

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, AUGUST 23.

Lesson VIII. The Wedding Feast—Matt. 22:1-14. Golden Text, Luke 13:34.

Verse 1. Jesus answered—Replied to the angered Pharisees when they sought to lay hold on him because of his alluding to them as the wicked husbands (see preceding lesson). His reply is couched in the words of another parable even more pointed and direct than the one which so greatly offended them.

2. A marriage feast—In accordance with Oriental custom, the festivities connected with the wedding would last for days; Judges 14:17 gives the number as seven.

3. His servants—The messengers whom these Pharisees had heard speak were John the Baptist and Jesus, though other prophets still spoke to them through their written messages.

4. They would not come—This was the height of discourtesy and an open insult to the host.

5. Other servants—In the interpretation of this parable, perhaps the other servants were the disciples who had been sent forth to preach.

6. Dinner—This was the midday meal. Supper would come later in the day.

7. My oxen and my fatlings are killed—Especially kept and fattened for the feast. This shows that it was to be a feast on a large scale.

8. Made light of it—They treated the pressing invitation of the servants and their description of the feast with complete indifference. The verb here used is the same which in Heb. 2:3 is translated "neglect": "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"

9. The rest laid hold on his servants and treated them shamefully, and killed them—those who were not content with simply disregarding the invitation, but like the chief priests and rulers, persecuted those who gave the invitation.

10. The king was wroth—Their refusal of the invitation implied dishonor and defiance of his authority.

11. Sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned their city—This was done at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans.

12. The parings of the highways—Very likely the places where the roads from the country came together to enter the city gates.

13. As many as ye shall find, bid—The Talmud says that it was customary among rich men to invite poor travelers to feasts, so that this parable would not seem strange to Jesus's hearers. Being interpreted, it of course means that the gospel invitation was to be extended to all people. This was done by Paul and others before the destruction of Jerusalem, and after that event its proclamation and acceptance among the Gentiles became general.

14. Both bad and good—As in the parables of the net and of the wheat and the tares, this implies that bad as well as good will respond to the invitation, and may be found together in the church of Christ. It may also mean that admission into the church is not to be denied to any except known evildoers. If the heart of a bad man responds to the gospel invitation, should not the church receive him and endeavor by means of sympathetic training to help him correct his faults, put away his sins, and lead a new life?

15. But when the king came in to behold the guests—Not to look for possible offenders but to greet his guests and bid them welcome.

16. A man who had not on a wedding garment—These closing verses are thought by some to be a part of another parable, referring to the last judgment, where each man's presence is tested by his fitness. If it is connected with the preceding verses, we will have to understand that it was the custom to have the robes supplied by the king's servants, since the invitation had been urgent and immediate, the guests had come in a hurry, and there would have been no time to procure a wedding robe, even had these poor guests had the means of purchasing one. What the custom was is not indicated. The parable simply states that a wedding robe was necessary, and that the failure of his guest to have one was due to indifference on the part of the guest, or to open defiance of the rules of the king's household. In the interpretation of the parable the wedding garment refers to a holy life.

17. And he was speechless—Because consciously out of and out of robes, he cast him out into the outer darkness. To our democratic views this punishment seems out of proportion to the offense, but not so to the hearers of Jesus, who knew how seriously matters of etiquette are viewed at Oriental courts.

18. There shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth—A common

The Centre of the Great War Drama in Europe.



This map is worth preserving, because it shows in greater detail than do most small atlases the part of Europe in which the issues of the war are to be decided. Present indications are that the Germans' main attempt to reach Paris will be through Belgian territory. The outlook is that battles will be fought around Brussels, Liege, and Namur, and it may be that another conclusive engagement will take place at Waterloo, which is not named on the map, but is located just west of Brussels. Other German armies are operating to the west of Metz, and near Epinal, lower down on the French border. The North Sea is also shown, with the principal ports plainly indicated.

phrase descriptive of the misery of one turned out into outer darkness. One commentator mentions that the suggestion may have come from the howling and snapping of teeth of hungry wolves, heard by a lonely traveler in the darkness. The expression is used five times in Matthew and once in Luke.

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This is General Sir Dighton Probyn, V.C., K.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.S.I. Though well over 80, this handsome military patriarch loses none of his youthful ardor when "on guard" over the King's mother, and the high position accorded him in the entourage of Queen Alexandra has been well won, not only by many years of faithful watchfulness over the destinies of the royal family, but by most distinguished services to the country as an army officer.

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HIDDEN SUBMARINE MINES

MOST TREACHEROUS MODE OF WARFARE.

A Modern Invention, and There Are Only Two Methods of Fighting Them.

Submarine mines are probably the most treacherous war auxiliaries used in modern warfare owing to their location being so well hidden from the all unsuspecting vessels.

Once they are hit all is over. It was one of these which sank the "Amphion."

The use of the submarine mine as a legitimate weapon of defence and offense in warfare received the seal of international authority for the first time during the American Civil War. Tactical and local conditions determine the location of the system of submarine mines with reference to the other elements of the defence; the latter with width and depth of channel, swiftness of current and variations of tide.

Submarine mines are either buoyant or ground mines and in general are of four kinds, (1) observation mines; (2) electro contact mines; (3) electro mechanical mines; and (4) extemporized mines. Ground mines of the second and third classes have the firing mechanism in a floating buoy.

Controlled on Shore. Observation mines are controlled from a distant observation station, generally on shore, and fired by electricity when the target arrives over the mine. These mines are usually only about 10 feet under the water and this method is sometimes called judgment firing.

Electro contact mines are intended for explosion in actual contact with a ship's bottom, and explode upon receiving a violent blow, or upon being tilted sidewise to an angle sufficient to close the electric circuit contained in the mine. In

some cases this circuit-closing device consists of an iron ball in a circular spring, which rolls against contact springs, and in others of a body of mercury which comes in contact with a spindle when the mine is tipped, and this completes the electric circuit. This method is called automatic firing. Mines are usually arranged for combination firing, that is, for either judgment or automatic firing.

Electro-mechanical mines differ from electro-contact mines in that they themselves contain the firing battery.

Extemporized mines may be made by filling a barrel or box with gunpowder or gun-cotton, and fitting an electrical fuse to it.

Submarine mines, except purely automatic floating mines used in emergencies, are controlled from the mining case-mate on shore, which receives its information and orders from the mine commander stationed in his observing tower. The mines are planted in several lines, so as to compel hostile vessels to pass in range of more than one mine.

Destroying Them. Submarine mines are usually attacked by counter-mining, which consists in laying a fresh line of mines across or near a mine field, and in causing the explosion of the old mines by the explosion resulting from firing the new ones. Another method of attack is by sweeping, which consists of sending a pair of boats, connected by means of cables fitted with grappling irons, and sometimes with explosive charges, to drag over suspecting mine fields.

Innocent Suffered. Owing to the havoc created among neutral vessels during the Russo-Japanese war, and among all shipping for several years, by drifting mines floated in the vicinity of Port Arthur, the Hague conference in 1907 forbade the use of unanchored mines, or of anchored mines broken loose from their cables except they were of a type which became harmless soon after; also the placing of mines along the coasts and in front of the ports of an enemy with the

intent to destroy commerce. At the close of a war all belligerents are to remove mines they have planted. The rules were to remain in force seven years.

British Opposed It. The British Government has always opposed mine-laying in shallow water as a disloyal and cruel form of war, cruel because it is directed largely against merchant shipping, and so may cause heavy sacrifice of life among innocent non-combatants, women and children, because it is often carried out, as in this case, by vessels taken over from the merchant marine.

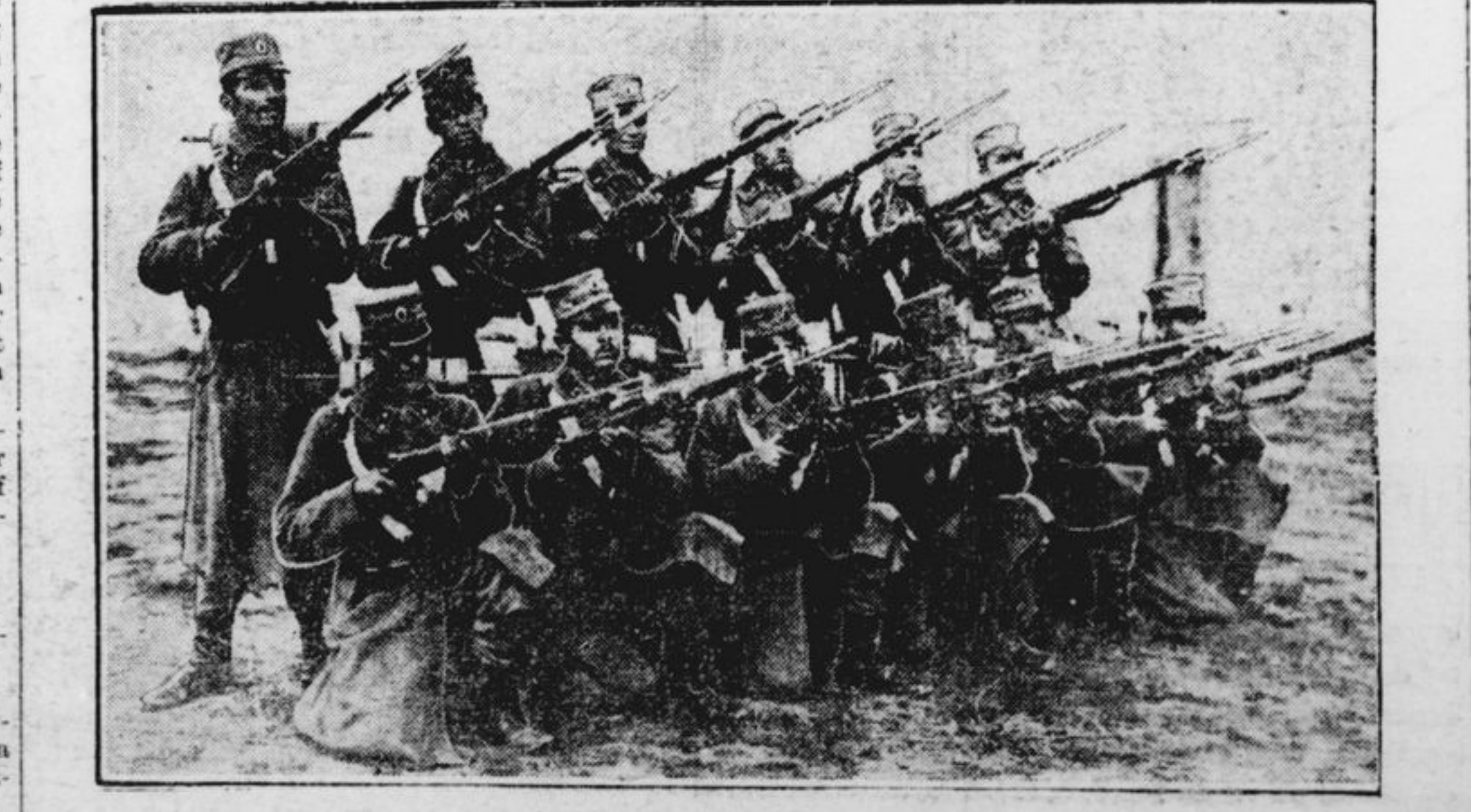
British envoys to The Hague Conference in 1907 made earnest efforts to secure prohibition of mines, but were defeated by the opposition of Germany for reasons which are now clearly understood.

Was in Tornado. Capt. Fox, who was in command of the Amphion, was a midshipman on board the British warship Calypso, the only warship which escaped destruction in the terrific Samoa tornado of 1889.

The Lance, which sank the German mine layer, Koenigstein Luise, is one of the newest types of destroyers, developing 27,000 horsepower, with a speed of 33 knots. She is armed with three 4-inch quickfiring and burns oil. Her tonnage is 5,100, and her complement 100 men.

Faithfulness. The diamond is one kind of crystal and coal is another. But, on the whole, though the diamond is beautiful, the world would rather give up its diamonds than its coal. More depends upon the coal—far more. Genius is as shining as the diamond; faithfulness to duty is often as dull as the coal to the eye. But it is the latter, after all, that helps the world most.

Glass in Place of Iron. The iron ore deposits of the world are being exhausted, and the time is not far distant when we will have to get along without iron and steel. Some substitute will have to be found and it has been suggested by a scientist that the logical successor will be glass.



Servian Troops Ready for Action. A detachment of Servian troops, showing the type of men and equipment in the army of the little country engaged in war with Austria.

FOOD SUPPLY AND THE WAR

WHAT AN EXPERT THINKS OF THE SITUATION.

He Says That Great Britain Will Have to Depend on Russia.

Ratlidge Rutherford, a food expert who recently toured Europe studying food conditions, says in the New York Herald:— Should the Armageddon come, it will be a war of foods. Already the famine scare has seized parts of Germany and England, and it would not be surprising if it soon developed into a panic. France, too, remembering the days of 1871 when meat sold at \$20 a pound, is feeling tremulous.

To England and Germany the problem is of most momentous concern, for these two nations are dependent on the outside for most of their sustenance. "Starvation, not invasion, is the danger of the country," declared A. J. Balfour several years ago in arguing against the declaration of London. The declaration will prevent America from contributing prominently to the relief of war-ridden nations. England expects to gain by her treaty with Russia more than she will have lost through the restricted relations with the United States, and maybe in that she has shown wisdom. That remains to be determined.

England's Serious Problem. It is the most serious problem England has to consider, the continuance of her food supply. With her it is not a question of quality. Hence little attention is paid there to the purity of foods. The food laws are lax and inadequately enforced. A report of the Local Government Board of Scotland shows that of three hundred and fifty-two samples of British origin submitted to chemical analysis, one hundred and fifty-eight were found to contain boron compounds, and twelve preservative sulphites. Any means of obtaining the requisite amount of food and the requisite purity as possible is welcome in England. Should the nation's food supply be shut off by any means, starvation would impend immediately.

London's Plight. Think what it would mean to London alone! London with its environs has a population of nine millions, which receives its sustenance through the London markets and produces no food at all. Not in history is there a situation like this—such a vast assemblage of people huddled together in such a small area on an island and all dependent for their food on outside sources.

If London should be besieged as was Paris in 1871 famine would set in immediately. This mighty swarm of people consumes each day five million loaves of bread, four thousand tons of potatoes, 300,000 gallons and tons of milk, nearly a million cabbages, and in season 20,000 pecks of peas and beans. All over the world people are busy growing the grain, raising the cattle, looking after the poultry, catching the fish and tending the fruits and vegetables to keep London and England supplied with their foods from day to day. America has been supplying an enormous proportion of it.

Rearrange Food Avenues. But there must be a great rearrangement of the food avenues in case of war. The way to America is long and perilous. This perhaps is the cause of certain articles in the Declaration of London. It helps to explain the cause of England's alliance with Russia so soon after the Russo-Japanese war, when we found her a firm ally of Japan. Britain's main source of supply in British colonies that are not too far distant.

That is one great disadvantage with most of the British colonies. They are so far away that the route is beset with all manner of perils in case of war. And then it is difficult to keep many routes open and protected. Far simpler it would be to maintain one great route of supply from Russia, patrolled by the most powerful of England's warships. It was for such a purpose that they were built. It is for such purpose that they will be used if war is to be. Considering England's position, then, we must admit that she has been far-sighted in building her mighty fleet of battleships and forming an alliance with Russia, the greatest food-producing nation on earth. The same is true of France.

Austria's Position. Austria-Hungary is a great food producing country herself, but nothing to compare with Russia. Then the art of agriculture is but poorly developed there. In many parts the people are almost in a state of semi-civilization. It is a country where the women go barefoot and do most of the work, while the men drink beer. In nearly all respects the nation is far behind the other great powers of the world. Italy is largely dependent on outside sources for her food supply and is a very weak nation from many standpoints.

Germany's alliance with Austria, like England's with Russia, is for the purpose of assuring a food supply in case of war. Austria-Hungary is Germany's cupboard, and Russia is England's. Germany's cupboard is more accessible but less productive. Long Germany has realized her weakness in this respect, and she has taken heroic

measures to remedy it. Despite all this, however, Germany's capacity for producing food is exceedingly small compared to her population.

The whole nation might be compared to a great manufacturing centre producing little food for herself, but calling on the outside world for supply, just as cities call upon the surrounding farms. Of necessity, then, conservation plays an important part in the nation's administration. It governs everything and everywhere.

The German Problem. With an area of less than 208,750 square miles—less than the State of Texas—Germany has seventy million mouths to feed. What this means can best be understood by comparison with United States. America, with a population of 90,000,000, has an area of 3,624,922 square miles, or more than seventeen times that of Germany. America has 22 6/7 acres of land to every inhabitant. Germany only 1.9.

And this is true, notwithstanding the nation's great efforts toward conservation. Every foot, indeed, almost every inch, of Germany's area is called upon to contribute its share toward the nation's subsistence. All possible sources of waste are avoided. Owners of vacant lots are compelled to leave them to tenants at regulated prices for garden purposes. The trees along many of the highways and country lanes are food bearing trees and shrubbery in so far as consistency permits yields berries and other edibles. The fruits cannot be plucked except at specified times and by licensed persons. Even the wild nuts and berries of the forest are governed by such restrictions, and anyone gathering them without a license is liable to arrest and fine. Since most of the soil is poor in quality the Government has given a great deal of encouragement to the raising of potatoes, as this vegetable will thrive in poor land. Potatoes, grease and sugar beets are three of Germany's most important sources of economy.

Test For Many. Now, with war on hand, Germany has a chance to test the efficacy of her conservation scheme as well as her other prearranged schemes for preventing a food famine. Each city and village as a unit is commissioned to look out for its own population. Likelihood that the railroad system will be blocked to ordinary traffic has caused each to take steps to increase the stock of provisions within its own jurisdiction. The Berlin City Council has commissioned a number of firms to purchase and bring in supplies of grain and flour. Most of the other municipalities have followed suit.

LIVERPOOL'S GREATNESS. Always Reigned Supreme in the Shipping Service.

No account of Liverpool's maritime greatness would be complete without a passing reference to the vastness and variety of her overseas traffic. A myriad vessels of every type and size ply between it and the other great ports of the world. Here it is that the agencies of nations meet, richly laden with the products of the globe—East India merchantmen, whose fleecy cargoes of finest wool from far Bombay and Calcutta are soon to be turned into cloth in the textile mills of Yorkshire, and whose dusty cargoes of Karachi wheat are destined to be ground into flour in the numerous corn mills of the port; steamers and sailors laden with similar commodities, and with frozen meat from the River Plate and the far-flung ports of the Antipodes; schooners of the large four-masted type bringing nitrate of soda from the Chilean ports of South America, and others whose freight consists of grain from the Pacific slopes of North America; large steamships laden with monster packages of provisions, tobacco, timber, leather, and other products from Canada and the United States, and with hales of raw cotton from the great Gulf ports of the Southern States; vessels with silks and cereals from China and Japan, rice and timber from Borneo, sugar from Java, Germany, and Cuba, barley and other grains from the Black Sea, fruits from the Mediterranean, brandy and liquors from Bordeaux and Cognac, rubber from the Brazils, palm-oil and palm-nut kernels from the West Coast of Africa, and copper and silver ores from Callao and other Peruvian ports; tank-steamers, specially constructed for carrying oil in bulk, bring thousands of gallons of that useful lubricant from American and Russian territories; tramp steamers that have sailed uncharted seas, with needless cargoes from wherever they can find a freight; fishing-trawlers with their finny freights from neighboring waters and Icelandic seas; and last, but by no means least, the great Atlantic liners for which Liverpool is noted, for it is from this port that the largest, finest, and fastest steamers engaged in the North Atlantic trade start on their journey to "the other side" of the globe, the Mauritania, and the latest giant of them all, the Aquitania, which has just been added to the Cunard fleet. As a port Liverpool has always reigned supreme in this service. Some times no fewer than six of the stately ships, each with its complement of passengers and cargo, drop down the tideway on a single afternoon, and swing out through the great gateless gateway of the port en route for the land of the setting sun.

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AUDACITY

Neither German Ar

A despatch from London. The Post correspondent at the Belgian army sends the following:— "The success of the Belgians has been astonishing. Ever along the line of outposts, man meets with baffling. Like an angry dog leaping to capture the vanquished, the stands puzzled.

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