renting from 300\$ to 600\$, 24\$ per annum; and for those renting from 600\$ to 1,000\$, 36\$ per annum.

—The *Diario do Brazil* of the 24th ult. calls the attention of the city council to the large number of dogs which infest this city, especially the Gloria parish. As far as we can calculate there are 1½ times as many dogs in this city as there are men, women and children. A dog tax, instead of further impositions on commerce, would be a measure of the highest statesmanship, and would be conducive to the greatest happiness of this dog- pestered city.

—It is interesting to note that the president of the Villa Isabel company excuses his asking for the São Christovão line on the ground that "the idea was suggested to the directory of the Villa Isabel company by the government having inserted the Botanical Garden lines among the favors which it would give to the company constructing the Copacabana railway." When the government furnishes examples of this character upon which private rapacity can be based and excused, it would certainly seem to be full time for a little sober reconsideration of the whole question of privileges and official interference.

—The oldest compositor in this city is probably Francisco José Pitta who completed his 71st year on the 28th ult. He has been employed in the printing office of Messrs. H. Laemmerl & Co. for the past 40 years, and is still to be found at his case. His associates covered his case with flowers on the anniversary of his birth, and gave him many tokens of their esteem. In addition to this his em- ployers have most generously transformed his salary into a pension, which will hereafter be paid regu- larly whether he works or not. It is alike honorable to both employer and employee that so long a service should be rewarded in this way. Instances of this character are unfortunately very rare.

—The American line steamer *Cyphrones* arrived at Pernambuco on the 1st inst.

—The new water rates do not include charitable institutions and houses of an annual rental of 60\$.

—The second new packet of the Canadian line, the *Ville de Carri*, sailed from Halifax for Brazil on the 25th ult.

—The chief of police has prohibited the sale of lottery tickets on the street without license. There is, however, no apparent abatement of the nuisance.

—The municipal council of this city have decided to experiment with the electric light for night work in the construction and repair of pavements.

—The government has appointed Deputy Marim Francisco Filho to the presidency of the province of Espirito Santo to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Inguez de Souza.

—The Brazilian consul-general in London recom- mends that the exhibition of Brazilian coffee samples at the Crystal Palace be continued six months, and generously offers to meet the expense himself.

—The city council has notified the Carris Urbanos company that some apparatus must be employed to prevent disasters on its tracks. The inventor of that screen does not seem to be selling his apparatus very rapidly.

—Helper's great scheme for uniting Cape Horn and the North Pole by a longitudinal, double-track railway is still to the front in the United States, the projector having brought the scheme before Congress in a petition for a sub- sidy.

—In considering the countries to which coffee samples shall be sent from the last exhibition, the Centro da Lavoura e Commercio has resolved to make a special effort as regards Russia. This country is a small consumer of coffee.

—The passage of Venus across the disc of the sun to-morrow is awaited with eager interest. It is not at all likely that we shall see the phenomenon from the street, but the simple fact that the Emperor will be viewing it from the Observatory, Mr. Cruls from Cape Horn and Baron Tefé from the West Indies, gives an interest to it which even the populace feels. For a time science will take precedence over politics.

—According to the latest statistics there are now existing in Brazil 50 privileges for central usines, upon which the government has conceded interest guarantees of 6 and 7 per cent. The aggregate capital involved is 30,050,000\$, of which 24,450,000\$ is guaranteed at 6 per cent. and 5,600,000\$ at 7 per cent. The maximum annual interest liability of the government on these concessions is 1,850,000\$.

—In view of the condemnation of a cargo of flour brought into port by a Baltimore vessel the *Daniel Stewart*, and of a petition of the owners for its dispatch for other uses than that of food, the president of the board of health has decided that the damaged flour can not be dispatched and must be destroyed. The anxiety of this official to protect the public against bad flour contrasts pleasingly with his apathy in the matter of protecting the same public against small-pox.

—Some of the New York papers have been informed that the Brazilian coffee exhibition, of which a section has been opened there, is designed to bring producers and consumers nearer together, and to do away with many unnecessary inter- mediaries. They will be surprised to learn that the enterprise was originated and carried out by the coffee *commissarios* of this city, and never was de- signed to do away with one single intermediary.

—The number of deaths from small-pox in this city from the 21st to the 30th ult., inclusive, those occurring on the island hospital and at Jurujuba not being reported, was 54, making a total of 197 for the month of November. This is 4 less than the total reported for October. Taking into account the number of patients taken out of the city during the month under the new regulations, it becomes evident that the number of deaths must have con- siderably increased.

—After the removal of the public slaughter house to Santa Cruz it seems that several traitorous butchers of this city have been guilty of having beef, cattle and calves killed in the Niterohy slaughter house, and then smuggling the meat into the city. Several have already been fined, and are now invited to pay up amicably, or be publicly prosecuted. The fiscals are instructed to use great vigilance in preventing any other than Santa Cruz meat to enter the city. It might spoil the public taste for bad beef.

—The September reduction in the public debt of the United States amounted to \$14,805,948'93.

—According to a recent statistical estimate, the present population of the province of Buenos Aires is computed to be 2,626,000.

COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS IN ECUADOR

Commercial prospects in Ecuador are not en- couraging. Three out of four of the principal articles of export, viz., cocon, ivory nuts and Peruvian bark show a large decline in exportation, while the export of the fourth—india rubber—has increased. Up to the present, however, no measures have been taken by the Government to prevent the cutting-down of the trees producing this article, and the resources of the country in this respect are being gradually destroyed. As regards the supply of Peruvian bark, it is satisfactory to know that large forests of the best quality of bark trees have recently been discovered in the interior. The low price prevailing in Europe has curtailed the exportation of this article, but supplies are ample. As is the case in Costa Rica, great things are expected from the development of the mining industry.—N. Y. Commercial Bulletin, August 28.

ENGLAND'S AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

The latest figures in connection with the Austral- asian colonies of England are most interesting. It seems that the total area of these southern regions is 3,103,993 square miles, with an aggregate popula- tion of 1,499,258 miles. The land in actual cultivation was, in 1880, 6,371,238 acres, and the agricultural produce amounted to 36,346,950 bushels of wheat, 17,766,875 bushels of oats, 3,506,191 of barley, and 6,335,239 of maize. In addition, there were produced 424,155 tons of potatoes, nearly 1,000,000 tons of hay, and 1,871,861 gallons of wine. As regards flocks and herds, there were of horses 1,064,655; cattle, 7,878,782; sheep, 65,915,765; pigs, 822,337—making a grand total of 75,681,539. An analysis of these returns dem- onstrates the very curious fact that, taking the population at 2,715,792, there was nearly a square mile for each inhabitant, while the flocks and herds stood at 24.38 per each square mile. The revenue raised by the colonists for the year 1879 amounted to £15,927,488, and in 1880 had amounted to £17,069,016, while the value of the imports in- creased to £45,060,666, and that of the exports to £48,866,168.

The imports of Mexican coffee into the United States amounted to a value of \$1,730,838 in 1881, against 1,523,658 in 1880.

COMMERCIAL

Table with exchange rates for Rio de Janeiro, December 4th, 1882. Includes values for Brazilian mil reis, U.S. coin, and sterling.

EXCHANGE.

Nov. 24.—The banks continued with the rate of 21½ and the market remained firm but inactive, there being very few takers. In private paper insignificant transactions were effected at 21½, 21 1/16 and 21 1/8 on London and 436 on France. Sovereigns closed at 118 3/40 sellers, 118 3/40 buyers.

Dec. 4.—To-day the banks opened again with the official rate of 21½ and private paper was negotiated at 21½.

—A dividend of 5½ per cent. has been declared by the "Recife do S. Francisco" company.

SALES OF STOCKS AND SHARES

Table with multiple columns listing sales of stocks and shares for various companies and dates, including prices and quantities.

Table listing market reports for various commodities like flour, sugar, and coffee, including prices and market conditions.

Table listing market reports for various commodities like oil, beans, and other goods, including prices and market conditions.

Beer.—There is no alteration in the market.

Table listing beer prices for various brands and quantities.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN VESSELS.

Table listing arrivals of foreign vessels, including ship names, origins, and arrival dates.

THE RIO NEWS

In order to determine what improvements can be effected in this journal at the opening of the ensuing year...

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Established 1845. PURELY MUTUAL—All profits annually to policy-holders.

Assets, 1st January, 1882, \$4,701,745.03. Dividends or Bonus paid during the year, 1881, \$2,513,691.94.

Branch Office: No. 31, Rua do Hospicio. English Bank of Rio de Janeiro, L't'd., New London and Brazilian Bank, L't'd.



Valvoline is a lubricant for Valves and Cylinders of Steam Engines, and is free from all the objections which exist against the use of Animal oils for this purpose.

I have used your Valvoline Chronometer Oil on the bearings of the British Dynamo-Electric Machine for the past fortnight, and have never used an oil that gave better satisfaction.

13 Rua 1º de Março, 13. Rio de Janeiro.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

AMERICAN GREEN CORN, preserved in tin. AMERICAN BAKING POWDER, (Farinha Americana). ST. THOMAS BAY RUM.

AMERICAN FLAVORING EXTRACTS, for creams, jellies and puddings. HUMPHREY'S AMERICAN SPECIFICS, Homeopathic Pills.

SOLE DEPOT: No. 72, Rua de S. Pedro, 1st floor.

DEPARTURES OF FOREIGN STEAMERS

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE FROM, CARGO. Lists various steamers and their destinations.

* Calling at intermediate ports.

The government coffee crop this year in Java is estimated at 935,100 piculs.—Straits Times.

COFFEE:

From Plantation to Cup. BY F. B. THURBER.

A new supply of this standard work on the history and production of coffee just received. The book is elegantly bound and illustrated...

PRICE: 7\$000. Copies may be procured of C. McCulloch Beecher & Co.

and at the office of The Rio News.

LINEN ENVELOPES

A choice assortment of Linen Envelopes, plain or printed, at No. 79, rua Sete de Setembro, 1st floor.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

Table with columns: EMISSION, CIRCULATION, DENOMINATION, INTEREST, NOMINAL VALUE, QUOTATION. Lists various government bonds.

BANKS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES

Large table with columns: CAPITAL, SHARES, LIABILITIES, ASSETS, RESERVE FUND, LAST DIVIDEND. Lists various banks and public companies.

DECEMBER 1.

London F.O.—Gr by Albert; 176 tons; Atlantic coffee. Mobil—Dr ship Julia; 103 tons; Anderson; ballast.

PARANAGUA—Dr ship Sofia; 182 tons; sundries.

Table with columns: Steamers, Sailing Vessels. Lists ship names and destinations.

FOREIGN SAILING VESSELS IN THE PORT OF RIO DE JANEIRO, DEC. 1st, 1882.

Table with columns: NAME, TONS, REFRESHED, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Lists foreign sailing vessels.

ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN STEAMERS

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE TO, CONSIGNED TO. Lists arrivals of foreign steamers.

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<i>O'Brien</i>	20th
<i>Bia</i>	24th

To Europe:

<i>Levinia</i>	Nov. 8th
<i>Hercules</i>	13th
<i>Hipparchus</i>	20th
<i>Gaillard</i>	25th

To the Southern Ports:

<i>Cavour</i>	Nov. 4th
<i>Cervantes</i>	11th
<i>Catoya</i>	18th
<i>Guilherme</i>	25th

To the River Plate:

<i>Bretel</i>	Nov. 4th
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