

ART. VII.—*Orthwaite Hall and the families of Simpson, Richmond and Browne. Part II.* By Rev. F. B. SWIFT.

Read at Carlisle, April 12th, 1969.

THE first part of this article giving a short description of Orthwaite Hall and an account of its 17th- and early 18th-century owners, the Simpsons and Richmonds, appeared in CW2 lxix; it now remains to give an account of the Brownes who owned it from about 1723 to 1837 and of a younger branch of the family which acquired Tallantire Hall, Bridekirk.

The Brownes of Orthwaite are said to have come from Woodhall, near Hesket Newmarket in Caldbeck parish where, according to Whellan (295), they had been settled for many generations. Though it has proved difficult to substantiate this claim, the first Browne of Orthwaite certainly came from Woodhall as is shown by his eldest son's baptismal entry in Greystoke registers:

31 August 1721. George son of Wm Browne of Wood Hall in the parish of Caldbeck.

The name Woodhall once denoted more than one dwelling and is best known for its connection with the Bewley family.¹ In 1820, when the then Browne representative mortgaged his properties at Orthwaite and elsewhere, they included a messuage and tenement at Woodhall, no doubt the ancestral holding.

After settling at Orthwaite Hall the elder line remained in possession until 1837 and attained some fame in the person of "Browne the Traveller". The younger line at Tallantire Hall played an active part in local affairs up to the end of last century.

¹ See Sir Edmund T. Bewley, *The Bewleys of Cumberland* (Dublin, W. Magee).

The family was definitely established at Orthwaite Hall, which had been bought from the Richmonds, by 1723 in the person of William Browne already mentioned, for in that year the baptismal entries of his children commence in Uldale registers. We therefore commence with :

I. William Browne, 1700-1771.

He was one of the original contributors to Uldale Grammar School (founded 1727 by Matthew Caldbeck) and remained a trustee until his death (*School Minute Book*).

He died 13 August 1771, aged 71 (m.i.) and was buried at Uldale on 15 August following. His widow, Mary, after living with their daughter Jane Porter at The Close, Bolton, and later at Wigton, was buried at Uldale 23 November 1783, having died on 21 November, aged 83. She and her husband and some of their children are commemorated on the only Browne monument in Uldale churchyard: it stands near the south-east corner of the church and is table-shaped.

In his will, dated 16 July 1771, proved 1782 (Appendix I), William Browne left £50 to his son William "not as his wanting it but as a token of my affection for him". The residue of his estate he bequeathed to his eldest son George "as a token of my affection for him and for the many valuable services he has done my family". It will be noticed that although he died in 1771 the will was not proved until 1782. His son George, the executor, was then living in the diocese of London and letters requisitional were issued from Carlisle Consistory Court to the Bishop of London or his official to enable George Browne to take the oath of administration (which he did on 27 March 1782) as he could not "without great

expense and trouble come to this said Consistory Court to prove the will" — a curious excuse!

Mary, William's widow, made her will 3 January 1778 (Appendix II). They had issue:

1. George of whom next IIa.
2. Jonathan, baptised — June 1729.
3. William, baptised 9 October 1731; buried 13 October 1731 (m.i.).
4. William, baptised 28 November 1732. He bought Tallantire Hall. See further on in this article at IIb.
5. Abraham, baptised 2 July 1735; died in the East Indies 20 September 1763, aged 28 years (m.i.).
6. John, baptised 12 July 1739; died in the East Indies 20 February 1764, aged 24 years (m.i.).
7. Thomas, baptised 3 February 1741.
8. Henry, baptised 21 February 1744; buried 26 April 1758.
9. Sarah, baptised 2 December 1723; married 22 March 1753 Isaac Robson of Sebergham.
10. Jane, baptised 21 December 1726; married Thomas Porter of Close, Bolton (C), 14 September 1769. They had a daughter Mary. Thomas was eldest surviving son of John and Hannah Porter of the Close.²

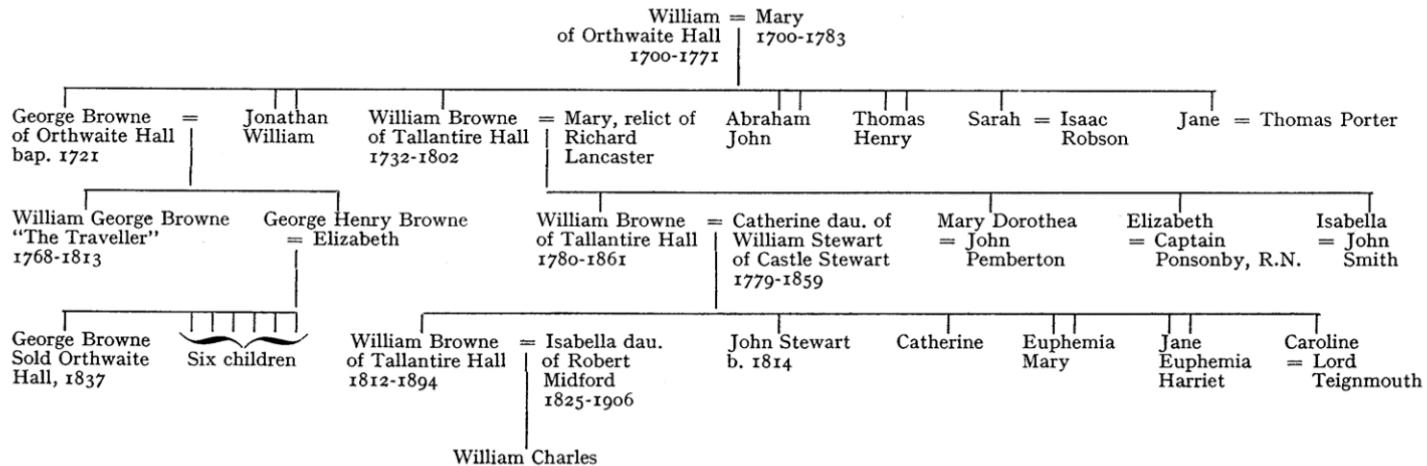
(All the above dates are from Uldale registers).

IIa. George Browne.

As noticed, he was baptised at Greystoke in 1721. He succeeded to the Orthwaite property on the death of his father whose will shows he had a high opinion of him.

² C. A. Porter, *Pedigree of the family of Porter of Bolton* (CW2 xiv 116). He gives Mary's baptism as at Bolton (C) 31 August 1771.

BROWNES OF ORTHWAITE AND TALLANTIRE



George Browne made his home in the London area, but was a trustee of Uldale Grammar School (*School Minute Book*). He and his wife (unnamed) are mentioned in his mother's will of 1778 (Appendix II) and their elder son was:

IIIa. William George Browne, 1768-1813.

He was "Browne the Traveller", but though he inherited the Orthwaite Hall estate he never lived in Cumberland. A short article about him — *William George Browne of Orthwaite or Allerthwaite Hall* — will be found in CWI vi 355-356.³ It was written by his relative, William Browne of Tallantire Hall, and appropriately read at Orthwaite Hall on the occasion of the Society's visit on 6 October 1882, but the best account of "The Traveller" is given in the DNB vii 76 f. The following description of Browne's travels and death is based on both articles.

He was born in London 25 July 1768 and was educated privately and at Oriel College, Oxford. He graduated in 1789 and studied law for a time, but on becoming independent at his father's death he decided to devote himself to exploration in Africa. After arriving at Alexandria in January 1792 he stayed for some time in Cairo studying Arabic and then, disguised as an Oriental, he explored the Roman quarries at Cosseir in the Red Sea. The following year he decided to travel into Abyssinia, but owing to contracting dysentery, and having been robbed of most of his possessions, he got no further than Darfur. He next journeyed through Syria and Asia Minor to Constantinople and arrived in England in 1798. Having published an account of his travels⁴ he spent 1800-1802 in Turkey and the Levant, and then, home again, he passed the next ten years in England "leading the life of a scholar and recluse in the vast metropolis" (DNB). However, he once again felt the urge to travel and explore, and on 12 July 1812 at his house in John Street, Adelphi, Middlesex, being "about to quit this kingdom" and to be "absent for some time" (CWI vi 356), he

³ On page 356 of the article the year 1883 should be 1813.

⁴ W. G. Browne, *Travels in Africa, Egypt and Syria from the year 1792 to 1798*. (Published for T. Cadell, junior, and W. Davies, Strand; and T. N. Longman and G. Rees, Paternoster Row, 1799.)

executed a power of attorney in favour of Mr Spedding of Mirehouse and William Browne of Tallantire Hall and then set off to explore Tartary and Bokhara (Turkestan). After this nothing more was heard of him until the news came that his dead and mangled body had been found wrapped in his Turkish clothes: after some time his bones, or what were represented as such, were brought to Tabriz and honourably interred. After investigation, it was found that when Browne and his servants had crossed the Kissel Oran river they were stopped by ten horsemen who blindfolded them, tied their hands and led them a distance off the road for the night. In the morning the servants were released, but Browne was carried away and subsequently murdered. The reason for the tragedy was never completely established, but enquiries suggested that he might have been murdered by orders of the Persian Government, due to unfounded suspicions that he was on a mission into Tartary injurious to Persian interests. Another view held that the motive of the crime was plunder or fanaticism exasperated by Browne's wearing Turkish dress.

Browne is described as a man who concealed an ardent enthusiasm under an outward reserve and who "possessed in eminent degree two of the traveller's most essential qualifications, exactness and veracity" (DNB).

When William Browne (IVb) read his article about him he exhibited Browne's seal with his name engraved on it in Arabic, the power of attorney and a letter from Sir Joseph Banks proving Browne's death (CW1 vi 355, 511).

William George Browne never married, or, if he did, had no issue, and in his will (Appendix III), dated 10 August 1812, proved 17 June 1814, he left all his real estates in Cumberland "or elsewhere" to his nephew George, eldest son of his brother George Henry Browne. In case of failure of male heirs in a direct line they were to go to his cousin, William Browne of Tallantire Hall. The residuary legatees were the six youngest children (unnamed) of his brother George Henry.

We now come to the last of the family to own Orthwaite Hall:

IVa. George Browne,

nephew and heir of William George Browne and son of George Henry Browne and Elizabeth his wife.

He sold the Orthwaite property in 1837 to Joseph Gillbanks of Whitefield House, Ireby, but this was preceded by a number of transactions (CCM; D/Lec. 330) which can be briefly summarised as follows:

22 and 23 December 1820. George Browne, George Henry Browne and his wife Elizabeth mortgaged the Orthwaite Hall estate and other properties in Cumberland for £5,000; included were the freehold messuage and tenement at Allerthwaite otherwise Orthwaite, another at Horsemoor hills called Cassmire, two at Stockdale, one at Whitefield and another at Woodhall (probably the ancestral home).

By indenture dated 1 and 2 January 1836 George Browne conveyed to Elizabeth Fryer Browne all the said premises.

24 and 25 April 1837. Orthwaite Hall and other properties were sold outright to Joseph Gillbanks of Whitefield House, Ireby, for £10,000 of which £5,334. 8s. 4d. was used to pay off the mortgage. A final indenture reciting all the above transactions was made 27 April 1837 between Samuel Barlow of Great Suffolk Street, Southwark, gent., Elizabeth Fryer Browne of Edmonton, Middx., spinster, George Browne of Denton, co. of Oxford, Esq., Joseph Gillbanks of Whitefield House, Esq., and others.

This sale did not include all the properties which had been mortgaged, for instance, the messuage and tenement at Woodhall does not appear to have been sold, but it does mark the end of the connection of the Brownes with Orthwaite. By this time it had become a farm-house, but its interesting front besides being attractive in itself is a reminder of its connection with the Simpson, Richmond and Browne families.

It has been visited on two occasions by our Society, the first time in 1882 has already been mentioned: the second visit was on 30 June 1899 (CW1 xvi 48 & f.).

Browne of Tallantire Hall.

This younger branch of the family was descended from William (IIb), 4th son of William and Mary Browne of Orthwaite Hall, who was born 19 September 1732 (B). Hutchinson (ii 373) says that he was educated at Uldale School and later paid for flagging the floor "which before was only clay and often wanted repairs". He seems to have had commercial or other interests which proved profitable for he was able to buy a number of properties, among them Tallantire Hall in 1776, where he and his descendants lived, and the manors of Dovenby, Papcastle and Tallantire (Lysons, lxx 36-38). In 1790 he was high sheriff for Cumberland (B). He married Mary, relict of Richard Lancaster, 3 September 1779 (BPR), and both of them are buried in the remains of the old chancel at Bridekirk where a monument records that William died in 1802, aged 70, and Mary in 1818, aged 76.

They had issue:

1. William of whom next IIIb.
2. Mary Dorothea, baptised 26 March 1782,⁵ married John Pemberton of Sherburn Hall, co. Durham.
(See Surtees, *History of Durham*, i 237.)
3. Elizabeth, baptised 28 April 1783, married Captain Ponsonby, R.N. (B).
4. Isabella, baptised 15 October 1786, married John Smith, Esq. (B).

IIIb. William Browne of Tallantire Hall.

Born 3 December 1780 (B) and baptised next day. He served as a magistrate for many years and was sheriff for Cumberland in 1817 (B). He owned manuscript copies of John Denton's History of Cumberland and Todd's City of Carlisle which were used by

⁵ This and the baptisms which follow are from Bridekirk registers (printed).

the Lysons brothers for their *History of Cumberland* (Lysons, 2, 3). He was the William Browne who was heir to Browne "The Traveller" if other male heirs failed. In 1803 he married Catherine daughter of William Stewart of Castle Stewart, Scotland (B). A large monument in Bridekirk churchyard records that they died on 2 March 1861, aged 80, and 29 January 1859, aged, 80 respectively.

The had issue:

1. William, baptised 21 October 1808, buried 21 June 1809 (BPR).
2. William of whom next IVb.
3. John Stewart, born 19 October 1814 (B).
4. Catherine, baptised 14 August 1804. Died unmarried and was buried in St John's churchyard, Keswick, where a memorial cross records her death on 30 May 1880.
5. Euphemia, baptised 6 November 1805; died 27 January 1807 (MB).
6. Mary, baptised 3 March 1807; died 30 May 1833 (MB).
7. Jane Euphemia, baptised 7 March 1811. Mentioned in her father's will, 1859. (Appendix IV).
8. Harriet. Unmarried in 1859 (Father's will).
9. Caroline, married at Bridekirk 8 December 1838 Charles John Shore, 2nd Baron Teignmouth, and died 20 September 1899, aged 83.

IVb. William Browne of Tallantire Hall.

He was born 9 July 1812 (B), baptised 8 September following and died 7 April 1894.

He built a school for Tallantire in 1863⁶ and was very active in local affairs. He was an original member of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and

⁶ Bulmer's *History and Directory of Cumberland* (1901), 778.

Archaeological Society and not only took an interest in its activities but also contributed two papers to *Transactions* (o.s.): *Bridekirk and its Registers* (iv 257), *William George Browne of Orthwaite or Allerthwaite Hall* (vi 355). As already noticed, he read the latter at Orthwaite Hall.

After being educated at Balliol College, Oxford, where he took his M.A. degree in 1840, he became a student at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1843. He then joined the Northern Circuit and practised for some years at Carlisle Quarter Sessions. Until his father's death he lived in Carlisle where he took an interest in some of the religious societies and occasionally spoke at Bible Society meetings. In 1847 he married Isabella, only daughter of Robert Midford of London.

Mr Browne died suddenly at Keswick railway station on 7 April 1894. He had been staying for a few days in the town and had just bought a ticket for the 8.17 a.m. train to Cockermouth.⁷ He was buried in Crosthwaite churchyard 11 April, aged 81; Isabella his widow, being then of "The Hollies", was buried there 3 January 1906, aged 81. A recumbent cross marks the grave, but as it has sunk into the ground to some extent only Mrs Browne's inscription is visible.

Mr Browne's death concludes this account of the younger branch of the Orthwaite family as Tallantire Hall appears to have been sold shortly afterwards. (See Appendix V for his will.)

Mr and Mrs Browne had a family among whom was William Charles Browne, vicar of Netheravon, near Salisbury, and a daughter Nina who married Dr Gore Ring, of Keswick, and in whose memory the altar rails in Crosthwaite Church were erected in 1889, as is

⁷ Details of his career, marriage and death are taken from an obituary notice in the *West Cumberland Times* for 11 April 1894. It describes him as a man of amiable disposition and as being much esteemed by those who knew him well.

recorded on a small tablet nearby. There is a memorial stone to Dr Gore Ring and his wife in the churchyard.

Coat-of-Arms.

The arms of Browne of Tallantire are shown in Lysons (lxx), and Field gives them as: Argent three martlets in pale Sable between two flanches of the second each charged with a lion passant of the first. *Crest.* A griffin head couped Vert between two wings Argent.⁸

APPENDIX I.

Abstract of Will (Carlisle) of William Browne, 1782.

16 July 1771. I William Browne "of Orthwhait" —— I bequeath to my son Jonathan Browne £100 to be paid within 12 months after the decease of his mother Mary Browne. To my son Thomas Browne £100 to be paid at the discretion of his two brothers George & William Browne. To my daughter Jane £100 to be paid within 12 months of my decease. To my two granddaughters Mally & Sally Robson £100 to be paid within 12 months after the decease of their grandmother Mary Browne and to have it share and share alike. To my wife Mary Browne £50 & all household furniture of my now dwelling house at Orthwhait except the grates; the said £50 to be paid within 12 months after my decease.

To my son William Browne £50 "not as his wanting it but as a token of my affection for him"; to be paid within 12 months after the decease of my wife Mary Browne.

The residue of my real & personal estate to my son George Browne with all wood standing or growing upon my said estates, which is not to be cut down but at the discretion of my son George Browne, "as a token of my affection for him & for the many & valuable services he has done my family". My son George Browne to be my sole executor.

(signed) William Browne

Witnesses: Jonathan Harrison, Jonathan Pattinson, John Scott.

Letter Requisitional from Richard Burn vicar-general to the Bishop of Carlisle and official principal of the Carlisle Consistory

⁸ F. J. Field, *An Armorial for Cumberland*, 99.

Court to Robert, Bishop of London, his vicar-general or other official asking for the administering of the oath of administration to George Browne sole executor of his father William Browne late of Orthwaite in the parish of Uldale, co. of Cumberland, gent., because the said George Browne "resides within your jurisdiction & cannot without great expense & trouble come to the said Consistory Court" to prove the will. 3 January 1782.

Certificate from William Macham surrogate, vicar-general to the Bishop of London & official principal of the Consistorial Episcopal Court of London that on 27 March 1782 the said George Browne presented the original will of the said William Browne dated 16 July 1771 and that the oath was administered to him. The goods, chattels & credits of the said deceased did not amount in value to £300.

Thomas Aderley, the younger, notary public bring present at the taking of the said oath testified to the truth thereof 1782.

APPENDIX II.

Abstract of Will (Carlisle) of Mary Browne, 1783.

3 January 1778. I Mary Browne now living in Wigton —— To my son George Browne and his wife; to my son Jonathan Browne & his wife; to my son Thomas Browne & his wife, and to my son William one guinea each for a mourning ring. To all my grandsons living one guinea each for a ring. To my granddaughters Mary & Sally Robson half a dozen silver tea spoons each & two silver table spoons each. To my granddaughter Mary Porter a silver half pint mug & two silver table spoons.

The remainder of my fortune real & personal after payment of debts & funeral expenses to be divided equally between my two daughters Sarah Robson & Jane Porter whom I appoint my joint executrixes and who are to give such part of the household furniture as they may not have occasion for to Jonathan Harrison of Orthwaite & to my servant Margaret Armstrong if living with me at the time of my decease. The long table backseat and such other articles as are customary to be left in farm houses may remain there.

Witnesses: Tho: Thomlinson, Stephen Story.

Codicil 28 December 1781. The dozen tea spoons given before to my granddaughters Mary & Sally Robson to go to my granddaughter Sally Robson, and the six table spoons to go to my granddaughter Mary Porter.

Witness: Wm Browne.

12 December 1783. Administration granted to Sarah wife of Isaac Robson & Jane wife of Thomas Porter joint executrices of the will & testament with a codicil of Mary Browne late of Wigton, but at the Close in the parish of Bolton in the co. of Cumberland, widow deceased.

APPENDIX III.

Abstract of Will (P.C.C., 1814, Bridport 110) of William George Browne, 1814.

10 August 1812. I William George Browne now of John Street, in the Adelphi. —— To my nephew George Browne, eldest son of my brother George Henry Browne all my real estates situated in co. Cumberland or elsewhere and after his demise then to his eldest son for his life and so on. If said George Browne should die without male issue or in case of failure of male heirs in a direct line, then to my cousin William Browne of Tallantire Hall, co. of Cumberland and to his heirs for ever. Residuary legatees: the six youngest children of my said brother George Henry Browne.

The following gentlemen to have the choice of a book from my collection, or of such other article they prefer, to be chosen by themselves in the order here mentioned:

1. Rev. John Brickdale Blakerway, now or late of Shrewsbury.
2. Sir John Kiggs Miller, Bart., of Swalcliff house near Banbury co. Oxon.
3. Smythson Tennant, Esq., now or late of Garden Court in the Temple to whom I also leave my drawings of several objects in the Levant by L. Mayer.
4. Francis Douce, Esq., now or late of Charlotte St., Portland Place.
5. James Poole, Esq., now or late of Carmarthen St., Tottenham Court Road.
6. Francis Baily, Esq., now or late of Verulam Building, Gray's Inn.

To Westminster Hospital 100 guineas.

To Rev. John Brickdale Blakerway all my MSS. that are anyway connected with literature and all those of a purely personal nature, and as I am conscious that none of the former merits publication I request him to destroy them or so to dispose of any part not destroyed as effectively to prevent its being applied to any purpose injurious to my memory.

Exors: Frederick Page, Esq., of Newbury, Berks., Francis Baily, Esq., of Verulam Buildings, Rev. John Brickdale Blakerway of Shrewsbury & Smythson Tennant, Esq., of Garden Court, Temple; and each one who consents to act is requested to accept 30 guineas.

Witnesses: William Chamberlain of the parish of Shipham, Somerset; Wm. Grimsteed, now living in Cheddar, Somerset; Mar Chamberlain, wife of the above Wm. Chamberlain.

Codicil also dated 10 August 1812: to Smythson Tennant, Esq., over & above the bequest in my will, the sum of £2,000.

Proved in London 5 March 1814 by Frederick Page, Esq., Smithson [sic] Tennant, Esq. & Francis Baily, Esq., power reserved to Rev. John Brickdale Blakerway, clerk, who proved the will in London 17 June 1814.

APPENDIX IV.

Abstract of Will (Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House) of William Browne, 1861.

William Browne of Tallantire Hall, co. Cumberland, Esq. ——
To my three unmarried daughters Catherine Browne, Jane Euphemia Browne and Harriet Browne in equal shares all my shares and interest in Lancaster & Carlisle Railway, Reading and Guildford Railway, London and North Western Railway and my capital stock of the National Reversionary Interest Investment Company. All my shares and interest in the Midland Railway to my son William Browne of the city of Carlisle, barrister at law and my said daughter Catherine Browne Upon trust for the children of my son John Stewart Browne in equal shares; the annual income to be applied towards the maintenance and support of my said grandchildren. All my real estate and residue of my personal estate to my said son William Browne, his heirs and administrators. My son William to be executor and my daughter Catherine to be executrix of my will.

9 January 1859. Witnesses: Edward Waugh, solicitor, Cocker-mouth; George James

Proved 16 March 1861 by the executor and executrix. Resworn at the Stamp Office July 1861.

APPENDIX V.

Abstract of Will (Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House).

William Browne of Tallantire Hall in the parish of Bridekirk, Cumberland — All furniture, plate linen, china — and other household effects to my dear wife Isabella for life and after her death to my son William Charles Browne. All my real estate and residue of my personal estate to my said wife for life and after her decease to my said son William Charles Browne, 2 March 1885.

Proved 8 May 1894 by Isabella Browne, widow, relict of the deceased, and the Rev. William Charles Browne of Netheravon Vicarage, near Salisbury, Wilts., clerk, son of the said deceased.

Abbreviations.

B	Burke's Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of England, Scotland and Ireland, 1853, vol. I.
BPR	Bridekirk Registers (printed).
C	Cumberland.
CCM; D/Lec.	Muniments at Cockermouth Castle.
DNB	Dictionary of National Biography.
Lysons	D. & S. Lysons: <i>Magna Britannia</i> , vol. IV, Cumberland (1816).
MB	Monument in Bridekirk churchyard commemorating William and Catherine Browne and some of their children.
m.i.	Inscriptions on the Browne monument in Uldale churchyard.
UPR	Uldale Registers.

Acknowledgements.

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