

(No Model.)

R. STEVENSON.

FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 292,767.

Patented Jan. 29, 1884.

fig 1

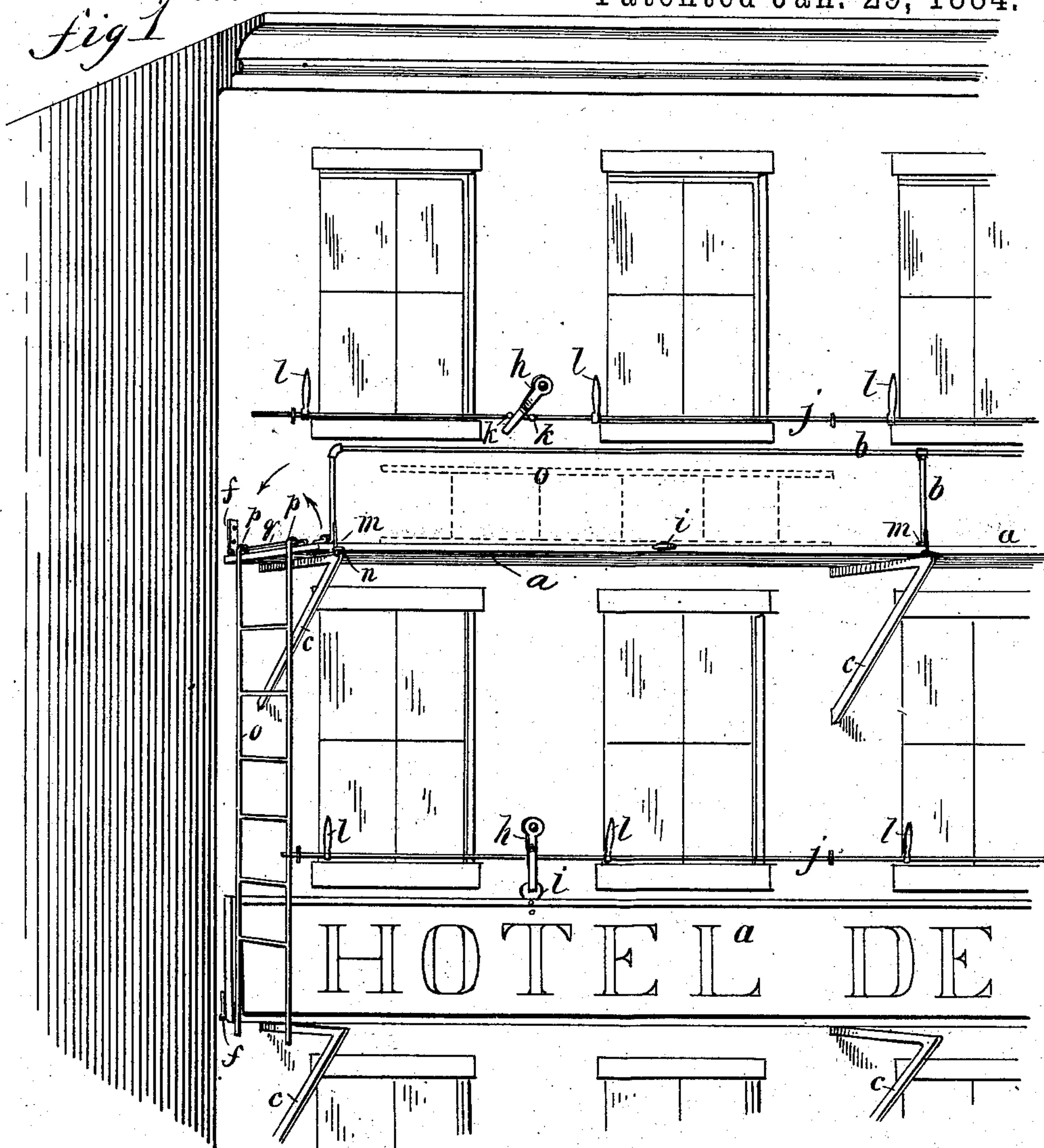
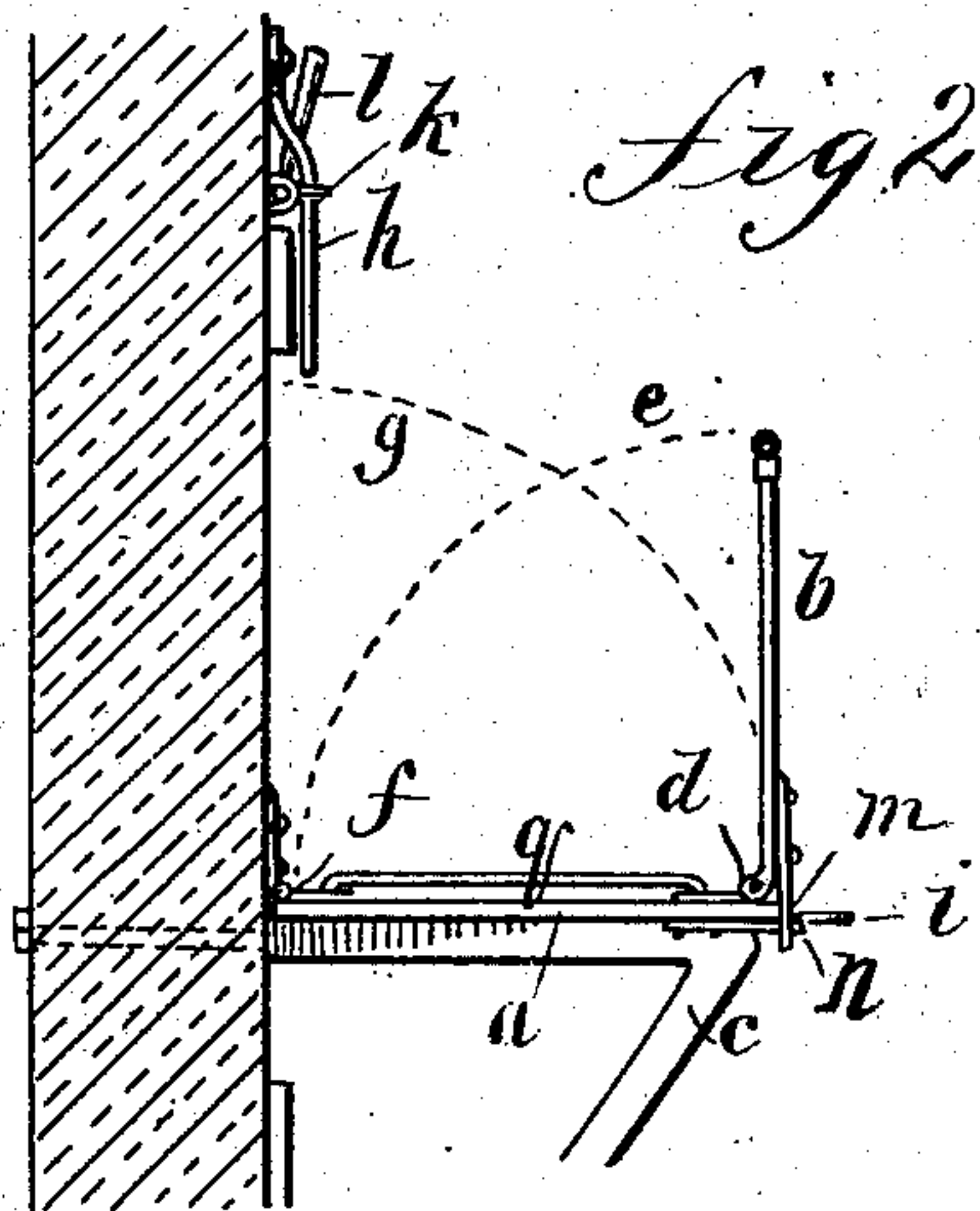


fig 2



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT STEVENSON, OF FERRYSBURG, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF PART TO
CHARLES STROEBE, OF SAME PLACE, AND ABEL PECK, OF NEWBURG,
NEW YORK.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 292,767, dated January 29, 1884.

Application filed March 16, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT STEVENSON, of Ferrysburg, in the county of Ottawa and State of Michigan, have invented a new and Improved Fire-Escape, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists of a balcony for each story of the building, the balustrade and floor of which fold up against the side wall under the windows, and are secured by catches, with which a rod is connected; that extends along past each window, for releasing the balcony from any window, the balcony being contrived for the floor to swing down on the supporting-brackets, and the balustrade to swing upright by springs or other means for being ready instantly for the escape of the people from the house to the balcony, and thence to the ground by ladders, which are capable of being stored behind the balconies, to be let down and hooked on as wanted. These folding balconies are to be employed where permanent ones are not desired, and to be arranged for utilizing the floors for sign-boards.

When the ladders are permanently fixed at the ends of the balconies, they are to be inclosed in a case for concealing them, with a device at each balcony for opening the door for access to the ladder, all as hereinafter fully described.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a front view of a building with my improved fire-escape applied and shown in the open position for use and also folded up, the ladder being of the portable kind that is stored up behind the folded balcony. Fig. 2 is a detail of the device in section.

I make a balcony consisting of floor *a* and balustrade *b*, resting on brackets *c*, permanently attached to the side of the house, the balustrade being hinged to the floor at *d*, to fold down on it, as indicated by the dotted line *e*, and the floor being hinged to the wall

at *f*, to swing up against the side of the building, as indicated by the dotted line *g*, to enable the balcony to be swung up and folded against the front wall of the house, as represented in the lower part of Fig. 1, where it may remain until wanted for use, and may serve as a sign-board, if desired.

To secure the balcony in the folded position, one or more latches, *h*, are to be pivoted to the wall of the building, to swing down over the edge of the balcony-floor, or a projecting lip, *i*, thereof, and to unlatch the balcony from any window along the side of the house a rod, *j*, for working the latch by stud-pins *k*, or equivalent means, is extended along the windows, as shown, and provided with a handle, *l*, for each window, whereby the latches may be disconnected from any one of the windows to let the balcony fall upon the brackets *c* when required for use; and in order that the balustrade may also rise to its place automatically, I propose to connect it to the floor by springs *m* and eye-clips *n*, or any equivalent or suitable contrivance of the springs for the purpose.

It is intended to have the hinge-joints of the balustrade contrived to prevent it from swinging open beyond the vertical line; or stops of any kind may be attached for the purpose.

A short ladder, *o*, may be stored on each balcony, to be connected by hooks *p* with a rod, *q*, on the end of the balcony, for means of descent from one balcony to another.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination of a folding balcony, consisting of floor *a*, hinged to the wall of the building, and balustrade *b*, hinged to the floor, with supporting-brackets *c*, permanently attached to the building, substantially as described.

2. A folding balcony, *a b*, one or more latches, *h*, and a rod, *j*, extending along the windows for working the latches, in combination with the side wall of a building, substantially as described.

3. The folding balcony *a b*, having rod *q*, and the portable ladder *o*, having hooks *p*, in combination with the side wall of a building, substantially as described. ROBERT STEVENSON.

5 4. A folding balcony-floor, *a*, and balustrade *b*, hinged to the side of a building, and having springs *m*, and eye-clips *n*, or equivalent means, for automatically raising the balustrade, substantially as described.

Witnesses:
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