THE WEDDING 558 OF SHON MACLEAN

A Scottish Rhapsody

FOR CHORUS, SOLI (SOPRANO AND BARITONE) AND ORCHESTRA.

POEM BY

ROBERT BUCHANAN

MUSIC BY

HUBERT BATH

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THE WEDDING OF SHON MACLEAN

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THE WEDDING OF SHON MACLEAN By ROBERT BUCHANAN.

No. 1. PREAMBLE.

No. 2. CHORUS.

To the wedding of Shon Maclean, Twenty Pipers together Came in the wind and the rain Playing across the heather; Backward their ribbons flew, Blast upon blast they blew, Each clad in tartan new, Bonnet, and blackcock feather: And every Piper was fou,* Twenty pipers together 1...

He's but a Sassenach blind and vain Who never heard of Shon Maclean-The Duke's own Piper, called " Shon the Fair,' From his freckled skin and his fiery hair. Father and son, since the world's creation, The Macleans had followed this occupation, And played the pibroch to fire the Clan Since the first Duke came and the earth began. Like the whistling of birds, like the humming of bees, Like the sough of the south-wind in the trees, Like the singing of angels, the playing of shawms, Like Ocean itself with its storms and its calms, Were the strains of Shon, when the cheeks aflame He blew a blast thro' the pipes of fame. At last, in the prime of his playing life, The spirit moved him to take a wife-A lassie with eyes of Highland blue, Who loved the pipes and the Piper too. So, twenty Pipers were coming together O'er the moor and across the heather,

> To the wedding of Shon Maclean, Twenty Pipers together Came in the wind and the rain Playing across the heather. Earach and Dougal Dhu, Sandy of Isla too, Each with the bonnet o' blue, Tartan, and blackcock feather : And every Piper was fou, Twenty Pipers together !

> > No. 3. QUASI RECIT. (Soprano and Baritone Soli.)

The knot was tied, the blessing said, Shon was married, the feast was spread.

* Intoxicated.

No. 4. CHORUS.

At the head of the table sat, huge and hoar. Strong Sandy of Isla, age four score, Whisker'd, grey as a Haskeir seal. And clad in crimson from head to heel. Beneath and round him in their degree Gathered the men of minstrelsie. With keepers, gillies, and lads and lasses, Mingling voices, and jingling glasses. At soup and haggis, at roast and boil'd, Awhile the happy gathering toil'd,-While Shon and Jean at the table ends Shook hands with a hundred of their friends.-Then came a hush. Thro' the open door A wee bright form flash'd on the floor.-The Duke himself, in the kilt and plaid, With slim soft knees, like the knees of a maid. And he took a glass, and he cried out plain, "I drink to the health of Shon Maclean ! To Shon the Piper and Jean his wife, A clean fireside and a merry life ! ' Then out he slipt, and each man sprang To his feet, and with "hooch" the chamber rang! "Clear the tables !" shriek'd out one-A leap, a scramble,—and it was done! And then the Pipers all in a row Tuned their pipes and began to blow,

While all to dance stood fain : Sandy of Isla and Earach More, Dougal Dhu from Kilflannan shore, Played up the company on the floor, At the wedding of Shon Maclean.

> At the wedding of Shon Maclean Twenty Pipers together Stood up, while all their train Ceased to clatter and blether. Full of the mountain-dew, First in their pipes they blew, Mighty of bone and thew, Red-cheek'd, with lungs of leather; And every Piper was fou, Twenty Pipers together!

No. 5. Chorus.

Who led the dance ? In pomp and pride The Duke himself led out the Bride! Great was the joy of each beholder, For the wee Duke only reach'd her shoulder : And they danced, and turned, when the reel began, Like a giantess and a fairie man ! But like an earthquake was the din When Shon himself led the Duchess in ! And she took her place before him there, Like a white mouse dancing with a bear ! So trim and tiny, so slim and sweet, Her blue eyes watching Shon's great feet,. With a smile that could not be resisted, She jigged, and jumped, and twirl'd, and twisted I Sandy of Isla led off the reel, The Duke began it with toe and heel, Then all join'd in amain;

Twenty pipers ranged in a row, From squinting Shamus to lame Kilcroe, Their cheeks like crimson, began to blow, At the wedding of Shon Maclean.

> At the wedding of Shon Maclean They blew with lungs of leather, And blithesome was the strain Those Pipers played together ! Moist with mountain dew, Mighty of bone and thew, Each with the bonnet o' blue, Tartan, and blackcock feather : And every Piper was fou, Twenty Pipers together !

No. 6. DUET, SOLI (Soprano and Baritone), AND CHORUS.

Oh for a wizard's tongue to tell Of all the wonders that befell! Of how the Duke, when the first stave died, Reached up on tiptoe to kiss the Bride, While Sandy's pipes, as their mouths were meeting, Skirl'd, and set every heart abeating ! Then Shon took the pipes! and all was still, As silently he the bags did fill, With flaming cheeks and round bright eyes, Till the first faint music began to rise. Like a thousand laverocks singing in tune, Like countless corn-crakes under the moon, Like the smack of kisses, like sweet bells ringing, Like a mermaid's harp, or a kelpie singing. Then slowly, softly, at his side, All the Pipers around replied,

And swelled the solemn strain : The hearts of all were proud and light To hear the music, to see the sight, And the Duke's own eyes were dim that night,

At the wedding of Shon Maclean.

No. 7. Reel.

No. 8. Chorus.

When the Duke and Duchess went away, The dance grew mad and the guests grew gay; Man and maiden, face to face, Leapt and footed and scream'd apace ! Round and round the dancers whirl'd, Shriller, louder the Pipers skirl'd, Till the soul seem'd swooning into sound, And all creation was whirling round ! Sandy of Isla, with locks of snow, Squinting Shamus, blind Kilmahoe, Finlay Beg, and Earach More, Dougal Dhu from Kilflannan shore-All the pipers, black, yellow, and green, All the colours that ever were seen, All the pipers of all the Macs, Gathered together and took their cracks,* * Conversed sociably.

Then (no man knows how the thing befell, For none was sober enough to tell), These heavenly Pipers from twenty places Began disputing with crimson faces; Each asserting, like one demented. The claims of the clan he represented. In vain grey Sandy of Isla strove To soothe their struggle with words of love. Asserting there, like a gentleman, The superior claims of his own great clan; Then, finding to reason is despair, He seizes his pipes and he plays an air-The gathering tune of his clan-and tries To drown in music the shrieks and cries! Heavens! every piper, grown mad with ire. Seizes his pipes with a fierce desire, And blowing madly with skirl and squeak, Begins his particular tune to shriek! Up and down the gamut they go, Twenty pipers, all in a row,

Each with a different strain ! Each tries hard to drown the first. Each blows louder till like to burst. Thus were the tunes of the Clans rehearst At the wedding of Shon Maclean !

> At the wedding of Shon Maclean Twenty Pipers together, Blowing with might and main, Thro' wonderful lungs of leather ! Wild was the hullabaloo ! They stamped, they screamed, they crew ! Twenty strong blasts they blew, Holding the heart in tether : And every Piper was fou, Twenty Pipers together !

No. 9. FINALE, SOLI (Soprano and Baritone), AND CHORUS.

At last a bevy of Eve's bright daughters Pour'd oil—that's whisky—upon the waters; And after another dram went round The Pipers chuckled and ceased to frown, Embraced like brothers and kindred spirits, And fully admitted each other's merits. All bliss must end! For now the Bride Was looking weary and heavy-eyed, And soon she stole from the drinking chorus. While the company settled to *deoch-an-dorus.**

* * * * * * *

The small stars twinkled over the heather As the Pipers wandered away together, But one by one on the journey dropt, Clutching his pipes and there he stopt ! One by one on the dark hill-side Each faint blast of the bagpipes died,

Amid the wind and the rain ! And the twenty Pipers at break of day In twenty different bogholes lay, Serenely sleeping upon their way

From the wedding of Shon Maclean!

[•] The parting glass; lit., the cub at the door.

The Wedding of Shon Maclean.

A Scotch Rhapsody

<u>Nº 1.</u>

for Chorus, Soli (Soprano & Baritone) and Orchestra.

Poem by ROBERT BUCHANAN. PREAMBLE. Allegro vivo. J = 132. PIANO.







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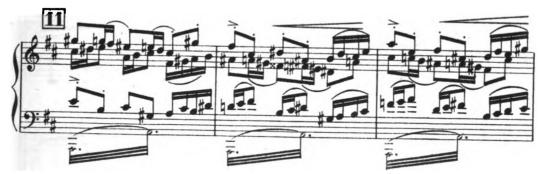






























*Pronounce 'Shone' rhyming with 'stone' and the last syllable of 'Maclean' as 'clane' rhyming with 'rain'.













*Pronounce 'Sas-se-mack'. The 'ck' will be found most suitable for choral purposes. The word means 'Saxon'implying an 'outsider'. 23895

frec-kled skin and his fie-ry hair, From his frec-kled skin and his fie - ry frec-kled skin and his fie-ry hair, From his frec-kled skin and his fie - ry frec-kled skin and his fie-ry frec-kled skin and his fie-ry hair, From his frec-kled skin fie-ry hair, From his frec-kled skin and his fie-ry and his ... Fa-ther and son, since the world's cre hair. The Mac a - tion, Fa-ther and son, since the world's cre hair. a - tion, The Machair. Fa-ther and son, since the world's cre -The Mac a - tion, hair. Fa-ther and son, since the world's cre a - tion, The Mac-



Pe-brock' will be found the most practical pronounciation for choral purposes. 3895



sostenuto e dolce whist - ling like the hum-ming of Like the birds. of bees. whist - ling birds, like the hum-ming of Like the of bees. Like the whist - ling of birds. like the hum-ming of bees, whist - ling of birds, like the hum-ming of bees, Like the mt *sough the south-wind in the trees, Like the of of the south-wind in the trees,_ Like the sough south-wind in the trees, sough of the of the south-wind, the *sough sough of the south-wind in the 47 *Pronounce 'sooch' with guttural 'ch'.



2 16 mfanimato O-cean it - self with its storms _____ and its calms, ____ Were the 16 mfanimato p with its and its calms,_ Were the O-cean it - self storms_ 16 mfanimato O-cean it - self with its storms_ and its calms, ___ Were the 16 mfanimato b and its calms, ___ Were the O-cean it - self with its storms____ 16 animato blew a blast thro' the strains of Shon, when with cheeks a-flame He He blew a blast thro' the strains of Shon, when with cheeks a-flame blew a blast thro' the He strains of Shon, when with cheeks a-flame blew a blast thro' the strains of Shon, when with cheeks a-flame He















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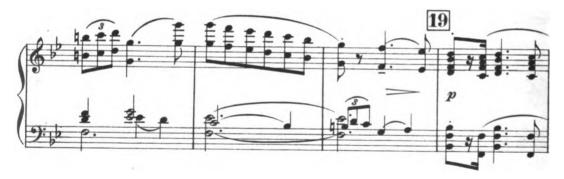
QUASI RECITATIVE.

Soprano and Baritone Soli.





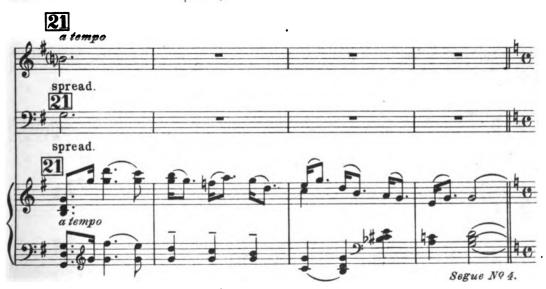




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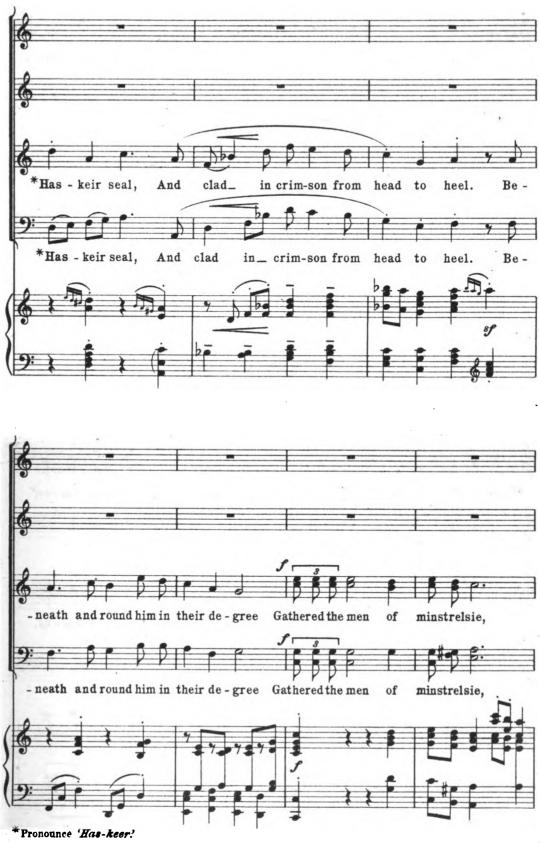
CHORUS.



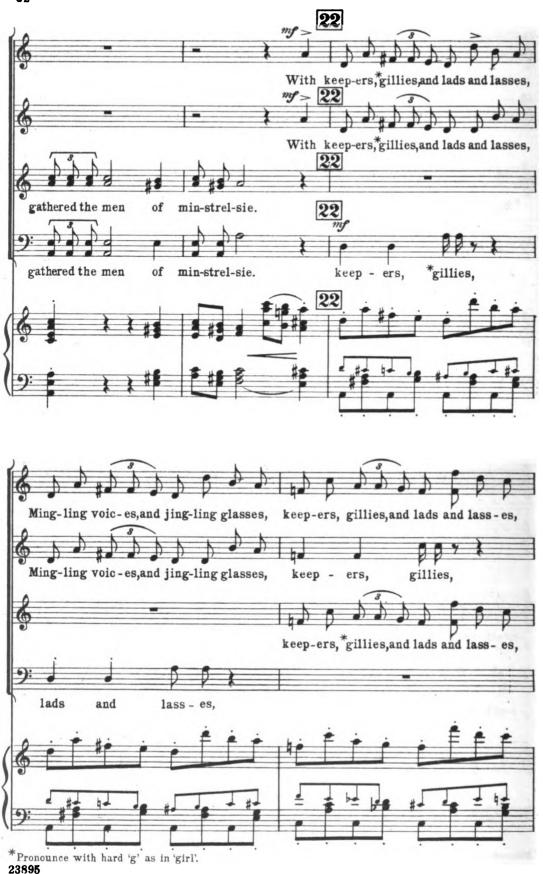
Sand-y of Is-la, age four - score, Whis-ker'd grey as a

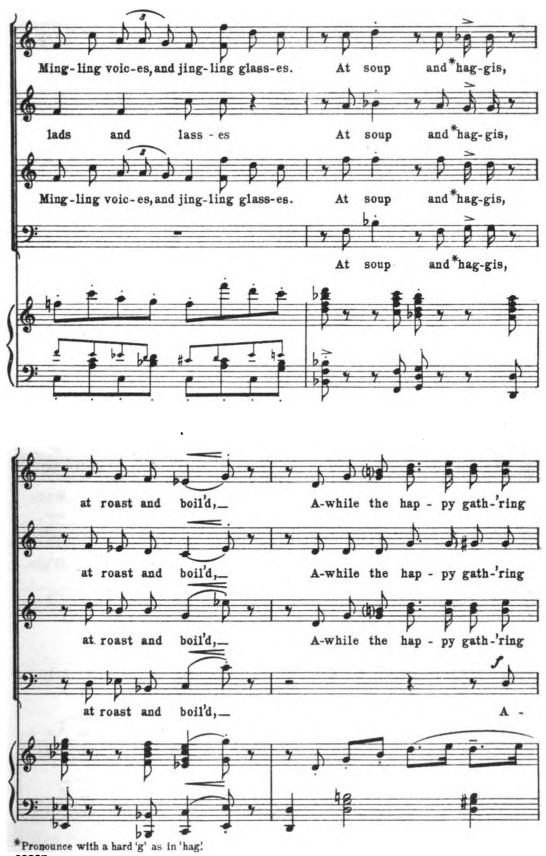
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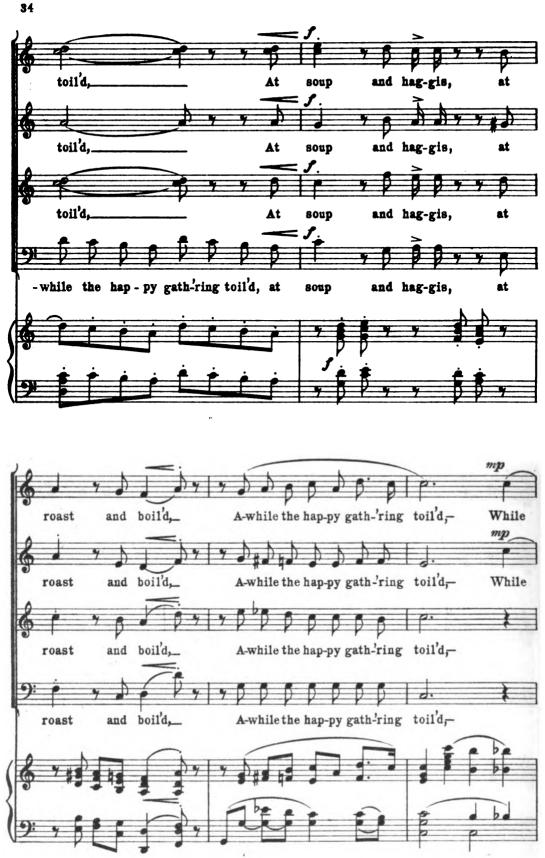
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*Pronounce 'play't' to rhyme with 'maid'.

















28 Tempo I. the wedding of Shon Maclean. Twen-ty pi-pers to -At geth er 28 the wedding of 28 Shon Maclean, Twen-ty pi-pers to geth At er the wedding of Shon Maclean, Twen-ty pi-pers to geth At er 28 . At the wedding of Shon Maclean, Twen-ty pi-pers to - geth er Tempo I. 28 Stood up, while all their train, Ceased to clat-ter and bleth er, Stood up, while all their train, Ceased to clat-ter and bleth - er, all their train, Ceased to clat-ter and bleth Stood up, while er, Stood while **all** their train, Ceased to clat-ter and up, bleth er,

44







CHORUS.





<u>Nº 5.</u>









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57 32 Tempo primo. the wedding of At Shon Mac-lean, They blew with lungs of 32 leath _ er. the wedding of Shon Mac-lean, They blew with lungs of At 32 leath er. . the wedding of Shon Mac-lean, They blew with lungs of At leath er. 32 At Shon Mac-lean, They blew with lungs of the wedding of leath er. Tempo primo. 32 8 £ the strain Those Pi - pers played to - geth And blithe-some was er! And blithe-some was the strain Those Pi-pers played to - geth er! And blithe-some was the strain Those Pi-pers played to - geth er! And blithe-some was the strain Those Pi-pers played to - geth er!

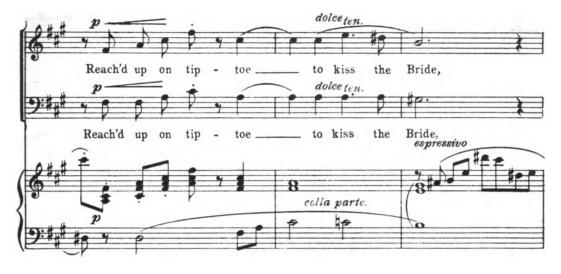
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REEL.

N.B. At the places indicated the screech usually associated with the reel may be given by the Chorus at the discretion of the Conductor.)



<u>Nº 7.</u>





































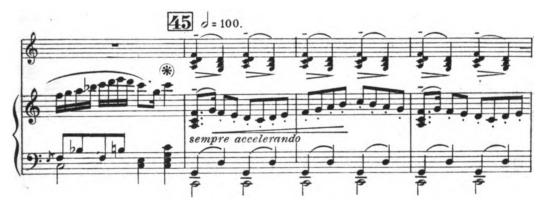




































CHORUS.













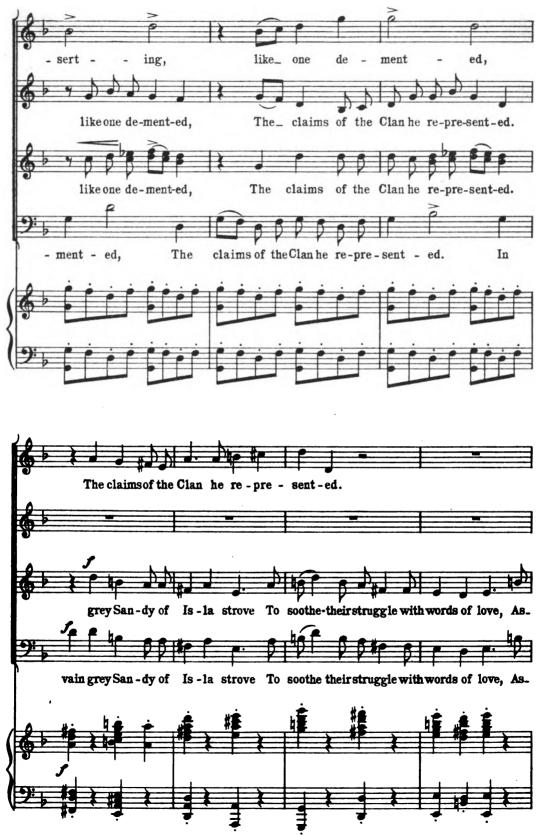
























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molto accel. They stamp'd, they scream'd, they crew! Wild the hul-la-ba-loo! was molto accel. . Wild was the hul-la-ba-loo! They stamp'd, they scream'd, they crew! molto accel. Wild the hul-la-ba-loo! They stamp'd, they scream'd, they crew! was molto accel. ø Wild was the hul-la-ba-loo! They stamp'd, they scream'd, they crew! \geq 776 molto accel. 58 rall. 2 Twenty. _ strongblaststheyblew, Holdingtheheart in tether: . And 58 rall. 2 Twenty__strong blasts they blew, Holding the heart in tether: . And 58 rall. $\overline{2}$ 2 Twenty___strong blasts they blew, Holding the heart in tether: And 58 rall. 5212 Twenty_strong blasts they blew, Holding the heart in tether: _ And 58

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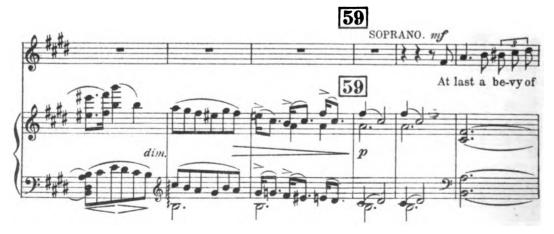
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<u>Nº 9.</u> FINALE.-(Soprano and Baritone) SOLI and CHORUS.































^{*}Pronounce gutteral "ch" The word means the last or parting drink.







of Shon Mac wed-ding their way From the lean. on their wed-ding of Shon Mac lean._ way From the - on - on their way From the wed-ding of Shon Mac - lean, From the wed-ding of Shon Mac - lean, From the their way From the - on wed-ding From the their way From the of Shon Mac lean, - on _ wed-ding way From the of Shon Mac From the their on lean, 1 rall. way From the wed - ding of Shon sleep ing up - on their Mac rall. ing up - on their way From the wed - ding sleep of Shon - Mac rall. wed-ding of Shon Mac-lean, The wed-ding of Mac -Shon rall. Shon. wed-ding of Shon Mac-lean, The wed-ding of Mac rall. P wed-ding of Shon Mac-lean, The wed-ding of Shon Mac rall. -Shon Mac wed-ding of Shon The wed-ding of Shon, The wed-ding of rall. p







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