THE FIRE.

The daily papers have already carried to Wellesley, alumnae of Wellesley College Hull were struck, in the early morning of March seventeenth, by a fire that burned with incredible rapidity, sweeping from the upper floors of the west end of the building to the east and consuming the whole interior, with flames of spectacular ferocity. There was no panic, no confusion, no delay. In a household of two hundred and sixteen not one life was lost, nor was any person injured. These college women were calm, intrepid, and magnificently thoughtless of self. During the entire ordeal there was but one spirit manifested—an invincible loyalty to their training. We all have reason to be proud that Wellesley's officers and students triumphed in this time of severest trial. Those who were not in the midst of the danger can scarcely appreciate the strength and courage of those who have given us a priceless tradition of heroic self-control.

It is impossible to tell the details of a catastrophe that came with such overwhelming rapidity, for each survivor saw different aspects and different experiences from others. It is equally impossible to give the names of all those who in one way or another displayed courage and presence of mind. Who first discovered the fire will be unknown, for several people were awakened almost simultaneously. The first warning was given a little after half past four. Two students on the fourth floor, room 440 (formerly 144) were awakened by smoke and saw reflected in their transom the glow of fire in the zoological laboratory across the corridor. One went to find the watchman, the other to arouse Miss Tufts and Miss Davis. While they were doing this, another girl had begun to ring the Japanese bell. Miss Tufts hurried to the switchboard on the first floor to arouse President Pendleton. Miss Davis went to the first floor and stationed a girl under the master clock to ring the fire-alarm, which means a continuous clanging of the gongs that have marked recitation periods. The strident sound aroused nearly every one in the house and, instantly obedient to their training in fire-drills, the students threw on kimonos and went down to the first floor Center. Some thought it was an ordinary fire-drill, but many must have realized the truth, for they were barefooted. On the staircase stood Miss Davis, waiting to superintend the roll-call. Grouped around the Center, where the morning before they had thronged to cheer the winners and the losers in the debate with Mount Holyoke, and, at the end, to cheer with heartfelt enthusiasm Miss Pendleton and the Wellesley spirit, those girls, with splendid composure, responded to the accustomed discipline of fire-drill. They were ordered to take the places they always occupied in the drill, and each lieutenant rapidly called the roll of the squad of about twenty girls for whom she was responsible, and then reported to Miss Davis whether or not all were present.

After the first report was given and Miss Davis had been notified regarding missing persons (whom she sought, later, in their rooms), she gave the order to go, but fearing that there might be some omission she called upon the girls to halt and be sure that they had forgotten no one. The group obeyed implicitly Miss Davis' command to wait. While the girls waited for the roll there was no sign of emotional excitement among them. According to the rules, the word "fire" was not spoken. There was some murmur of conversation, but this was immediately hushed, and there were a few seconds—apparently when the only sound was the ominous one of falling heavy brands. The red glow became more and more menacing, casting a lurid glare over the interior, and sparks and burning embers began to sprinkle in the center, some of them falling on the hair and on the shoulders of the girls. When the second report had been given, the order came for them to march to safety. Across the Center they moved in good order and passed out through the two windows at the side of the front (north) door, which was found closed. A few students went out the south door. No one can tell precisely how long an interval passed, but the evidence seems to indicate that in less than ten minutes after the fire was discovered, all the students were out of the building.

Once outside, they saw the flames on the fourth floor, west, increasing in brightness and leaping up into the air, with very little smoke. It was natural that students should hope that they might be allowed to go back to rescue certain possessions, family pictures and other irreplaceable things, but there was no protest or murmuring when they were forbidden to re-enter the building. The wisdom of this order was proved when it was discovered how rapidly the fire was spreading.

While Miss Davis was marshalling the students, various members of the staff were busy in the effort to warn and help others. Miss Calkins, who had spent the night in her office on the fifth floor, was awakened by smoke and she hastened down the west staircase to call Miss Case, but found that Miss Case was already up and had herself awakened Miss Smith. After helping Miss Case to the first floor, carrying her chair for her, Miss Calkins knocked at doors and helped arouse students on her way to Mrs. Irvine's room in the second floor Center. Getting no response to her knocking and finding the door locked, Miss Calkins determined to find a man with an ax and soon had the door broken in. It was found that the room had not been occupied the night before. Miss Tufts, after coming from the telephone office, went at once to rooms of members of the Faculty on the third floor, west, not knowing that Miss Calkins had already been there, and then made a circuit of rooms on the second floor where lived members of the domestic department. At the end and elsewhere, one member of the Faculty had been helping another, the students having already informed some of them that it was a real fire. A sense of responsibility for the safety of others was shown repeatedly. One member of the staff, who had been ill, was called twice by the same student.

Hurried investigation had shown that every resident of College Hall was accounted for, attention was turned to the work of saving property.

(Continued on page 3.)
A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PENDLETON.

March 28, 1914.

Dear Wellesley Friends:

The unbelievable is true. College Hall is a ruin. But it is stately and majestic in its ruins, as it inspires us to face the future with courage. While we rejoice that no life was lost, we must grieve that College Hall, which was the visible habitation of precious memories and dear association, is gone; but we know that no fire can take us from Wellesley women our heritage, invisible but steadfast.

Besides residence for two hundred and sixteen people, College Hall contained twenty-eight recitation rooms, the lecture hall (the old hall), a gymnasium, the study hall (the old library), the laboratories of the departments of geology, psychology, physics, and zoology, administrative offices, offices of twenty departments (that is, all except those of art, astronomy, chemistry, botany, and geology), the Warden’s and Dean’s apartments, and two or more rooms for non-resident Faculty and students.

You will be glad to know that College Hall with its equipment was appraised by experts about a year ago; this means that the College has recovered the largest possible sum through insurance, but it is吉林fully inadequate. It is estimated that we shall need more than two million dollars to replace with separate buildings the accommodations furnished by College Hall. The insurance will yield about six hundred thousand dollars. When we had College Hall we needed more dormitory accommodation; we need it now more than ever. Our campaign for the Million Dollar Endowment Fund must not be dropped. We must obtain the whole sum to secure the sum of two hundred thousand dollars promised by the General Education Board. We have between five and six hundred thousand dollars still to raise. All the new buildings must be equipped and maintained. The sum that our Alma Mater requires for immediate needs is two million dollars. But this is not all. Another million will soon be needed, properly to house our departments of botany and chemistry, to provide a student-hall building, and sufficient dormitories to house the campus the more than five hundred students now living in the village. We are facing a great crisis in the history of the College. The future of our Alma Mater is in our hands. Crippled by this loss, Wellesley cannot continue to hold in the future its place in the front rank of colleges, unless the response is generous and immediate.

To sum up, Alma Mater needs three million dollars, and our friends must be raised immediately. Shall we be daunted by this sum? We are justly proud of the courage and self-control of those dwellers in College Hall, both Faculty and students. Shall we be consoled by them in facing a crisis? Shall we be less courageous by reason of the fact that the public press has described the fire as a triumph, not a disaster. Shall we continue the triumph, and make our College in equipment what it has proved itself to be—The College Beautiful? We can and we must.

Faithfully yours,

ELLEN F. PENDLETON.
Miss Mary Frazer Smith, Secretary to the Dean, went to the key-board, then standing in the front yard, seized the key to the Dean's office and, with the aid of Mr. Monaghan, rescued all the records of students' marks from 1875 to the present day. Placing these most valuable academic documents in an automobile, she carried them to the President's house, where several members of the Faculty came to seek refuge. Miss Pendleton, at the first call, hurried to the building, and assured that all lives were saved, devoted herself to the welfare of students, anxious to save them from unnecessary exposure.

The Wellesley Fire Department had responded gallantly to the call, but they found the water pressure insufficient to force the streams to the heart of the flames. Help from Natick and from Newton arrived quickly and these engines pumped water from the lake, but it was soon apparent that nothing could prevail against the terrible onset of the flames. The building was doomed. The firemen, the men employed by the College, and several generous men from Wellesley Village worked with frantic haste to save whatever could be rescued.

Some of the students had gone to nearby houses to get clothing and had returned again, but many refused to go away, so determined were they to help in any way possible. A long fire-line was formed by the undergraduates, rapidly arriving, and this line, which extended from the front of College Hall down to the Library, passed along to safety many books, papers, and various other objects taken from the Center and from departmental offices at the east end of the building. Almost nothing was saved above the first floor.

As Miss Pendleton patrolled the fire-line her energetic questioning was met by every student, even by those who were still barefooted, with the immediate response: "I'm perfectly comfortable, Miss Pendleton." "I'm perfectly all right, Miss Pendleton." It is impossible to praise too much the way in which the students and the older women triumphed over discomfort, anxiety, and personal losses. Instead of mourning, they devoted themselves to the welfare of others, and by their indefatigable efforts helped to rescue many precious things that would otherwise have perished.

In the Center, desperate energy was shown. Decks were carried out from the President's office, and from the registrar's. Some pictures were snatched from the walls, much was saved from the Drawing room, but it was soon highly unsafe for the firemen to stay. The crash of falling brick and timber, the terrible intensity of heat and of red fire, forced the fire chief to drive his men down to the east end of the building, and Wellesley women saw the Center vanish. Tongues of flame that had been creeping around ceilings and walls, curling in and out of the balustrades of the staircases, leaped into tempestuous waves. The palms shriveled and cracked, sending out strange colors as they disappeared. Harriet Martineau, who had sat spectral and silent in this tumult, was crushed and broken by falling bricks and sank through the floor of fire.

At about 5 o'clock a person coming from the hill saw College Hall burning between the dining-room and Center, apparently from the third floor up to the roof, in high, clear flames with very little smoke. Suddenly the whole top seemed to catch fire at once and the blare rushed downward and upward, leaping into the dull gray atmosphere of a foggy morning. With a terrific crash the roof fell in, and soon every window in the front of College Hall was filled with roaring flames, surging towards the east, framed in the dark red brick wall which served to accentuate the lurid glow that had seized and held a building almost one-eighth of a mile long. The roar of devastating fury, the crackle of brands, the smell of burning wood and melting iron, filled the air, but almost no sound came from the human beings who saw the irresistible blaze consume everything but the brick walls.

The old library and the chapel were soon filled with great billows of flame, which, finding more space for action, made a spectacle of majestic but awful splendor. Eddies of fire crept along the black-walnut bookcases, and all that dark framework of our beloved old library. By great strides the blaze advanced, until innumerable curling, writhing flames were roaring all through a spot always hushed "in the quiet and still air of delightful studies." The fire raged across the walls, in and around the sides and the beautiful curving tops of the windows that for so many springs and summers had framed spaces of green grass, on which flush shadows had fallen, to bedreamed over by generations of students. In the chapel, tremendous waves swelled and glowed, reaching almost from floor to ceiling, as they chiseled the texts from the walls, demolished the stained-glass windows, defaced, but did not completely destroy the College motto graven over them, and, in convulsive gusts swept from end to end of the chapel, pouring in and out of the windows in brilliant light and color. Seen from the campus below, the burning east end of the building loomed up magnificent even in the havoc and desolation it was suffering.

The Faculty parlor was one of the last places to be consumed. The gliding and fresco work yielded slowly to the blaze and created appallingly beautiful color effects. In the midst of the seething mass of flame, the white marble statue of Elaine was seen, turning upon her pivot in almost human distress, before the floor opened and dashed her down. The fact that the night had been misty probably saved the Oaks from destruction, and undoubtably the absence of strong wind was the salvation of other buildings on the campus; perhaps the safety of Wellesley Village depended upon the quick dampeues of the atmosphere, for in yards and on roofs a mile away, charred embers were found that morning.

When members of the Faculty in the village, awoke too late to be of help, reached the campus, at about 7:30, they found it almost deserted, except for a few strangers, and for the stray pieces of furniture standing about. Here was a piano, there a desk. Baskets of Homer and of others perched out from the lowest branches of the hemlocks, and men with carts were rapidly removing to the barn whatever remained out of doors. The students had dispersed for breakfast, and a heavy silence hung over Wellesley College.

At 8:30, the usual hour, service was held in the chapel, which was so thronged that many had to stand. The service was, perhaps, the most impressive ever held at Wellesley. President Pendleton, in her academic robes, appeared upon the platform, her strength and resolute courage made clear by her perfect composure. The atmosphere was tense, but there were no tears, no nervous whisperings, nothing to show what a terrible ordeal some of the worshippers had survived. A serene gravity and quiet marked the attitude of all present. The choir, many of whom had, only three hours earlier, escaped from the burning building, marched up the aisle, singing.

"O God, our help in ages past."

After the responsive reading of Psalm xcv, beginning, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," Miss Pendleton read a brief passage from the end of Romans viii, concluding in a voice of unforgettable exaltation,
The burning of College Hall.

I was awakened by the rapid flight of feet down the corridor; they were either bare feet or covered with bedroom slippers, for it was the swiftness of the fouled nets to light quickening, that roused me to consciousness. I sprang up, ran out into the corridor, just in time to hear a voice saying to Miss Davis: "The house is on fire," and Miss Davis's answer, "I ran back to my room and in the same instant I was in the floor of the house. As I entered my door, I saw through the unshuttered window the whole heavens alight, and the flame rising over the very extreme other end of the building,—the west wing. The fire started in the basement," they answered. That man...}

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The burning of College Hall.
FROM A STUDENT.

My room was situated at the extreme west end of the third floor of College Hall. I was wakened by the first stroke of the big gong and lay in bed while I counted five strokes. I noticed that the strokes seemed weak and hurried. These strokes were followed by five strong, even ones. I put on my kimonos and bedroom slippers, closed our windows and turned on our lights, still supposing it to be a regular fire drill. As we went out of our rooms, we met S. T. coming for us and we three went downstairs. The girls were crowded in Center, looking out the north door at the glare. I did not realize that College Hall was on fire until I saw that glare. We were ordered to our regular places for roll-call and everyone obeyed instantly. The lieutenant on our corridor called the roll and then the fire chief of College Hall called the roll of the lieutenants. Then someone told us to go our doors and we left the building, some by the south door, but the majority by the north one.

During all this time, no one said "fire" or talked above an ordinary tone of voice, so that the voices of the lieutenants and of the fire chief could be distinctly heard, as well as the sound of the fire above us. No one whom I saw was hysterical, but obeyed orders quietly, even though sparks were falling on us and even pieces of blazing wood. We stepped on the sparks and put the first one out but when pieces of wood began to fall, we had to get out of the way and at this time were ordered to leave the building. We went to other dormitories and borrowed clothes.

NOTES.

The cause of the fire is unknown. There are no well-substantiated theories in regard to its origin. It did not catch in the chemistry laboratory, for the chemistry building, as all who know the present Wellesley are aware, is at the foot of Norumbega Hill. No fires were allowed in College Hall, and the strictest precautions were taken to avoid the danger of fire.

To Miss Davis' rigorous insistence upon fire-drills, in co-operation with the officers of the Student Government Association, the students owe their safety.

The members of the staff living in College Hall are: Miss Myrtilla Avery, '91, Miss Ellen L. Burrell, '96, Miss Lilian E. Bulbeck, Miss Magdalene O. Carret, Miss Mary S. Case, Mrs. Cornelia R. Creque, Miss Olive Davis, '86, Miss Elizabeth F. Fisk, Miss Sophie C. Hart, Mrs. Julia J. Irvine, Miss Helen M. Johnston, '95, Miss Amy H. Nye, Miss Alice Robertson, Miss Mary F. Smith, '96, Miss Edith S. Tufts, '84, and Mrs. Charlotte Whiton.

In the speech which she made to the girls on Monday morning, during the celebration of Wellesley's victory in debate, Miss Pendleton said, "It is a fine thing to be enthusiastic over victory. It is a better to learn enthusiasm from defeat."

The key-stone, upon the front door, with I. H. S. cut in it unjured, and will be removed for use in another building.

The three silver keys that are entrusted to the President at the time of her inauguration, were safe.

A professor of philosophy who lost everything in the fire, said: "I have spent all my life teaching people that the things that are seen are temporal, and now we have the chance of our lives to prove that the things that are unseen are eternal."

A policeman remarked, "There wasn't a girl there who thought about herself, or her own things, or tried to get back. They just stood there in line, some of them barefooted, and handed things along."

A workman is reported as saying: "Those girls even had the hose on, and if there had been any pressure they wouldn't have needed help from outside. There wasn't one there who was not as cool as I was."

A professor of astronomy promptly purchased Mrs. Davis' entire supply of handkerchiefs and distributed them to the sufferers.

To many citizens of the town the College owes much for the help given at the fire. Without their assistance many valuable books and papers would have been burned.

Special gratitude is due to the Wellesley National Bank; which by its prompt offer of assistance, enabled the students to take their departure. Checks to the amount of $25,000 were cashed for students that day.

The Boston and Albany Railroad gave very substantial aid, arranging for transportation and stopping seven express trains at Wellesley.

Copies of this issue, until exhausted, may be obtained by sending eleven cents (covering postage) to Fire Issue, College News, Wellesley, Mass.

Any surplus after paying expenses will be given to the College.

Later issues of College News will contain some further details of the fire. Subscriptions for three months (fifty cents) may be sent to College News, Wellesley.

Mr. Nichols, of Wellesley, who has kindly allowed us to reproduce his photographs, has other photographs of the ruins, and also pictures of College Hall as it was: 8 x 10, 75 cents; 11 x 14, $1; 16 x 20, $2.50.

A widow lady, not a Wellesley Alumna, mother of three little girls, and possessor of a very limited income, sent one dollar, saying that while the money was nothing, she wished to express in some way her gratitude for what certain daughters of Wellesley had meant to her, and adding that if every friend of Wellesley would send a dollar, the College needs would soon be met. No more beautiful or more significant gift than this can come.

Contributions for relieving the needs of the victims of the fire have been received from many sources.

Work has already been begun upon the temporary Administration building, which will occupy the space east of the chapel and north of Music Hall. This building will be a one-story wooden structure, which is promised for occupation by May 1.

A young instructor, who comes from another college, finding some of the fugitives from College Hall in the village, trying to telephone to their families, helped them carry out their purpose and afterward took them to breakfast. She felt that her knowledge of Wellesley and its influence was greatly furthered by the fact that fire victims, who had lost so many of their own possessions had nothing to say of this, the one subject of conversation being, "How to raise money for the College."

Slips are being taken from the ivy on College Hall and those are being carefully tagged with the numbers of the different classes who have planted them.

Plans are being made for the publication of a souvenir booklet which will contain pictures of College Hall and a history of the building. This book will be on sale at Commencement, it is hoped. Further details will be given later.

There has been much exaggeration of numbers in connection with accounts of the fire. According to Miss Tufts' official record, there were one hundred and ninety-eight students and eighteen members of the Faculty living in College Hall. Of these students seven-eight were Seniors.
AN APPEAL IN BEHALF OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

On March 17, 1914, College Hall, the center of College activities, was destroyed by fire. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 30, it was considered the whole situation, it was finally voted to appeal to the friends of Wellesley College and to the friends of education throughout the country, for a fund of $1,800,000 to replace facilities afforded by College Hall, and to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund.

NEEDS OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

I. Before the Fire.

Before College Hall was destroyed, the Trustees had recognized the following vital needs of the College:

1. Increased endowment.
2. Better housing for the departments of science.
3. Additional halls of residence.
4. A Student-Alumnus building.

A site for a new residence quadrangle was approved in November, 1911, and the Trustees had authorized the building of one hall of residence on this site. A plan for a group of science buildings was also under consideration. The Alumni and former students of the College had secured upward of $40,000 toward a Student-Alumnus building which was to furnish an auditorium and suitable offices for Alumni and student organizations. All these plans, however, were under serious threat of increasing the size of the College. The halls of residence were needed to house students already in attendance who were living in the town of Wellesley, many of them in private houses, others in houses and apartments owned by the College. The new science buildings were needed to house the departments already overcrowded in rooms originally designed for residence and ill adapted for scientific laboratories. There was no auditorium which could seat the whole College, aside from the Memorial Chapel, given for religious purposes. Important as this need for buildings was, it was decided in March, 1913, to postpone temporarily any appeal for buildings in order to raise funds for endowment.

This endowment is necessary primarily to increase salaries. All the members of the teaching staff of professional rank are serving the College on salaries distinctly below those paid to their peers in every other woman's college in New England save one. The General Education Board promises $200,000 toward this endowment fund, provided the balance of $600,000 is secured on or before June 30, 1914. Psychology and Zoology, to be raised before that date or the College loses the sum promised by the General Education Board. This campaign for endowment must, therefore, go steadily forward.

On the authority of an expert on endowment and equipment of colleges, it may be conservatively stated that Wellesley College needed before the burning of College Hall, two million dollars, one million for endowment and a second million for buildings.

II. Since the Fire.

College Hall, the building which was burned on March 17, 1914, is being restored. Two lecture rooms and two classes in a total seating capacity of 1,200, Assembly Hall with seating capacity of 650. Study Hall with seating capacity of 75. Laboratories, museums, and other equipment in Geology, Zoology, and Zoology for a College of 1,500. Department libraries in Geology, Physics, and Zoology were included. Residence for 210 people, including dining-rooms, parlors, etc. Lunchen and cloak rooms for non-resident members of the Faculty and students.

The fact that so much was included in one building is a witness to the splendid use of every inch of space. The College requires to replace the accommodations furnished by College Hall for:

1. Residence purposes. Estimated Cost, $450,000.00
2. Academic and administrative purposes, $900,000.00

Scientific laboratories for Geology, Physics, Psychology and Zoology offices and Assembly Hall, Recreation Hall, addition to central heating plant made necessary by these buildings, including conduits, grading, etc.

3. For equipment of the buildings and laboratories, $225,000.00
4. Additional endowment necessary for the maintenance of these separate buildings, $250,000.00

Total necessary for replacement, $1,825,000.00
Recovered from insurance on building, $470,000.00
Recovered from insurance on equipment, $125,000.00

Balance necessary for replacement of facilities destroyed by fire, $1,240,000.00

It is required in addition to the insurance already paid as above because the cost of separate buildings with modern construction is so great. To this sum must, therefore, be added the $500,000 still necessary to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund, making a total of $1,790,000.00.

To put the College where it was before the burning of College Hall, to secure the Million Dollar Endowment Fund, and to meet the other vital needs existing before the fire, Wellesley College needs three million dollars.

The Trustees recognize that this is a large sum to raise, but there are certain demands growing out of our recent loss which must be met at once if Wellesley College is to keep its place in the front rank. They have, therefore, decided to make at this time an appeal for $1,500,000, the sum required to replace the accommodations furnished by College Hall, and to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund. This leaves to be secured through later gifts a balance of $2,400,000, the amount necessary to satisfy the other needs. Of the $1,800,000 for which this appeal is made, $500,000 (amount necessary to complete the Million Dollar Endowment) must be secured before June 30, 1914. The Trustees propose to secure the balance, $1,240,000 on or before January 1, 1915.

Wellesley College was dedicated to the service of God and was founded with the announced purpose of "offering to young women opportunities for education equivalent to those provided in colleges for young men." It has freely opened its doors to all races and creeds. Its service has been national and local. The faculty of this year is 148. More than sixty-two per cent of these students claim residence outside of New England. The College undertakes to prepare its students for effective Christian citizenship, and stands for high ideals of scholarship and achievement. The public press has already paid tribute to the Wellesley training as tested in the recent fire. Wellesley College faces a crisis in its history, and its appeal to the friends of education rests on an honorable past.

Signed:

WILLIAM LAWRENCE,
President of the Board of Trustees.

ELLEN F. PENDELETON,
President of Wellesley College.

April 2, 1914.
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THE VERY BEST AND MOST STYLISH GARMENTS IN AMERICA.

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Silk Waists, Mackinaws, Blouses, Rain Coats, Sweaters

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The severe loss Wellesley College recently suffered in the destruction of its beautiful building and the many individual losses of the student body has aroused sympathy on every hand. Jordan Marsh Company shares in this sympathy and also in the equally widespread thankfulness that the calamity was not greater and that to the loss of property there was not added the loss of life.

As a practical evidence of our sentiment we will for the next 30 days allow a 10% discount on wearing apparel to Wellesley students (properly identified) who are obliged to replenish their wardrobes on account of this conflagration.

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