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God's Message For To-Day

IT IS THE SAME SIMPLE, BUT POWERFUL GOSPEL STORY

Sermon by the "Highway and Byway" Preacher.

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Chicago, Sunday, March 6, 1904.

Text:—"Therefore shall the word of Jehovah be unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; that they may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."—Isaiah 28:13.—AM. E. Rev.

GOD'S supreme purpose for man is that he should become reconciled to Himself; that the breach made by sin between man and God might be healed; that where discord prevails, harmony might be restored; that where estrangement and separation exist, there might be fellowship and blessed union. With man shut out of the paradise which God had planted and given to man, how could God be content or satisfied until the way back to paradise was opened? With Israel in Egypt in bondage, God could not be quiescent and forgetful. He says: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey." And neither can God be indifferent to or neglectful of man while he is in the Egypt of the world's bondage. The father's house had an empty room, and a vacant chair at the table; and his heart had its unsatisfied longing, while the prodigal was away in the far country. He watched and he waited until at last the wandering, wayward boy came back. The sorrowing father could know no peace or rest until the wanderer had returned, until the lost had been found, until he who had been as good as dead had sought the safety and protection of the father's house, and had come to life again. And so is it in infinitely greater degree with the Heavenly Father. He yearns for the return of His sinful, wayward children. If we may so reverently speak of God, He is unhappy, and unsatisfied while the world continues to wander far from Him. Jesus' cry of anguish: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! . . . How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not," is but the cry of God to a lost world, is but the cry of the loving, merciful Creator to the poor, deluded, wayward creature. God's supreme purpose for man is that he should become reconciled to God.

OUR text gives to us God's message to His people. It was to be "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little," forcibly reminding us that God's message is ever a simple message a pertinent message, a persistent message, and an unchanging message. And the latter clause of our text is suggestive of the effect of God's message. First of all, then, let us consider the simplicity of God's message. It is "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." When God is dealing with the souls of men He does not indulge in platitudes, and high-sounding phrases; He does not use the terms and phraseology of the wise and learned. Nay, rather, in the quickest and most direct way possible He seeks to administer to the real needs of the soul. And for this reason His message is one of simplicity. Simple because of its universal mission. God's message is to all the world. To the most enlightened and to the most benighted; to the cultured and refined and to the most vile and degraded; to the man of gray hairs and tottering steps and to the little child with all of life before it. In its simplicity, God's message is most strikingly differentiated from the message of every other religion in the world. It is its one most marked characteristic which stamps it as the message of God and proves its authenticity.

ISAIAH in another part of his book declares that God's message is so simple that "the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein." Even fools, those mentally deficient, may be able to receive and understand God's simple message. And how often this has proven true. You may go to whatever nation you choose, to whatever quarter of the globe you wish, and you will find beautiful and striking examples of the truth that God's message is so simple that it can reach to the lowest depths, as well as to those in the most exalted places of learning and authority. It was even so when Jesus was on earth, for the learned and cultured Nicodemus, member of the Sanhedrin, was numbered among His disciples, even though secretly, as was also the poor, despised thief upon the cross. Jesus sets a little child in our midst and tells us that except we become as that little child we cannot understand God's message and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus in one of His prayers says: "I thank Thee, oh Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes." And Paul, in the first chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, says: "Not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called; but God chose the foolish things of the world, that He might put to shame them that are wise." And this all means, not that God does not want the wise and cultured and mighty to be saved, but that the very simplicity of His message which is able to reach the world proves a stumbling block to them. God's message is simple but profound, easily understood by all, and mighty to save those who receive it.

GOD'S message is also a pertinent message. It is "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." It is to the point. It is prepared with the certain, definite purpose of meeting a certain, definite need. Man has one supreme and desperate need, and that is deliverance from sin and its consequences. There is universal consciousness in the heart of man that he is a sinner. Even the most untutored savage is oppressed by the thought of violating the will and pleasure of his gods, and seeks in some way to appease and secure their favor. And man is a sinner and lost, as God's simple message declares, and God's message goes on to apply the remedy, the only remedy which can meet the need. That is, God's message not only diagnoses the case—tells what is the matter with man—but it goes on to prescribe just the remedy that is needed to cleanse and heal. When Naaman came to the prophet of God, with his desperate and distressing disease of leprosy, and the servant of God delivered God's message to him, he was minded to turn away in anger and disgust because the remedy which he had expected would be applied was not administered. And yet notwithstanding the fact that he thought the waters of Damascus were far better than those of the Jordan, it was bathing in the Jordan and the Jordan alone which removed his leprosy and made his skin to return upon him like that of a little child. God's message to Naaman was just such as would meet his need, and God's message to the world to-day is just such as the world needs to be saved. Pass before the great Physician, oh, man! oh, woman! Let Him diagnose your case. He says: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." He goes on to say that that condition of sin will bring forth death—soul death. For the "soul that sinneth, it shall die." And then having told you the nature of your disease in a simple word of three letters, SIN, having told you the consequences of that disease in a word of five letters—DEATH—He goes on to point to the remedy; He says: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." It is the one remedy for sin. And God's message is a pertinent message, because it speaks of the remedy—the only remedy—for the supreme need of man.

GOD'S message is also persistent. "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." Over and over, and over and over again. God repeats His message to a lost and dying world. See Him as He patiently, lovingly, longingly deals with His chosen people. How persistent He is! Prophet after prophet sent to them to deliver His message. Punishment after punishment inflicted upon them that they might receive and understand His message. In the chapter from which our text is taken we have the prophetic story of Israel's captivity, of Samaria's destruction, an example and warning to Judah to hear and obey God's message. It was "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." And yet they would not hear, they would not heed, but plunged down to their ruin. And for nearly 2,000 years since Christ came as God's message to the world, He has been persistently trying to bring the world to its acceptance. Ah, Christian, have you grown weary in bearing this message to the world? Have you about concluded that the world needs something else? Have you begun to feel that the simple Gospel message is getting monotonous and is worn threadbare? Look away to God! Learn from Him! Behold how persistent He has been in delivering His message! And dare you be any less persistent? Dare you falter, and grow faithless, when God says: "Be not weary in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not"? It is "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." It is God's way. He keeps prescribing the only remedy which will effect a cure. What would you think of a physician who would change his medicine at the whim and notion of the patient, and instead of giving the remedy which alone could cure, would provide something which would not stay the disease or cure? No, the successful physician must be persistent in his treatment, not governed by the caprice of the patient, but prescribing over and over again that which will effect a cure. What if the patient will not take the medicine? If the diagnosis has been correct and the remedy prescribed the needed one, then must the physician be persistent and insistent. And so with the patient, loving Heavenly Father. He goes over His message, "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little;" because it is the only thing which will meet man's need. God's message is a persistent, a repeated message.

AND above all, it is an unchanging message. To Judah God said: My message has been precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little. I have warned you in the calamities which have overwhelmed Israel. I have given you a respite from your enemies, that you might consider these things, "yet they would not hear. Therefore shall the word of Jehovah be unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; her a little, there a little." It was to be an unchanged message. It was the same precept upon precept and line upon line which He had been speaking to them throughout the years and generations. His message was the same, it was unchanging. And God's message for to-day is an unchanging and unchanged message. The world, as in Paul's time, is ever seeking some new thing. The simple, old Gospel message is considered out of date for this age and generation. And men who claim to be the servants of God, who profess to having been called to deliver God's message, dare to take of the Gospel truth and warp and twist and reshape it into something new and modern. The simple old Gospel which declares man a lost and helpless sinner, and the crucified Jesus an only Saviour, is deemed inadequate for these times, and the so-called popular preacher is trying to accommodate God's message to the taste and vanity and self-esteem of the world. Oh, what travesty! Oh, what a hideous violation of God's mercy and love! God pity the world when it gets too wise and too cultured and too self-centered and egotistical for God's simple and unchanging Gospel message! There are indications that point to the fact that the world is rapidly approaching that attitude before God; that condition of heart which remains unmoved and unyielding before the oft-repeated Gospel message. God did not change His message to Pharoah. It was over and over again: "Let my people go." And when Pharaoh hardened his heart and grew so weary of the message that he threatened Moses with death if he came with that same message again, did God change His message, or compromise upon the issue? Nay, verily, it was an unchanged message. And God's message to-day, despite the meddlers and the liberalists and the higher critics and the advanced thinkers, is an unchanged and unchanging message, and it will continue to be such until Jesus shall come in His glory and claim as His own those who have heard the message and been washed clean in His blood.

THE message, then, of God to a world estranged from Him because of sin and which He seeks and longs to have brought back to Himself, is simple, is pertinent, is persistent, is unchanging. It is so simple that none in all the world may be excluded or lost, for it is to all the world and for all the world. It is pertinent, plainly and clearly defining man's condition and need, and fully and freely providing for that need. It is persistent, for God will never cease His efforts to turn the world to Himself until time shall cease to be. It is unchanging, for there is but one remedy for sin, and that is the shed blood of Jesus Christ; and God cannot come to the world with any so-called ethical message, highly flavored and up to date, for that will not cleanse from sin; that will not make souls dead in trespasses and sins to live again; that will not make a man over new, giving him a new heart and a new purpose and a hope that will grow brighter until the full glory of Heaven bursts upon his vision. No, God comes with His simple, pertinent, persistent, unchanging message. He goes over the lesson again, and yet again. It is "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." It is in spite of God that the soul perishes. Surely God never fails to improve an opportunity to drive home His message. Through His true and faithful servants in the world today, through the circumstances and conditions of life, in a thousand and one different ways, God goes over and over the Gospel story of man a sinner and Christ a Saviour. Dear soul, whoever you are who reads these words, have you heard God's message and hearing have you obeyed it? Have you repented of sin and believed upon Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, the one who cleanses from all sin and saves with an everlasting salvation? Have you?

IF NOT, God's message to you is still "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; that you may go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and taken." The effect of God's message is finally one of two things: Either it melts the heart and molds the life anew in Christ Jesus, or it hardens as the clay is hardened under the burning rays of the sun. God keeps repeating His simple Gospel message over and over again that you may be won to Him, that you who have been estranged and an outcast from the Father's house, might be reconciled and brought back. And if you will not, if because of the hardness of your impenitent heart you scorn His gracious message, He keeps repeating it "that you may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared and taken." Do we hear it said to-day that the Gospel is not winning the world? Perhaps that is true, sadly true. But because of this it is not another message which the world needs, but it is the same old blessed Gospel which sounds forth and must sound forth, "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; that the world may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared and taken." "To the one it is a savor from death unto death," but to those who receive the message, it is a "savor from life unto life."

Tennessee State News

Preparing for a Big Crop.

Late reports from the fruit and vegetable growing counties traversed by the Memphis division of the Louisville & Nashville railroad indicate the early appearance in the market for this truck and in quantities exceeding the production of former seasons. Special reference is made to the West Tennessee counties because those counties lead the rest in the extent of strawberry and early vegetable shipments to the larger Northern and Eastern markets.

Conditions have been favorable for strawberry and vegetable growers, and indications are that these conditions will continue favorable for the early open air growth of all marketable truck. Advices are to the effect that preparations for strawberry and early vegetable growing have been made on a more extensive scale than ever before, and that under favorable climatic conditions truck shipments will be unprecedentedly heavy the coming season.

It has also been observed that the farmers are paying more attention to the diversification of their lighter crops than formerly, many farmers having large beds of cabbage plants and other vegetables that bring good prices if gotton on the market ahead of the competition that comes with the opening of the season in the North and East.

An idea of the extent of last season's business may be gained from official figures furnished by Lee Clary, division freight agent of the Louisville & Nashville railroad. These figures give the volume of business handled by the Louisville-Memphis division of the Louisville & Nashville and have no reference to the shipments over competing lines, though the Louisville & Nashville handles the bulk of this traffic.

The largest strawberry and early vegetable shipping points are: Bells, Gadsden, Fruitvale, Pomona, Humboldt, Gibson and Trezevant, all being stations between Memphis and McKenzie, Carroll county. Last season the Louisville & Nashville handled 141,000 crates of strawberries, sold at an average price of $1.35 per crate; 571,538 crates of tomatoes, sold at an average price of 50c per crate; 8,482 hampers of beans; 4,730 boxes of apples; 3,486 sacks of potatoes; 1,277 packages of cantaloupes; 696 crates of cabbage; 223 crates of cucumbers, and 61 crates of green corn.

This season indications are that the volume of business from these points will be nearly doubled. The farmers realize the possibilities of the traffic, and have prepared to increase their acreage.

It is contended that the prices realized on last season's products were below the mark of expectancy for the reason that strawberries and light vegetables, owing to retarding weather conditions, were not marketed in time to avoid competition with the same products of the later season. The strawberry crop, for instance, was two or three weeks backward, hence shipments to the Northern and the Eastern markets came in contact with the products of the more backward season. This year, however, the farmers anticipate an early season, which if realized, will enable them to market their truck at better prices.

It has been demonstrated that the greatest money crops are strawberries and early vegetables, and the counties of Crockett and Gibson have prospered as never before in their history since the farmers began the cultivation of the earlier truck fruits and vegetables.

Last season, under conditions far from ideal, farmers in the counties mentioned realized as much as $900 on an acre of land. This did not represent a single crop, however, but several crops, the land being replanted as soon as the preceding crop was gathered. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are brought to these fruit and vegetable counties each season from the sale of early light crops. The traffic has assumed such proportions that the larger commission houses of the North and the East send buyers to the shipping centers, and the farmers are paid for their truck on delivery at the station.

Harry Pierce Returns.

Harry Pierce, former cashier of the Illinois Central freight office at Dyersburg, returned last week and was placed under arrest on a warrant sworn out by the railroad officials. Bond was fixed at $1,000. T. W. White has returned from California and is checking up his accounts, to ascertain the shortage, which is understood to be in the neighborhood of $300. Relatives will make good the shortage, it is said, before the day of trial.

World's Fair Trip.

The finance committee of the Summer School of the South, at Knoxville, held a meeting a few days since, at which it was decided that $22,000 was needed to conduct the school this year. The general educational board will give $10,000, providing Knoxville and the school raise a corresponding sum. Knoxvillle will rase $5,000, $2,000 more has already been secured and tuitions will more than make up the balance. Dr. Dabney has planned a special trip to the World's Fair for all teachers who attend, and he expects an attendance fully 1,000 in excess of last year.

Avenged Brother's Death.

At Goffton, eight miles from Cookeville, last week, Dudley Kirby was shot and instantly killled by Elijah Randolph, and Randolph was shot and mortally wounded by Pete Kirby. Randolph was drunk and went to Dudley Kirby's house and raised a row. Kirby tried to quiet him with the result that Randolph shot him dead. Pete Kirby, living half a mile away, heard the shooting, and, seizing a shotgun, started to his brother's house. Near the house he met Randolph. A quarrel followed, and Randolph was shot. All were farmers in good standing.

Bate Leads in Greene.

The Greene county Democratic executive committee held a meeting last week at Greeneville. April 9 was set as the date for holding a primary to select candidates for the county offices. A poll of the committeemen was taken, and out of twenty members present eighteen were for Bate for senator. At the request of the committee the two candidates for the legislature will make the race for nomination before the primary, Allen as a McMillin man and Tipton as a Bate man.

New Date Approved.

A telegram was received at Nashville last week from Adjutant-General William E. Mickle of the United Confederate Veterans approving the new date proposed for the Confederate reunion, June 14, 15 and 16. The date was changed recently to that mentioned, provided Gen. Stephen D. Lee and the department commanders approved.

Ripley Residence Burned.

Last week the residence of John Rogers, at Ripley, was destroyed by fire, together with most of the contents. The family were away from home at the time, and the origin of the flames is unknown. The structure was owned by Judge J. W. Kirkpatrick, and was insured for $500. Rogers also carried $500 insurance on household goods.

Fast Mail Smashed a Wagon.

The fast mail train on the Henderson division of the Louisville & Nashville railroad ran into a wagon at Shiver's crossing a few days since, and killed Miss Maggie Patton and fatally injured her sister, Mary. Both horses were killed, and the wagon was demolished. The young women were substitute rural mail carriers.

Direct Vote for Senator.

A petition signed by several members of the Davidson county committee was presented to Chairman Bryan last week, asking him to call the county committee together to pass upon a proposition to submit the United States senatorship to the voters of Davidson county at the forthcoming April primary for county officers. Chairman Bryan has the matter under advisement.

Conductors Laid Off.

Fourteen conductors on the Tennessee Central have been suspended pending an investigation on the charge of unsatisfactory service. Conductors Gollithan and Cherrie were retained in active service. Other men were put on in the places made vacant, and no inconvenience was experienced by the road, according to General Manager Clarke.

Suicide of a Farmer.

Sherman Tidwell, a farmer living seven miles from Dickson, committed suicide by shooting himself last week. He was 30 years of age and unmarried. Mental aberration is suggested in explanation.

Washington Not a Candidate.

Former Congressman Joseph E. Washington, announced last week that he had decided not to be a candidate for congress in his district. He may stand for delegate to the national convention.

Tobacco Moving Freely.

As a result of several days of warm, damp weather, tobacco throughout the Clarksville tobacco district is getting in order and large deliveries may soon be expected to commence.

ASTOUNDS THE MORMONS

The Effect of President Smith's Testimony in Salt Lake.

Members of the Mormon Faith Are Almost Paralyzed At the Revelation of Their Secrets.

Salt Lake City, Utah, March 6.—The testimony given by President Smith, head of the Mormon church, before the senate committee, astounded both Mormon and gentile. For years the policy of the church has been one of secrecy, and President Smith's action in boldly stating that not only himself but the rest of the church officials are living in open defiance of the law has so amazed the members of the Mormon faith that their tongues are almost paralyzed.

The official organ of the Mormon church praises President Smith and savagely attacks the anti-Smoot people. It accuses Attorney Tayler of trying to peer beneath the "bed clothing of Mormon homes," and denounces him for "prying into the private affairs of President Smith and his fellow-polygamists."

It is known here that Smith was compelled to make his confession because he had knowledge that the anti-Smoot people had a clear case against him and other church officials. There was nothing else for him to do but make a complete confession.

THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

The Standard Oil Co. to Build the Largest Oil Refinery In the World at Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., March 6.—The Standard Oil Co., is, it is said, to build the largest oil refinery in the world at Kansas City, and pipe oil from Kansas. The refinery, it is stated, is to be located in what is known as the Sugar Creek valley, on the Missouri river, ten miles south of the business center of Kansas City, where 120 acres of land have already been purchased. Surveyors are now at work on the site, and it is predicted that the plant will be running by October next. There is to be an acid plant, paraffin works, tallow works and various other facilities for the manufacture of the products of the crude oil. The plant will, it is said, employ 1,700 men. A pipe line that will carry the oil nearly 200 miles from Neodesha, Kas., is to be built to the new refinery. The deal for the land is said to have been under way for several months, and to have been conducted with the utmost secrecy.

WOULD DIE WITH RUDOLPH

Collins, the Respited Union (Mo.) Murderer Expresses a Wish to Die With His Chum.

St. Louis, March 6.—When Collins was informed by Jailer Dawson, Friday night, of the respite which had been granted him, he remarked that "he knew they would."

"I am glad for the reason that I will have the opportunity of knowing how the trial of Bill (referring to Rudolph) will come out. I suppose they will hand him the same bunch," he said.

Collins also expressed the desire that if Rudolph was to hang, the two executions be made one. "We have lived together," he said, "and we might as well die together."

BRAINED BY FOSTER FATHER

A Little Orphan Girl Brained With an Ax by Joseph Wagner, Jr., in Logan County, Ark.

Little Rock, Ark., March 6.—The farm of Joseph Wagner, near Paris, Logan county, was the scene of a horrible tragedy. Joseph Wagner, Jr., became sudenly insane and brained with an ax a little orphan girl who had been adopted by the family.

He also slaughtered five milch cows with the same instrument of destruction, afterward cutting the throats of the animals. The insane man first killed the cows, which were in the barn, and the little girl, who had followed him to the barn, screamed, when he turned and struck her twice in the forehead, killing her instantly. Wagner is in custody.

SAMUEL A. GROFF SENTENCED

Motion in Arrest of Judgment Overruled by Judge Pritchard and Sentence Pronounced.

Washington, March 6.—Justice Pritchard overruled the motion of Samuel A. Groff, one of the recently-convicted defendants in the post office trials, and sentenced him to two years in the Moundsville penitentiary and to pay a fine of $10,000, sentence to begin on arrival at the penitentiary. Groff immediately furnished bond for $20,000, pending an appeal.

THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED.

Eight Lives Reported Lost By the Collapse of a Bridge Under Two Locomotives.

Cleveland, O., March 6.—Eight lives are reported to have been lost, Saturday, as a result of two engines on the Cleveland & Pittsburg railroad going through a bridge over Yellow creek, near Irondale. The bridge had been weakened by high water and collapsing when the engines ran onto it.

LATEST WAR NEWS FROM THE ORIENT

Vladivostok Bombarded for Fifty-Five Minutes.

BATTERIES DID NOT REPLY

Russians Claim the Attack Was Entirely Ineffective—Another Attack May Be Expected Soon.

Vladivostok, March 7.—A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off this place at 1:25 o'clock Sunday, and bombarded the town and shore batteries for 55 minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold island, at the east entrance to Ussuri bay, and about thirty-two miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri bay, the enemy formed a line of battle, but did not approach to a closer range than a mile and one-third. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and the town, but no damage resulted, as most of their 200 lyddite shells failed to burst.

The Russian batteries, commanded by Generals Veronetz anr Artamonoff, did not reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2:20 p. m., and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold Island.

Simultaneously, two torpedo boat destroyers appeared near Askold island and two more near Cape Maidel. The Japanese ships were covered with ice. The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the enemy 200,000 rubles ($100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were 6 and 12 inch shells.

The population of Vladivostok was warned Sunday morning of the presence on the horizon of a hostile fleet and the prospect of attack during the day.

CONFIRM REPORT OF DAMAGE.

Late News Confirms Report of Damage Done to Forts.

New Chwang, March 7.—The latest arrivals from Port Arthur confirm the report of damage done the western forts by bombardment from Pigeon bay.

Desultory night firing continues. The civilian population is being expelled. A train has been derailed by an obstruction placed on the metals.

No further damage has been suffered by the Russian ships. The Askold has been floated.

RUSSIAN CRUISERS ABSENT.

Attack on Vladivostok Directed by Admiral Uriu.

St. Petersburg, March 7.—Telegrams received here concerning the bombardment of Vladivostock do not refer to the bravery of crews, wherefore the conclusion is reached that the Russian Vladivostok cruisers were absent, trying for a junction with the Port Arthur squadron. Japanese cruisers are in the Korean straits watching. The squadron which bombarded Vladivostok was a detachment of Admiral Togo's fleet, commanded by Admiral Uriu.

THINK FLEET IS BOTTLED.

No News Concerning the Vladivostok Bombardment.

London, March 7.—There is not a word yet from Japanese sources concerning the Vladivostok bambardment. The general deduction from the news is that the Russian fleet is as effectively bottled up at Vladivostok as at Port Arthur. Though the latter place has not been attacked for some days, the ships there have not shown the slightest sign of daring to go out of the harbor. This also suggests corroboration of the reports that the outlet is considerably hampered by the vessels the Japanese sank there.

Admiral Togo, in bombarding Vladivostok, ic considered to have various objects in view, first the hope of tempting the Russian squadron to emerge, with the view of attacking, and also to learn the general condition of the forts. Some experts suggest that the fact that the Japanese ships were covered with ice point to the likelihood that the Russian squadron is frozen in, the ice breaker not daring to work recently.

The consensus of opinion is that the Russian fleet is completely useless for defensive purposes. Japanese merchantmen and transports are going to and from unarmed and unescorted.

Says It Was a Ruse.

Paris, March 7.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says concerning the bombardment of Vladivostok Sunday afternoon that the opinion of competent men is that the Japanese wished to find out whether or not the Russian squadron was in the port of Vladivostok, in the belief that should it prove to be absent it would be necessary for the vessels to return and defend the place.

Completed May First.

Kansas City, Mo., March 7.—The Rock Island's St. Louis-Kansas City line will be completed May 1. The tracklayers, moving westward, are 65 miles from Kansas City, and the grading is completed to a point ten miles east of Kansas City. The connection will be made with the 'Frisco track for an entrance into this city.

Farm Sold at $1,000 an Acre.

Pana, Ill., March 7.—John Heinz has bought the Robert Ewing farm of 169 acres, in Rosemond township, Christian county, for $160,000.