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COST ONE MILLION DOLLARS

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Special rates made to families and single gentlemen. The management will be pleased at all times to show rooms and give prices. A modern Turkish bath establishment in the hotel. E. C. BOWERS, Manager.

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24,000 volumes and over 200 periodicals
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Two books allowed on all subscriptions

HOURS—From 9:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M. daily, except Sundays and holidays.

W. L. Douglas 3.50 Men's Shoes

Threading a Needle 32

If you can't thread your needle as easily as you used to, you need glasses. If you find that you must hold it farther away or use a brighter light or place the lamp between yourself and the needle, you need glasses. If you already have glasses you need new ones. They do not fit you as they should.

I can supply you with glasses that you can thread a needle with as easily as you ever did.

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Eye Specialist
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OREGONIAN BUILDING

C. Goddard & Co.

OREGONIAN BUILDING

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS. NOT HAPPY ATTEMPTS.

Catholics Seek Relief From Support of Parochial Schools.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Roman Catholics interested in a movement which has been started in this city to relieve church members of the burden of supporting parochial schools, according to its projectors, the object of the plan is general, so that all states of whatever denomination, and as well as those which do not have a religion, may reap the results. It is declared that Catholics want no more of the State in doing their spiritual work, but only that a plan of non-interference be formulated such that no more religion.

It is stated that in certain schools teachers will be set apart and given religious instruction, Hebrew and other religious instructions, as the State may wish to have, and that the State may wish to have the State, Rev. P. F. Mcweeney, rector of St. Bridget's Roman Catholic church, is at the head of the movement.

Charges of Discrimination.

WALK, Neb., Feb. 25.—The Inter-Communion Commission will open tomorrow, the object being to investigate charges of discrimination against Catholics in the Norfolk Business Men's Association. Norfolk is situated on both the Missouri Valley Railroad and the Missouri Valley Railroad. No discrimination against Catholics is being made, and the business men are not discriminating against Catholics in any way. The business men are not discriminating against Catholics in any way.

CRONJE HAS COVER

Can Even Protect Women and Children.

MUST SUFFER GREATLY, HOWEVER

Correspondents Report Boer Situation as Hopeless, and Bloody Fighting at All Points.

LONDON, Feb. 26, 4:30 A. M.—Perhaps never before in the course of the present campaign have such crowds visited a war office as went there yesterday. As the Times remarked today, "the dearth of news is somewhat trying at a time when a considerable success was generally regarded as imminent." The Boer position is not so bright as it was a few days ago. No diminution of confidence in Lord Roberts is felt, however, and the public is ready to believe that he has good reasons for not making a dash for the official dispatches. Probably he is in no hurry to end a situation which is daily bringing small parties of Boers in vain endeavor to reinforce General Cronje. They are being captured in detail. Lord Roberts has already captured over 500 Boers, and at this rate he will soon have an array of prisoners to hold as hostages for the 300 British already in Pretoria.

General Cronje's refusal to accept the offer of Lord Roberts regarding the women and children indicates either that the position is less desperate than has been supposed or that he has been able to dig an absolutely safe place for them.

Everything goes to show that General Buller's advance is most stubbornly contested and most cautiously carried out. It is hoped that he will soon be in a position where General White will be able to assist him materially.

The campaign is now approaching a most interesting phase. In about a fortnight the Congress of the Afrikanerbond will meet, and it is rumored that Mr. Hofmeyr will then propose peace terms on the basis of the Republic retaining absolute independence, but offering to disarm. If these terms are rejected, it is understood that a manifesto will be issued to the Dutch throughout South Africa, calling upon them to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain. Probably these rumors are exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the Afrikanerbond is very active in Cape Town regarding coming events.

Germany, through the semi-official Berliner Post, reiterates that it repeats German intervention are quite without foundation. Captain Raymond Harvey de Montmorency, who was killed Saturday, was the brother-in-law of the late General Cronje, and was the fourth heir to a peerage who has fallen in the course of the campaign.

LORD ROBERTS' REPORT.

Speaks of Fighting and Losses, but No Mention of Cronje.

LONDON, Feb. 25, 3:55 P. M.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Paardeberg, Feb. 24, 12:30 P. M.—Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force yesterday. They lost a good many killed and wounded, and nearly 100 prisoners, including a commandant and three field cornets. Our casualties were four officers wounded, nine men killed, 23 men wounded, two men missing. On the 23rd and 24th, one officer and 13 men were wounded.

"Six men were wounded yesterday by hollow-needled Mauser bullets. The night before, six men were killed and wounded, the projectile of the most expensive and explosive nature possible. A wounded Boer brought to our hospital yesterday had 50 of these bullets in his pockets.

"During the advance to and at Kimberley, the casualties were: Officers, two killed, 13 wounded; men, four killed, 73 wounded.

(The officers' casualties have previously been reported.)

Lord Roberts has sent the following additional advice to the war office:

"Paardeberg, Saturday, Feb. 24.—Methuen reports that Herkley West was captured by our troops on February 22. The loyal inhabitants displayed great enthusiasm.

"The country west of the railway from Cape Town to Kimberley is gradually settling down. A detachment has started from De Aar for Britstown, and Douglas and Pieterik will shortly be visited by our troops.

"Methuen's account of the admirable manner in which the Kimberley hospital is managed made me desire to send some of our sick and wounded there."

ADVICES TO THE TIMES.

Cronje Has Good Cover—Better Two Miles From Ladysmith.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes the following from Paardeberg, dated Wednesday, February 21:

"General Cronje's forces have good cover, and the British are unable to have considerable stores of provisions."

The Times publishes the following dispatch from Colenso, dated Saturday:

"The British are now within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith. The defense opened in a startling fashion. Soon after dawn a most terrific rattle of rifle fire broke out, wakening the sleeping camp. It was the heaviest fire during the war and all awaited with foreboding the news of its effect. It soon developed that the Gloucesters and Essex had lost their way and had bivouacked in error, close to the Boer laager, on the north side of the river. As soon as they were perceived by the enemy, the latter assaulted. Wonderful to tell, the British casualties were practically none.

There was desultory firing all day long on both the north and south banks. General Knox's brigade advanced and pushing forward the line south of the river, while General Smith-Dorrien, on the north side, worked toward the laager. Meanwhile, General French advanced in a fan easterly direction, near a kopje held by a strong force of Cronje's men, reinforced by a Ladysmith contingent. At the same time General Broadwood's Brigade, with a battery of Horse Artillery, took up positions to the left and rear of the same kopje. The front of the hill was thoroughly searched by artillery fire. Suddenly the Boers broke from every side toward the British, who were holding the position. A vigorous fusillade ensued. Many were killed by snipers and about 40 were captured.

Key to the Position.

As soon as the kopje was evacuated the correspondents visited it. The position was found to be wonderfully strong naturally and to form the real key to the

position in the case of a defense against direct reinforcements from the east. The first engagement with the Ladysmith Boers was singularly unfortunate for them. A great deal of forage, provisions and equipment was captured, and the kopje was frequently dotted with blood, showing that many wounded had been removed. The Boer method of removing their dead is to tie a couple of stout ropes to the body, which is dragged off by two horsemen at full gallop.

There were several poor parliques today on the subject of a short armistice. It seems that General Cronje is willing to surrender, but the British are not prepared to accept his terms. The other beleaguered Boers are anxious to give up. A British doctor, who visited the Boer lines to see the wounded, found the trenches along the river full of wounded, and saw many dead. A deserter who came into camp tonight says that yesterday's bombardment was appalling in its effects, especially in the case of the howitzer batteries enfilading the British position. The Boers are strengthening their entrenchments around the laager but the case is hopeless. The capture of the kopje today has given the British a most important position and will prevent a Boer relieving force reaching Cronje.

Everybody admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but, from a humanitarian point of view, it is a pity that they are so obstinate. Every shrapnel shell finds a victim, and unless a miracle occurs, his force must be wiped out or he will be obliged to surrender. It is to be contemplated; but, although it would require a few days, it would be easy to accomplish.

Today Lord Roberts sent General Cronje a letter of advice and conduct for the women and children, together with a free pass to any point for them, and also an offer of doctors and medicine. Cronje's reply was a curt refusal, and desultory shelling was resumed.

Closing in on Cronje.

PAARDEBERG, Feb. 25.—The British are gradually closing in upon General Cronje from all sides and making his position more and more desperate. The course of last night, the British artillery poured in several rounds. There was a terrible rain and thunder storm in the evening. The Canadians were heavily engaged in Sunday's fight, behaving most gallantly.

Artillery shelling continued during the early part of last night. As soon as the first gun was fired, the Shropshires, who had been occupying the position since Sunday, rushed forward, seized an additional 300 yards of near ground and entrenched a fresh position before daybreak. The Shropshires found themselves shelled that amount of space.

The Shropshires had done excellent work under a galling fire since Sunday, and they were relieved by the Gordons to the trenches, and the Shropshires crept out of these by actually reaching over the top of the hill, where they were met by the Boers.

The scene of the last few days' fighting is one of the prettiest spots in South Africa. The river around where General Cronje is entrenched and fighting for life resembles a garden. The Boers have dug the ground all around sloping toward the stream. All the highlands are covered by British artillery. Cronje is faced in the front by the British, and the Boers, far away on the flanks, prevents a sudden inrush of Boers.

The British artillery fire last evening, the mules of the Eighty-second Brigade, which had remained hitched to the carriages, suddenly stampeded and galloped off en masse, but today the wagons, with one exception, were held in place. The British are now in 75 prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered 30 Boers wandering alone and unarmed. Already this force has captured 200 of the mules, while many dead Boers have been seen.

The Boer prisoners are all depressed at the present course of the war, and they are anxious to see the British to the front. The Boers are now in 75 prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered 30 Boers wandering alone and unarmed. Already this force has captured 200 of the mules, while many dead Boers have been seen.

Friday's Lively Fighting.

PAARDEBERG, Saturday, Feb. 24.—The British today had a most interesting series of fights along the British front. One thousand Boers, commanded by General Dewet, who were known to be operating in the immediate front, at early dawn sent a determined effort to break through the British lines and aid General Cronje. A body of 500 Boers moved toward the British left and captured in the process a kopje with the object of occupying it. Unfortunately for the Boers, however, the kopje was held by a company of Scottish Borderers, who opened a heavy fire. The Boers galloped off and moved again toward another British position, with exactly the same result. Then they made a third attempt to occupy another position, but the British were again victorious. The third repulse thoroughly disconcerted the Boers, who galloped away in a panic.

Later, perceiving another kopje, the Boers quickly moved toward it. This kopje was unoccupied, but the Borderers, not to be beaten, raced the Boers for the position and won, occupying the kopje and driving off the Boers. A portion of the latter ultimately occupied a kopje flanked partially by the Borderers and another kopje held by the Borderers. A vigorous fusillade ensued, the British firing accurately and successfully in silencing the Boer fire.

Meanwhile the Boers were ordered to reinforce the Yorkshires, in case the Boers should be reinforced. The British attack worked around to the right of the kopje held by the Yorkshires, where the Seventh Battery was stationed. The Sixty-second Battery was placed at a farm near the center of the Borderers' position. A vigorous shelling, accompanied by a British fusillade, completely silenced the Boers. A company of Yorkshires were sent to clear out the Boers, but the attempt failed, the Boers opening a heavy fire and the British having no cover. The British then again opened a heavy

(Continued on Second Page.)

PRESIDENT'S WORRY

Puerto Rican Situation Gives Much Concern.

PHILIPPINES ARE ALSO INVOLVED

If Customs Laws Cover the Islands, Internal Revenue Laws Must Also Be Extended.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The Puerto Rican situation worrying the President, and which has become a matter of such concern. The demand of the people throughout the country for freedom of trade with the island, following the message made in the report of the Congressional committee, has caused the most serious complications. Many members of the House have been seen in the past few days, and they find it very difficult to get any measure passed. Whatever is done should not be by the opposition, with a following of Republicans. It is generally believed that the two-year proposition comes from the White House. This will then be proclaimed as a temporary measure and will hold to the principle that the Republic leaders want to make plain that the right to levy a tariff on the island is not prohibited by the Constitution.

Behind all this are the Philippines, the products of the islands, the possibilities of admitting them to citizenship and government, the same as the United States. It is held by the Administration that the score or more tribes in the Philippines must have different governments suitable to their conditions, and that the islands be treated as a single question. The keynote of the Democratic plan against retaining the Philippines, according to the President, is that 10,000,000 Malays will, under the extension of the Constitution to the islands, become American citizens, with rights to go and come and enter into competition with American workmen. It is feared that this will cripple the workingmen of the island, and many produce disastrous results at the November elections.

At the beginning of the debate on the Puerto Rican bill, Chairman Payne argued the freedom of trade between the United States and Puerto Rico, and the Puerto Ricans too great an advantage. Now the bill is declared to be one of philanthropy, the tax being necessary for the revenue of the island. It is explained that if the customs laws are to cover the island, the internal revenue laws must also extend, and this would produce widespread disaster, as it would virtually prohibit the importation of very cheap cigars, which all people use, as well as the rum sold at 40 cents a gallon.

"If Democrats Had Sense."

"If the Democrats had had a little sense," that is an exclamation heard by many who discuss political questions these days. The expression comes from Democrats who are anxious to have their party succeed. It is the heartfelt expression of thousands of Democrats who are disappointed in the policies of the Republicans, or at least some of them, and who are compelled to swallow some things they do not want to, because the Democrats are so absolutely wrong on so fundamental principles. This "sense" which is referred to is the failure of the Democrats to get right on expansion, and their determination to be wrong on the financial question. These are the two points, who can see farther than their own noses, who have not been engaged for a quarter of a century in teaching their people wrong ideas about the financial condition of the country, and who are now determined to be wrong on the financial question.

Death of Homeopathic Doctor.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Dr. A. Wright, aged 74 years, of Buffalo, N. Y., is dead at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chicago. He arrived here Thursday to consult about his illness.

Dr. Wright was one of the foremost homeopathic physicians in America. In 1838 he was chosen president of the American Institute of Homeopathy.

Crocker Still on Crutches.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Richard Crocker has been compelled to defer his return to America until the latter part of May. A message from him today said that the wound recently received by him when thrown from a horse at Wantage was still giving him a deal of trouble. The Tammany chief is still on crutches.

Butterfield, the Architect, Dead.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—William Butterfield, the celebrated architect, is dead, in his 86th year. He first attained distinction by his introduction of Gothic into ecclesiastical and domestic buildings by the help of bricks, marble and mosaic. He constructed many noted colleges and church edifices.

Death of Chicago Powder-Maker.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 25.—L. F. Laffin, of Chicago, the wealthy gunpowder manufacturer, died today unexpectedly at the Champlain Hotel, Old Point Comfort. His son will arrive tomorrow. The hotel officials will give out no information about the cause of death until his son's arrival.

Death of Lafayette's Escort.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 25.—E. E. Cook, who as Captain of the New York Militia did escort duty to General Lafayette on his trip up the Hudson River in 1824, died today, aged 97 years. He was the father of Captain Frank A. Cook, commander of the cruiser Brooklyn during the late war.

Dated Brethren Editor Dead.

DATON, O., Feb. 25.—Rev. Edward Lorenz, editor of the German periodicals of the United Brethren Church, and formerly a prominent minister in that denomination, is dead. He had charge of the missionary work in Germany for a number of years.

Lies at the Point of Death.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 25.—Hugh M. Comer, president of the Central Georgia Railroad & Ocean Steamship Company, lies at the point of death with cancer of the throat.

Princess Catuscene Is Better.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Potter Palmer said tonight that she has received a cablegram reporting the Princess Catuscene much better.

Sportsman and Politician Dead.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Edward Kearney, the well-known sportsman and Tammany politician, is dead at Palm Beach, Fla., aged 62 years.

Clubman Died of Consumption.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—George W. Doves-Patt, the clubman and pique-shot, died today at Doves-Patt, Switzerland, of consumption, aged 42.

Bank President Dead.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Edmund Stephens, president of the Home Bank, died today, aged 73.

POSTOFFICE ROBBED

More Than \$600 Taken, of Which \$400 Was Stamps.

SAFE WAS DRILLED AND EXPLODED

Evidently Work of Novices, for Tools to Work With Were Stolen From Blacksmith Shop.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25.—A man registered at the Pennsylvania Hospital as Hamilton H. Greyson died in that institution today from hiccoughs, and from letters found among his effects it is supposed to have had a remarkable career and a wide experience in various parts of the world. Letters from Cecil Rhodes, General Baden-Powell, and General Lawton and Assistant Postmaster-General Allen were found. The Allen letter was dated at Washington, April, 1899, and showed that Greyson had been appointed Postmaster at Manila. Another letter shows that he resigned that office in September, 1899, on account of ill-health. The Baden-Powell letter was dated "In the Field, Mombasa, Africa, July 12, 1898." In this letter he was known as Henry Herbert Greyson, and it recommended him for the Victoria Cross for good work done as a hospital surgeon.

DIED OF HICCOUGHES.

Letters From Prominent Men Point to a Noted Career.

At his boarding-house very little was known of him. He never spoke of his family, but is believed to have had a son in the railroad business in Washington, D. C. Greyson could speak five languages, and was engaged in building a railroad for an English corporation, and aided in building a railroad to the top of the Andes mountains, he having been a civil and mechanical engineer. He was also engaged in mining in the western part of this country, and from another letter found on him, must have lived in San Francisco in 1891.

Mrs. Sartoris Has No Cancer.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The following statement relative to the condition of Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris was given out today by the attending physician:

"Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris is now convalescing from an operation, and will be about in a few days. On account of public statements that her malady was cancer, we state that after the operation an examination has proved that there is no evidence that cancer has ever existed."

Phelps Has a Relapse.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—A special to the World from New Haven, says: "Civil and E. J. Phelps, ex-Minister to Great Britain, suffered a serious relapse last night, and his condition is extremely critical. He has been ill for six weeks from pneumonia, but for two weeks had been considered out of danger Sunday, an absence of the lungs and hemorrhage caused a rapid decline, and his physicians fear he cannot recover."

Influenza Has No Respect for Royalty.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The influenza is still raging. Princess Frederick Charles having been attacked.

The Italian Ambassador here, Count Lanza di Busca, had invited Emperor William and the elite of Berlin, among them United States Ambassador White and Mrs. White to dinner tonight, but he was seized with influenza this morning, and the dinner was postponed.

Building Burned in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Fire today destroyed a four-story brick building at 21-55 Jefferson street, causing a loss of \$65,000, divided among the following firms: Lamont & Mann, machinery; William W. Young, machinery; John Barry & Co., pattern makers; Hartley Electric Company; George H. Nye, pump manufacturer; Charles H. Bendham, pattern makers.

Mill, Elevator and Grain Burn.

HALIFAX, Feb. 25.—The works of the Maritime Milling Company at New Glasgow were destroyed by fire today. The grain elevator and hundreds of bushels of grain. The loss was \$150,000.

Troy Iron Works Burned.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Fire destroyed three buildings owned by the Troy Iron Works today; loss, \$150,000. One thousand employes will be thrown out of work.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI CONGRESS

Call issued for Meeting in Houston, Tex., April 17.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 25.—Secretary Thomas Richardson today issued the official call for the 10th annual session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, to be held at Houston, April 17 to 21. The territory to be represented embraces all of the States and Territories lying west of the Mississippi River. The subjects are set forth as follows: "Irrigation," "Rivers and Harbors," "Nicaragua Canal," "Pacific Cable," "Merchant Marine," "St. Louis World's Fair," "Trade With the Orient," "Consular Service," "Statehood," "Railroad Transportation," "Restoration of Forests," "Beet Sugar," "Trade With Mexico," "Advantages of American Travel," "Exports and Imports Through the Gulf and Pacific Ports," "Need of Home Factories" and "Drainage."

Swedish-American Veterans.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Swedish-Americans who fought in the Civil and Spanish-American wars, both in the Army and Navy, held a meeting here today and perfected an organization to be known as the Swedish-American Veterans' Association. Ernest G. Dahl was elected president. The gathering was representative of every branch of the service, and included gray-haired veterans of the famous battle-lands of the War of the Rebellion, soldiers who fought with Dewey, others who participated in the naval battle of Santiago, members of regiments which took part in the storming of Manila, and many outsiders who had seen service in Cuba.

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INDEPENDENCE, Feb. 25.—The postoffice was broken into this morning about 3 o'clock, and over \$600 was removed; the amount of cash was \$125.00, and stamps \$475. An entrance was made by taking out a window-pane in a rear room, and the contents of the safe were given admission to the office. The tools were stolen from a blacksmith shop in town. A hole was drilled in the outside door of the office safe, just above the handle, and the hole in the inner door was made just above the combination lock, and powder was used to blow the safe open.

The robbery was not discovered until about 10 o'clock today, when several dollars worth of stamps were found being taken to the adjoining harness shop by W. H. Craven, which led to an investigation. It is thought that the thieves have been in town for the past two days, and could be easily traced. The safe was owned by Postmaster J. A. Wheeler.

BIG FIRE NEAR PARIS.

Series of Alcohol Explosions Injure 150 People.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—As the result of a fire that broke out this morning at St. Quentin, a suburb of Paris, in a collection of alcohol and oil stores, a series of explosions occurred, spreading the flames until a block of six immense warehouses was involved in a huge conflagration.

A great concourse of spectators had assembled and had approached too near, when suddenly the explosions occurred. A large number of people, including some women and many children, were injured. The last explosion occurred at 6 o'clock this afternoon, when it was thought that much danger had been averted. Thirty persons were injured by flying debris. The fire broke out at 8 o'clock, from some cause as yet unknown, and had obtained firm hold before it was discovered. It progressed without serious incidents during the morning, and at 1 o'clock had been gotten under control. At 4 o'clock, however, the falling walls permitted the flames to reach a number of adjacent walls, and then the explosions began to take place. The block of warehouses was almost surrounded by unoccupied ground, so that the burning alcohol spread what the buildings collapsed, producing a sea of flames, and causing consternation throughout the district. People in the dwellings near by began hastily removing their furniture. The suffocating heat was very serious, and the work of the fire brigade. A number of engines were sent from Paris to assist. The firemen worked fearlessly, and more than once were precipitated to the ground by falling roofs and walls.

A detachment of soldiers aided the firemen in emptying the adjacent houses of furniture. Ambulances were busy in carrying victims to the neighboring hospitals.

Fortunately the flames did not reach the immense reservoirs of petroleum. The loss is estimated at \$200,000 francs.

Fireman Killed, Others Injured.

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 25.—Fire tonight, in the plant of the Detroit Steel & Spring Company's works, destroyed both the company's rolling mills, causing a loss of \$100,000. Fully injured, fireman Timothy Keohane was crushed by a falling stack and killed. A hospital ambulance, running to the scene, collided with a swiftly running electric car. The ambulance was smashed to bits before it was stopped. Driver Frank Deibear and Del J. T. McKilrick, were badly bruised and shocked.

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