

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF KINFAUNS.

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE CHAPMAN.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name seems to have been the same in ancient as in modern times, and is probably of Gaelic origin. It is deduced by some from *ceann*, head or end, and *fanus* *, high ground, or the declivity of a mountain. In this sense, it is supposed to refer to the termination, or rather the interruption, on the W. corner of the parish, of those hills which run across the country, towards Stirling, from the Red Head in Angus †.

This

* Hence, probably, the name of Fauns, in Lauderdale, so celebrated for its oats, originated.

† Others resolve Kinfauns into *Ceann* or *Ken*, and *fin*, an obsolete word, signifying hollow. This derivation implies, the *head* of the *flat*

This parish begins about a mile and a half below Perth, and runs for 3 or 4 miles along the northern banks of the Tay, forming an irregular figure of above 5 miles long, and between 2 and 3 broad.

Surface and Soil.—The surface is considerably diversified by level and rising grounds, by wood and water. The lands on the banks of the Tay are flat. On the western boundary, at a small distance from the river, rises a ridge of hills, whose tops are covered with extensive plantations. Of these hills, Kinnoul is the most remarkable. It lies partly in the parish of that name, and partly in the parish of Kinfauns; and presents to the S. a large abrupt front of rock, of a striking appearance, especially from the old post-road, which went close to its base. On this side, the ascent is exceedingly steep, and its height is 632 feet above the level of the Tay. The summit projects in rugged cliffs of a feamy texture, which being gradually loosened by the frost and rain, have sometimes fallen in large masses, with prodigious force, into the plain below. About 27 years ago, a farm house, near the foot of the hill, was almost destroyed by one of these masses of rock, and a woman instantly killed. On account of this accident, the farmstead was removed to a proper distance from such a dangerous situation. The hills afford variety of delightful prospects.

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or plain; and is also applicable to the situation of the country. At the foot of the hills now mentioned, the parish lies in a valley or hollow, which gradually opens, in an easterly direction, into the plain of the Carse of Gowrie. These are the most plausible opinions respecting the origin of the name; and as opinions only, they are given. But, even these suggest, that certainty is not always to be expected, in deductions from a language which, it is allowed, often affords scope for fancy and conjecture.

prospects. From some places is beheld the course of the Tay, for 18 or 20 miles; a noble piece of water, and a scene often enlivened by numbers of vessels under fail, and fishing boats. From the same eminences, the windings of the Earn, through the mouth of that pleasant strath or valley to which it gives name, are also a beautiful object. From another point, opens at once to the view, the whole fertile plain of the Cause of Gowrie, bounded by a sweep of hills, which fall back on the N., and by the Frith of Tay on the S.; the prospect terminating to the E. with the steeple of Dundee, Broughty Castle, and the mouth of the Tay, where it enters the German Ocean.

The soil is various. The banks of the river are covered with a strong clay, capable, with proper culture, of carrying the heaviest crops. The grounds rising towards the hills consist of an easy black mould, in many places deep and rich, even at a considerable height. In the level part of the parish, on the E. side, the same kind of soil is, in some places, mixed with clay; in others, with sand. The lands under cultivation are, in general, good and fertile: the uncultivated parts are mostly covered with plantations; so that there is not much waste ground within the parish.

Air.—The air is exceedingly pure and healthful. The dryness of the grounds, and the strong currents of westerly wind which often blow, as through a funnel, between the hills of Kinnoul and Moredun, probably contribute to purify the air, and to render it salubrious. No local distempers are known to prevail here; nor are epidemical infections either common, or remarkably fatal.

Tay

Tay and Salmon Fishings.—Besides a few rivulets within the parish, the Tay washes its southern boundary for 3 or 4 miles; and is here navigable for ships, cutter built, of 100 tons: Dutch or flat-bottomed vessels of above 200 tons can go up to Perth. Having received, in its course, the Dochart, Lochy, Lion, Tumble, Gary, Bran, Isla and Almond, all considerable rivers, besides many inferior streams, the Tay carries here a body of fresh water, far superior to any other river in the island*. The neap tides rise 6 feet; the spring ones from 9 to 10½. But could the channel be contracted by an embankment, especially upon the large plain, which is overflowed for about 10 miles, between Inchyra and Invergowrie, the tide would rise much higher, and flow with greater rapidity; whilst large tracks of valuable land would be recovered for the purposes of agriculture. This undertaking, however, is of such magnitude and enormous expense, that it can only be the work of ages.

The Tay abounds with excellent salmon, and fine trout of different kinds, particularly 2 species of sea-trout, the white and red; the latter of which is reckoned the stronger flavoured, the former more delicate. They weigh from 2 to 6 lb. The large bull trout is sometimes found from 16 to 30 lb. and upwards. The salmon fishings in the Tay are an object of considerable importance, and furnish a valuable article of trade to the town of Perth. The rent of the whole river, including the late rises on the fishings, is, upon the most authentic and respectable information, not below 7000l. Sterling. This is a great sum, when it is considered how rapidly it has arisen almost from nothing †.

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* The Earn falls also into the Tay 2 or 3 miles below this parish.

† For many years after the beginning of this century, the fishings were

The fishings upon the Kinfauns estate alone, extending between 2 and 3 miles along the N. side of the river only, and which are almost entirely in this parish, did not, in 1740, bring 100l. yearly of free rent. In 1763 they rose to 1000l.; in 1782 to 1400l.; and they are now (November 1793) let in a new lease for 2560l. Besides these, there are other fishings within the parish, to the amount of 450l., making altogether upwards of 3000l. annually. There are from 70 to 80 men, and about 40 boats, employed on these fishings. The salmon are carried to market fresh, pickled, and salted. Very few, of late years, have been salted; a good many are kitted or pickled; but by far the greatest quantity is run up fresh, in ice, to London, where they are now often eaten almost as fresh as on the banks of the Tay. The plan of preserving the fish in ice was first suggested by George Dempster, Esq. of Dunnichen, the late public-spirited member for the neighbouring district of boroughs, and has been attended with the greatest success*.

Roads.

were let along with the contiguous farms, and were of very little value either to the proprietors or tacksmen. They did not then begin to fish till the seed-time was finished; and, by consequence, the most valuable part of the season was entirely lost; whilst scarcely any other market was known besides home consumption, which did not then bring 1d. the pound. Since that period, the bed of the river has been cleared of all obstructions to the nets, and the fishings have been disjoined from the farms; circumstances which rendered them an interesting concern, and worthy of attention. A demand from the Catholick States, along with the Mediterranean, for salted fish, was one mean of raising their price. This was followed by a brisk trade from the London market, which has greatly increased the value of the fish to the tacksmen, and of the rents to the proprietors.

* The price of salmon, in spring, is sometimes 1s., sometimes 9d. the lb.; in June 6d.; and in July and August 5d. About 25 or 30 years ago, it sold for 1½d., and often for 1d. the lb. The close-season in the Tay is from August 26. to the 12th of December.

Roads.—An excellent turnpike road, opened lately from Perth to Dundee, enters the parish on the W., and runs nearly its whole length. The leading principle in its formation, is to avoid pulls, which has been so effectually accomplished, that it goes almost upon a level between these towns. The distance has also been reduced; so that travellers, while they pass along an easy road, and through a fine country, save nearly as much in horse or chaise hire, as is equal to the expense of the tolls. The proposal of a turnpike road met with universal approbation, so obvious were its advantages. The cross roads in this parish are already tolerable, and will probably be still improving, by having the statute work chiefly applied to their repair and support. The statute labour is here sometimes commuted, sometimes taken in kind.

Farms and Agriculture.—The farms, in general, run from 50 or 60 to 100 acres. A few are larger. Excepting gentlemens enclosures, for their own use, there are scarcely any in the parish; nor indeed do they prevail in this tract of country, lying immediately along the N. side of the Tay, or through the Carse of Gowrie. As these lands are nearly on the level of the sea, and sheltered from the N. by a ridge of neighbouring hills, their climate is naturally warm, and their harvest early. The soil in this parish and district, is more adapted for producing grain of all kinds, than for pasture. Very little of it, therefore, is employed for this purpose. On the lighter grounds, some flax, turnip, and potatoes, are raised for private use; but, upon the whole, this is a corn country.

Our system of agriculture, as in most other parts of Scotland, has been exceedingly improved within these

20 or 30 years past. The distinction of outfield and infield no longer exists; most of the grounds are cleared of stones, broom and furze; the ridges are reduced and straightened, wet lands drained, and a far superior tillage introduced. Artificial grasses have long been sown to great advantage; lime, and other manures, have been applied; and summer fallow is become more frequent; all of which, with a proper rotation of cropping, have produced the best effects. It is, however, still to be regretted, that though these improvements are well understood, yet they are sometimes, particularly in cropping regularly, but partially observed. The rotation reckoned best, is, 1st, Fallow, dressed with lime, or dung, or both; 2dly, Wheat; 3dly, Pease, and green crops, to prepare the ground for, 4thly, Barley, sown down with grass seeds; 5thly, Hay; 6thly, Oats. This succession preserves the land in high order, and makes the returns much larger. Another course, also in practice, is, 1st, Pease; 2dly, Wheat; 3dly, Barley; 4thly, Grass; 5thly, Oats. This answers tolerably well in light lands, but is unsuitable to clay. Farms are generally cast into 5 or 6 divisions, and one of these allotted to each kind of grain, a hay crop and fallow; but, of late years, wheat has greatly exceeded this proportion, and, instead of being a fifth or sixth, is nearer a fourth or third of the whole produce.

Eight bolls of wheat and barley upon the acre, are considered as a tolerable crop; 9 and 10 a good one; but 12 bolls of wheat upon fallow, and the same quantity and more of oats after grass, are frequently obtained. Beans in drill yield 10 or 12 bolls, sometimes a good deal more. They are 3 times hand-hoed; the expense of which is about a guinea an acre. But, it is to be observed, with respect to returns in general, that it is not easy to fix
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any standard, as they must vary greatly according to the nature of the soil and season; and, in a very particular manner, according to the pains, manure, and culture bestowed*.

There is scarcely any land in the parish below 20s. the acre. The greater part gives 25s. and 30s.; a good deal rents from 30s. to 40s., and some of it is as high as 50s. Two remaining years of a lease of a farm, belonging to Lord Gray, were lately bought up at 9l. 10s. and upwards, the acre. The present medium rent of land may be about 11. 8s. or 11. 10s. the acre.

A great deal more grain is raised in the parish than serves itself. Wheat and barley are exported to a considerable amount; and the farmers can now sometimes spare a few oats and pease, with a good deal of hay for the market. These are, indeed, the staple commodities upon which they must depend for their rents, and the support of their families.

The grain in this part of the country, is generally of an excellent quality, and the prices are proportionably high. Wheat, for the 2 last crops, sold from 21s. to 24s.; barley at 18s.; oats at 15s. and 16s.; pease at 12s. and 13s. the boll, Linlithgow measure; oat meal sold from 16s. to 18s. the boll, of 8 stones Dutch weight. The kinds of ploughs used here, are commonly of Small's construction, drawn by 2 horses: their number is about 56 or 58. There are between 60 and 70 carts, exclusive of corn-carts used in harvest.

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* The seed-time begins as soon as the weather admits in March, and closes with May. Wheat is sown from the middle of September till the end of October, and even later on light land, if the season be dry. The harvest generally commences with the first week of September, sometimes in the end of August.

The general contents of the parish, are about 3780 Scotch acres; of which 2520 are arable, excepting a very small proportion. The remaining 1260 acres, are under plantations. These run along the tops and front of the hills, and consist mostly of Scotch fir, with larches, beech, oak, and other forest trees intermixed.

Horses and Black Cattle.—As no black cattle are employed here in operations of husbandry, not many, excepting cows, are reared. Some young stots, or winterings, as they are commonly called, are bought in for eating up the fodder in winter, and are sold, or sent off to graze in summer. Horses are, for the most part, bought; few are reared. Besides what gentlemen keep for their own private use, the number of sheep is but small. Cows and cattle, at present, amount to 400: there are 186 horses, and about 90 sheep.

Population.—There is good reason to believe, that this parish is not now so populous as formerly. The rapid success of the manufactures, which has drawn the people from the country to the towns, is one great cause of depopulation. Uniting small possessions, or crofts, into farms, is another; and the disuse of cottagers, as farming servants, has also contributed to the same effect. It has become much the practice, of late years, to employ unmarried men as farming servants; of course cottagers, and their houses, have, in some degree, disappeared*.

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Abstract

* This mode may be attended with some trivial advantages; but how far it is founded in sound policy, may be greatly questioned. Some of its disadvantages are obvious. Scarcity of hands, advance on the price of labour,

Abstract, for Ten Years, of

	Baptisms,	Marriages,	and Burials.
1783,	25	4	6
1784,	7	1	7
1785,	13	1	6
1786,	4	2	1
1787,	10	4	8
1788,	4	3	6
1789,	13	1	4
1790,	5	2	2
1791,	13	1	4
1792,	11	1	5
	105 Aver. 10½.	20 Average 2.	42 Aver. near 5

These are the statements in the parish record. But it is to be observed, in explanation of the above, that wherever there are sectaries in a parish, the entries upon the register of the establishment are not only irregularly made, and the numbers of the different years thus rendered disproportionate, but they are sometimes neglected altogether.

STATISTICAL

labour, and the want of a healthy, robust set of men to recruit our fleets and armies, in any national emergency, are natural consequences of a thin population. In harvest 1792, before the manufactures met with any check, journeymen weavers, who used formerly to reap in harvest, and earn £l. 4s. and £l. 5s. for 3 weeks labour, refused to work under 2s. and 2s. 6d. a-day, which they could make at the loom. A set of healthy cottagers, and their families, would have prevented such hardship, and rendered most essential service to their masters at that critical season.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of souls, by return made to Dr. Webster, 639	Clergyman, - - -	1
—of houses in 1772, 152, containing 710 souls.	Weavers and their apprentices, - - -	27
—of houses in 1793, 133, containing 628 about 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.	Shoemakers, - - -	7
Of these, under 10 years old, are, - - - 130	Wrights, - - -	5
From 18 to 20, 106	Smiths, - - -	4
20 to 50, 205	Tailors, - - -	3
50 to 70, 93	Cooper, - - -	1
Above 70, 9	Seceders, - - -	72
Males, - - - 507	Servants, male 50, female 38,	88
Females, - - - 321	Farms, besides some crops, - - -	30
628	Ale-houses, - - -	3
Heritors, - - - 5	Horses, - - -	156
Farmers families, - - - 27	Cows and black cattle, about	400
Widowers 3, widows 17, 20	Sheep, - - -	90
	Ploughs, - - -	16
	Carts, - - -	60—70
	Number of Scotch acres,	3780
	Valued rent, 255 ^{l.} 13 ^{s.} 4 ^{d.} Scots.	
	Real rent, including 3000 ^{l.} for fishings, about 5800 ^{l.} Sterling.	

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church is an old building, without any date. It was repaired in 1789, and is now a decent and comfortable place of worship. The manse was built in 1739, and repaired in 1769. The stipend consists of 4 bolls wheat, 67 meal, 41 barley, and 27^{l.} 10^{s.} of money, with a glebe of 4 acres. There are 5 heritors in the parish, 3 of whom reside occasionally, and 2 constantly. The Earl of Mansfield is patron.—The school and school-house were built in 1769, and are in tolerable repair. The schoolmaster's salary, paid by the heritors, was lately augmented by them, from 100 to 200 merks. From his office of session-clerk, and as precentor, he may have about 4^{l.}, and nearly as much from his school-fees; making altogether about

about 17l. or 18l. annually.—There are no begging poor in the parish. The number upon the roll is commonly from 7 to 10. They are supplied by the weekly collections, and usual casualties, which may be together 12l. or 13l. yearly; and the interest of about 500l. capital, which has arisen partly from pious donations, partly from savings when the times admitted. From these funds they are provided, without any assessment, in a regular monthly allowance, and also with clothes, and some coals for the winter*.

Language.—The language of this parish and corner is Saxon, intermixed with Scottish words and expressions; attended, however, by little or no provincial accent or dialect. Though this part of the country is not at a great distance from the Highlands, yet neither Gaelic words nor accent are known amongst the natives below Perth. Very few names of places are Erse; but a great number are Scotch or Saxon.

Antiquities.—In the Castle of Kinfauns, is kept a large old sword, probably made near 500 years ago, and to be used by both hands. It is shaped like a broad sword, and is 5 feet 9 inches long, 2½ inches broad at the hilt, and of a proportionable thickness, with a round knob

* Besides these stated supplies, liberal private charities are given occasionally to families in distress. This temporary relief is productive of the best consequences, by preventing the laborious poor from falling into total ruin, and becoming public burdens. As long as the common people can be preserved from being known objects of charity, a decent pride excites their industry; but this soon disappears, when once they are regular pensioners on a parish roll. The effects of harvest 1782 were, comparatively, but little felt here. As the funds are plentiful, the poor were well supplied, without any part of the aid allowed by government.

knob at the upper end, near 8 inches in circumference. This terrible weapon bears the name of *Charteris's sword*; and probably belonged to Sir Thomas Charteris, commonly called Thomas de Longueville, once proprietor of the estate of Kinfauns. Sir Thomas Charteris, *alias* Longueville, was a native of France, and of an ancient family in that country. If credit can be given to accounts of such remote date, when he was at the court of Philip le Bel, in the end of the 13th century, he had a dispute with, and killed a French nobleman in the king's presence. He escaped, but was refused pardon.

Having, for several years, infested the seas as a pirate, known by the name of the *Red Beaver*, from the colour of the flags he carried on his ships, in May 1301 or 1302 (by Adamson's Chronology), Sir William Wallace, in his way to France, encountered and took him prisoner. At Wallace's intercession, the French King conferred on him a pardon, and the honour of knighthood. He accompanied Wallace on his return to Scotland, and was ever after his faithful friend, and aiding in his exploits. Upon that hero's being betrayed, and carried to England, Sir Thomas Charteris retired to Lochmaben, where he remained till Robert Bruce began to assert his right to the crown of Scotland. He joined Bruce; and was, if we may believe Adamson, who refers to Barbeur, the first who followed that king into the water, at the taking of Perth, January 8. 1313.

Bruce rewarded his bravery, by giving him lands in the neighbourhood of Perth, which appear to have been those of Kinfauns, and which continued in the family of Charteris for many years. It is to this ancient knight, and to the antique sword above mentioned, that Adam-

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son refers, in these lines (Book VI.) of his Muse's Threnodie.

————Kinfauns, which 'Thomas Longueville
Some time did hold, whose ancient sword of steel
Remains unto this day, and of that land
Is chiefest evident.

About 40 years ago, upon opening the burying vault under the aisle of the church of Kinfauns, erected by this family, there was found a head-piece, or kind of helmet, made of several folds of linen, or some strong stuff, painted over with broad stripes of blue and white; which seems to have been part of the fictitious armour, wherein the body of Thomas Longueville, or Charteris, had been deposited *.

The estate of Kinfauns afterward belonged to a gentleman of the name of Carnegie, of the Northesk family; from whom it passed to that of Blair, whose heiress was married to John Lord Gray, father of the present Lord.

There is also in the house of Kinfauns, which stands on an elevated situation, overlooking the Tay, an iron flag, or vane, 2 feet long and 1 foot broad, turning upon a staff of the same metal, 8 feet high. It has the date, 1688, cut in the middle, and was wont to be placed on the top of the castle. This was a mark, or badge, of an heritable office, or power of admiralty over the river, annexed to the estate of Kinfauns, for preserving the fishing, and punishing all trespasses committed in destroying the salmon. In a charter under the great seal, in

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* *Vide* Historical Annotations on Blind Harry's Wallace, published at Perth a few years ago.

the year 1671, the old jurisdiction is explained and confirmed; and, according to the tradition of the country, it was acknowledged by all vessels passing in the Tay, by a salute, or lowering of their colours to the castle. This power extends from Drumlie Sands below Dundee to the heart of the river, and entitles the family of Kinfauns to a salmon, annually, out of every fishing boat on the Tay*.

Prices and Wages.—The price of provisions has risen greatly of late years, and is here regulated by the Perth market †.

Situation

* The charter, after confirming the lands and barony of Kinfauns, adds, "and also the heritable office of keeping the said water of Tay, upon both sides of the same, within the hail bounds thereof, beginning at that part of the same called Drumlie Sands, until the head of the same water, and all other waters, floods, and burns running into the said water, within the hail bounds thereof; and with power to seek and search all fishers, and other persons whatsoever, who can be found and apprehended, taking smolts, kipper, or salmon, with cruives, or any other manner of way, within said bounds or parts thereof, within forbidden time."

It also grants power to hold courts, amerciate and punish for all such offences. And further, "All other privileges, liberties, immunities, fees, and duties belonging to said heritable office; and specially with the fish of one salmon yearly, to be uplifted and taken in all time coming, furth of ilk an boat, wherewith salmon shall happen to be taken in the said river of Tay, upon both sides thereof within the bounds aforesaid"

† Chickens, which 25 or 30 years ago sold at 2d., are now 4d. and 6d. a piece; grown poultry from 1s. to 1s. 3d. each; eggs are 6d. the dozen; beef in autumn 3½d., or 4d., in spring 5d., sometimes 6d. the pound; mutton from 3d. to 4d. in autumn, and 5d. in the spring; veal and lamb are commonly 6d., all Amsterdam weight; geese sell at 2s. 6d. and 3s.; turkeys at 4s. 6d. and 5s.; pigs at 5s., and all other provisions in the same proportion. Though this is a rich country, yet vivres are, in general, high; and even some articles, such as eggs and poultry, are affected by the Edinburgh market.

Situation and Character of the People.—A remarkable change has taken place within these 30 years past, in the dress, manners, and cleanliness of the people; the natural consequence of the influx of money. The great rise of wages has considerably meliorated the situation of such as depend upon their labour for the support of their families. And were the houses of cottagers, and of those in the inferior ranks of life better, it would be a vast addition to their comfort. Some excellent ones have been lately built by proprietors. If some instances of more straitened circumstances occur amongst the poorer people, yet they do not seem to produce discontent. It is not known that any have died of want. None, for many years back, have been destitute of employment; and there have been no emigrations. No person, in the memory of the oldest man alive, has been tried for any crime, or banished.

The people are rather above middle size; they are healthy, and of a good looking, decent appearance. Their attendance upon public worship is regular; their ideas of religion are rational.

Advantages.—This parish and district derive great advantage from the turnpike road lately made between Perth and Dundee; and from their vicinity to a navigable river. By the last of these, immediate access is

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opened

The yearly wages of a ploughman, or farming servant, have risen from 4l. and 5l. to 8, 9, and 10 guineas; those of an upper servant to 12l., and often more. Cottagers employed as farming servants are paid nearly in the same proportion, after making deduction for their houses, and for land, if they possess any. The wages of women servants in farm houses, are 3l.; of a house carpenter a-day. 1s. 8d.; of a mason, 2s. 6d. and 1s. 8d.; of a tailor, with victuals, 6d. and 2d.; of a common labourer, 1s., without victuals.

opened to the sea, and to every port around the island. Lime, and other manures, come by water, close to the lands of the inhabitants. By the same easy conveyance, their grain is carried to market, and delivered with little trouble and expense. But one of the most comfortable effects of the river, is its furnishing, from the coasts of the Frith of Forth, a regular supply of coal, which is the fuel of this country, and which, till of late years, was brought in plenty, and sold at a moderate rate. The usual price was 4s. the boll, of 56 stons English weight, or 800 weight of 112 pounds each. This is the weight of the boll at Dundee, and in the Tay below Perth: There the boll is only 40 stons. Within these few years, however, a most unaccountable dearth and scarcity of coal has taken place in this corner, as well as in other parts of the country: But it is to be hoped, that the late act of parliament, taking off the duty coastwise will, in time, help to remove this hardship, by introducing coal from England, on reasonable terms.

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