



### SOUTH AFRICA

#### BATTLE OF SPITZKOP—DETAILS.

#### WHAT JOUBERT SAYS

#### "HANDS OFF!"

#### SYMPATHY AT THE HAGUE.

#### British Cabinet Coming to their Senses.

#### BLOOD! BLOOD!

LONDON, March 2.—A correspondent at Prospect Hill says:—It is useless to attempt to fight the Boers with numerically inferior forces. They are man for man, more than equal to our own. They are as courageous, intently better shots, and marvellously skilled, taking advantage of every cover. Their coolness under fire is perfect, and, while fighting individually, all work in concert and in obedience to orders. They openly express contempt for our infantry, but fear our cavalry and artillery.

The correspondent at Prospect Hill, who was taken prisoner and released by the Boers, reports that he had an interview with Joubert, the Boer Commander, who complained of Colley for bringing on a battle when peace negotiations were proceeding, and said the Boers were prepared to treat for peace on the basis of their liberty. An offensive Irish renegade was with Joubert, and appeared to be his chief adviser.

LONDON, March 2.—President Hoyt, of the Dutch Transvaal Committee, has issued a strong appeal to the people of England. He asks every honest Englishman to support the committee in their effort to restrain the Government from proceeding with its present unfortunate policy. He asks: "Should a people who have long peacefully bought the English nation for freedom be exterminated because, when driven to desperation, they seek their rights by the only resources left open to them?" He says: "Do not cease your protests against injustice; insist on the recall of your troops, and leave to far distant nations the blessings which as freemen you yourselves have dearly purchased and hold most dear."

Of course the appeal meets with more ridicule than consideration. The whole tone of the London press, excepting the *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Felo and Truth*, is expressed in the words of Mr. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., to-night, at a Liberal meeting. Referring to the war in the Transvaal he suggests as the nation of the world know the power of Britain she could offer terms of peace to the brave Boers, which would not be taken as indicative of weakness. He remarked that in order to demonstrate the prowess of this country to the ignorant tribes of South Africa it was absolutely necessary that the Boers should be forced to lay down their swords and bucklers before any negotiations came from the British nation. Wildly unreasoning, the English papers show themselves incapable of discussing the justice of the Boers' claim; they are rabid in their demand for blood. "In a spirit," as the *Pall Mall Gazette* says, "of shameful barbarity, England, who is ready to offer mediation when other powers are engaged in cutting each other's throats, refuses in her journals to allow the Christian spirit to interfere now with her diabolical desire to slay the Boers. Almost alone among the influential London press the *Pall Mall Gazette* pleads for the victors."

Precisely the same mistaken spirit which has landed us in political disaster in Ireland has prepared the way for disaster in the Transvaal. The British Government took no pains to discover what the people concerned really desired. They listened to the first story told them and then made up their minds to listen to no other. At this moment we are urged to persevere in an inequitable and impolitic war, without giving the Boers an opening for reconciliation. There is no impartial man in England who does not know what Joubert said to the correspondent of the *Standard* is literally true. If this be anything like the truth with what conscience can we persist in refusing even a hearing to these men.

Many are asking who is the Irish renegade in the Boer campaign? A gentleman writes to an afternoon paper, that it is probably Mr. Aylward, author of an interesting work on the Transvaal, but who is by no means a renegade. The writer says: "Mr. Aylward was engaged in the service of the Transvaal Government before the annexation, thereby losing his status as a British subject, which he has never taken steps to regain. No doubt he has been in close sympathy with the Boers since. That his manners might give the impression described, I can very readily understand, though it is only just to say that not a few British officers who came in contact with him in Pietermaritzburg, while the Zulu war was in progress, formed a favorable estimate of his character. If he has any part in the direction of the military movements of the Boers their admirable tactics can be readily explained, for he is a man with veritable genius for irregular warfare." He is a native of County Kilkenny. The *Standard's* correspondent, who has done such remarkable good work, is Lieut. Cameron, the African explorer.

LONDON, March 4.—The *Standard* correspondent, who was liberated on parole by Joubert to bring medical assistance for the English wounded after the battle of Spitzkop, gives further particulars of his interview with the Boer commander. He says: "Joubert asked me to tell the people of England that he was sure that they and their Ministers meant to do what was right and just; but that the English officials and army commanders worked for their own ends and wilfully misrepresented facts. Hence the Transvaal was driven to desperation by the feeling that it was hopeless to look for justice."

England was fighting now for honor as for domination; the Boers for liberty; for which they were prepared to die. The God of battles was with them. Their loss in the capture of the strong position of Majala, and the rout of the British troops was, he said, only one killed and five wounded. Joubert also said that the people of the Transvaal were quite prepared to accept a scheme of African confederation, provided that they were left entirely to themselves. Upon this matter he said that he had also been misrepresented. "I told the Boer leader that I would transmit his message to England."

The statement as to the Boer loss appears, I must own, scarcely credible. I found that in the Dutch camp were fifty un wounded English prisoners and seven officers.

The London papers publish extracts from the continental papers on the British defeat at Spitzkop. The Austrian journals report the phrase, "Hands off," once used by Gladstone against Austria in reference to the Balkans' question. The *Transvaal Press* says:—"Misfortune follows misfortune, blunder succeeds blunder ever since Mr. Gladstone has resumed office. It appears as though fate intended with the name of Gladstone to mark the downfall of Great Britain as one of the great Powers of the world."

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 4.—The President of the Orange Free State has received a telegram from the Boer Commander declaring that the Boers desire to prevent further bloodshed, but it rests with England alone to stay hostilities. The Boers are simply defending themselves. They are willing to accept all efforts to promote peace, provided they do not conflict with their resolutions to acquire freedom.

LONDON, March 7.—The various answers to questions in Parliament, to-day, show that the Government approved of Gen. Wood's action relative to an armistice with the Boers. During the armistice both parties promise not to make any forward movement, but retain liberty to move within their own lines. Only provisions, not ammunition, are to be sent to the garrisons. Joubert undertakes to inform the garrisons of the armistice, and will use his influence to induce the Boers' commanders to permit the removal of the British wounded in the garrisons to Natal. Joubert also undertakes to pass provisions for the beleaguered garrisons through the Boer lines. On the arrival of provisions at the garrisons, both blockading and besieged parties are to suspend hostilities for eight days.

MOUNT PROSPECT, Mar. 7.—The rumours of the surrender of Standerton are untrue. AMSTERDAM, March 8.—At a meeting here, on Saturday, speakers pointed out that the demonstration was not directed against England, but was held simply to sympathize with the Boers. Resolutions were passed expressing the hope that the Boers would obtain their independence, and that the Dutch Government would do all in its power to procure peace.

THE HAGUE, March 8.—In the Second Chamber to-day, the Premier said the Government was most anxious to aid in the restoration of peace in the Transvaal, without, however, departing from strict neutrality.

LONDON, March 7.—At last Mr. Gladstone's Government shows a disposition to break from Conservative fetters in matters of foreign policy. It has done an act of statesmanship, it has placed itself above the clamor for revenge and for the restoration of British prestige, and has reopened negotiations to settle terms of peace with the Boers. The announcement of the truce concluded between General Wood and Commandant Joubert is received with horror by the Jingo papers, but the weaker Liberal journals are picking up courage enough to be ashamed of having joined in the hue and cry of Conservative editorials. The *Conservative Standard* is rabid on the subject of the truce.

"Englishmen," it says, "will read with a deep feeling of shame and humiliation the news that an armistice has been concluded with the Boers. For the first time in the history of this country England has, without making an effort to retrieve her misfortunes, capitulated to a successful rebellion. In the case of the struggle for American independence, although we had a European war upon our hands, we strove for years to retrieve our defeats before we acknowledged ourselves beaten. Now a-days all this is changed. It is from the high places of England that rebellion is fostered and encouraged. The news of disaster is met by brave words in public and by the lavish expenditure of public money and by orders to our Generals to make peace on any terms. The British public understand now why General Colley led his men on to a desperate enterprise, and why he and so many others died on the hill. He shrank from carrying out the shameful task entrusted him, and from having his name associated throughout the world with this disgraceful surrender after defeat. He was determined to make an effort to force the Boers to fall back from Natal. Hitherto some have been inclined to regard General Colley as a victim to his own rashness. Now, we shall think of him as a patriot of the old type—as a man who died in endeavoring to save his country from the dishonor which her Ministers were preparing for her."

It seems indeed as if the Government had really outwitted its quondam allies. The idea prevails that General Roberts was sent off in order to pacify the Jingo element of the British public, which has been of late strongly recruited from both parties, thus giving time for negotiations to be carried on, and possibly for peace to be concluded before the Commander-in-Chief's arrival at the scene of operations, and by the time when the English would naturally expect the slaughter of vengeance to commence. They calculate, and doubtless rightly, that by the time Gen. Roberts arrives the English people will have returned to reason, and be as heartily ashamed of their course in this Boer affair as Europe is of them to-day.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, which with Mr. Labouchere of *Truth* and Mr. Cowen of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, has always pleaded the cause of the Transvaal as well as that of justice before Coercion for Ireland, says: "There are many who will condemn the attempt to conclude peace until the Boers are crushed. It is gratifying to find this irrational sentiment rated at its true value by the Government which does not share the false pride which prevented the Government of George III. from treating with the American insurgents until they had laid down their arms. Lord Derby warned us that it is the first form of public cowardice when you do that which you do not believe to be in itself wise or politic, merely because you think that if you do not do it somebody else will think you are afraid. Of that worst form of cowardice the Government, fortunately for the country, is entirely free." The *Pall Mall Gazette* continues its remarks recalling Burke's memorable words on the war for American independence, and concludes, "It is praiseworthy to believe that this wise counsel is not thought mean and unworthy of consideration in the affairs of to-day, and that the Government in its policy in the Transvaal is acting with the wisdom of Burke instead of imitating the policy of George III."

New York, March 8.—The *World's* cable despatch says: "The Government propose to grant the Boers a constitution similar to the Confederation Act, under which Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were merged into the Dominion."

CAPE COAST CASTLE, March 6.—Two runners from the King of Ashantee have arrived. It is believed they fear a war message, and that the Ashantees are on the march. A volunteer corps is forming.

#### THE ASHANTEES.

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#### UNITED STATES.

##### BALLOONING ACCIDENT.

###### THREE PASSENGERS DROWNED.

NEW YORK, March 8.—The *World's* cable despatch says:—A balloon with an aeronaut and eight passengers ascended from Nice, yesterday, and was carried to sea. Three passengers were drowned at night while the balloon dragged the water. The others succeeded in closing the valves of the balloon which rose and afterwards landed.

MEMPHIS, Mar. 8.—The body of John Welsh who several months ago wounded Capt. Davis, a revenue officer, and killed Davis' deputy, was found in Fortness county with his throat cut. It is believed Welsh was murdered by his companions to prevent the disclosure of their crimes.

RALPH, N. C., Mar. 8.—A stringent license law which passed the House has been defeated in the Senate. The bill had been reported in the House prohibiting the manufacture or importation of liquors and providing for the submission of the question to public vote.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Specialists to the *World* say: "The rumors of an extra session and the continued deadlock are freely discussed. The President has given assurances that he will appoint John B. Bowman, Lexington, Ky., to succeed Rust, Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Rust, of the Treasury, Schofield, it is reported, will have the Russian Mission, and Governor Young, Ohio, will succeed him."

The *Herald* says: "The record shows that Windom's attitude on the Silver Bill was in accordance with Garfield's views. Jewell is understood of for the Russian Mission. It is understood that the delegates to the International Monetary Conference."

The *Tribune* says: "The consideration of the Chinese treaties will likely consume a considerable time of the Senate's extra session. Morton may not accept the French Mission if it appears his resignation will interfere with the Republican organization of the House. It is understood that very few changes in the Departments will be made at present. It is regarded as certain that Hilliard and Christianity will soon be recalled from Brazil and Peru."

New York, March 8.—In the walking match at 9 a.m. Kowell had concluded 161 miles; Albert has withdrawn. At 8.40 Vanhgan was 129 miles; O'Leary 127.

The brig Emma Hall from Cardenas, ground near Sandy Hook, experienced terrible weather at sea, during which the son of Captain Ferry and the second mate were swept overboard and drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Roswell P. Homer has given at St. Thomas Episcopal Church \$35,000, of building St. Thomas' Home, and \$5,000, a perpetual fund for charitable purposes, in memory of their only son, who died recently.

### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

#### COERCION BILL in the LORDS

#### THEY RUSHED IT THROUGH!

#### The Arms' Bill!

#### The Gag for Irish Members Only.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

LONDON, March 1.—Earl Spencer, in moving the second reading of the Protection Bill, pointed out that outrages, though greatly diminished in number, were still committed in Ireland. He said outrages could only be the result of inflammatory speeches, but necessity for the bill arose less from the perpetration of outrages than from the difficulty of tracing the offenders. Earl Spencer did not wish their Lordships to think that rebellion in Ireland was imminent, but when such hostile feeling existed, and when American papers were inciting Irishmen to rebellion, outrage and assassination, there would be great danger if prompt and effectual measures were not taken for the maintenance of law and order.

Beaconsfield reluctantly supported the bill, because he thought it absolutely necessary. Agitation in Ireland was fostered by an organized conspiracy of foreigners. It was absolutely necessary that the Government should possess power to defend the Queen from foreign conspirators who were passing to and fro between another country and Ireland.

The bill was then read a second time, and the third reading fixed for to-morrow.

LONDON, March 2.—In the House of Lords last night the Protection Bill was read a third time without discussion.

The Protection Bill has received the signature of the Queen, and is now law.

LONDON, March 3.—Earl Lytton, late Viceroy of India, moved that nothing in the information laid before the House justifies the announced policy of the Government in regard to Candahar. He said all sections of native opinion approved of the retention of Candahar. Russian influence in India must be excluded at any cost, and if Candahar was held fearlessly and firmly, England could view with indifference the changing fortune of the rulers of Cabul, and Russia's advance on Herat.

Lord Enfield, Under Secretary of War, maintained that the native Princes of India had the greatest dread of further annexation. Military operations on the subject of the retention of Candahar were divided, and the commercial advantages of retention were doubtful. Its political effects might be serious, and the financial embarrassments onerous.

Lord Waverley moved for the appointment of a Commission to inquire as to the best form of Government for Candahar. He advocated the creation of a Crown Colony.

Lord Cholmondeley, late Commander of British troops in South Africa, defended the abandonment of Candahar from a military point of view.

Lord D'Alry opposed the retention of Candahar, and said its occupation would not prevent Russian intrigues in Cabul.

Salisbury, after pointing out the Russian intrigues in Cabul, said there was no substantial difference of opinion among the highest authorities in regard to the military advantages of Candahar as a position for the defence of the Indian Empire.

Northbrook, First Lord of the Admiralty, was satisfied that Candahar could not be safely held for less than £1,500,000 yearly. Spending that sum that way must prevent the carrying out of works of public utility.

The debate was adjourned.

LONDON, March 3.—Yesterday being Ash Wednesday, the members of the House of Lords formed in procession and went to Westminster Abbey, after passing the Coercion Bill. The House has not met on Ash Wednesday since 1852. Consequently the ceremonial provided for that occasion had not been gone through with for 29 years. The procession was headed by two Queen's Marshals.

In the debate regarding Candahar, Beaconsfield asked who could have supposed the Government, with the Cabul correspondence to guide them, could repudiate the whole policy of their predecessors? The financial arguments against the retention of Candahar had been used against the acquisition of Punjab and Sindh, which were now sources of strength and wealth. He did not believe, however, that Candahar was the key of India. Vigor in Parliament, skill, resources, and the action of a determined people were the keys of India.

Granville said the present Viceroy of India favored the abandonment of Candahar. Lytton's motion was adopted by 165 to 76.

##### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Secretary of War said the loss of life in the recent engagement between Colley and the Boers was exaggerated. Thirty-five officers and 693 men were engaged. Three officers were killed, and missing, 65; wounded, 122; taken prisoners, or killed, 50. Besides the reinforcements already announced it had been decided to prepare three infantry regiments to be shipped from Gibraltar and Malta. Hartington said the Government means to go on with the Arms' Bill daily. Urgency was voted on the Arms' Bill by 397 to 37. No Conservatives voted in the minority, which included Dilke, Bradlaugh, Cowen and Labouchere.

Harcourt introduced the Arms' Bill. It prohibits the possession or carrying of arms, except by license, permits the search of any house from sunrise to sunset, and empowers the authorities to prohibit and regulate the importation and sale of arms, dynamite and nitro-glycerine. The maximum penalty or summary conviction is three months imprisonment without hard labour. The bill is to remain in force for five years.

Sir V. Harcourt, in introducing the Arms' Bill, referred to the speech of Dillon in August, in which the speaker advised the peasants to march to meetings in military order, and avowed that by obstruction in Parliament they could set the people free to drill, and declared that every Irishman had a right to have a rifle, if he liked. Harcourt then referred to domiciliary visits by armed bands, and the shooting of Egan. The Bill, he said, would touch nobody who sought lawful ends by lawful means.

O'Donnell moved that permission be not granted for the introduction of the bill, and made a rambling speech.

Harcourt explained that search warrants under the bill would run 21 days.

After some further debate, Sexton, Home Ruler, moved an adjournment.

Hartington opposed the motion. He said it was unusual to prolong discussion on the introduction of the bill beyond one night. Motion rejected, 202 to 21.

Hanley, Home Ruler, wishing to address the House, the Speaker applied the *cloture*.

Hartington moved that the question be now put. Motion adopted, 200 to 23.

Leave to introduce the Bill was given by a vote of 196 to 29.

The Bill passed the first reading by 188 to 23.

LONDON, March 1.—In the House of Commons to-day, Sir Vernon Harcourt, Home Secretary, referring to the insulting despatches sent him from the United States by one Devoy, saying:—"You speak of stamping us out. The one who will suffer most at that game will be the one who has most to lose," said if Devoy should come within the Queen's dominion, it would be his (Harcourt's) duty to pay him some personal attention.

LONDON, March 2.—Sir W. V. Harcourt in introducing the Arms' Bill in the Commons last night, contemptuously contrasted Mr. Parnell's conduct with that of Mr. Dillon, who, he said, had the courage of his opinions.

Sir W. V. Harcourt's attack on Mr. Parnell in the Commons yesterday has caused much bitterness among the Irish members. All who spoke on the Arms' Bill in the House to-day condemned his attempts to stigmatize the Irish members as associated in a conspiracy.

LONDON, March 3.—The *Daily News* this morning says:—"It is possible that a division on the second reading of the Arms bill in the House of Commons may be taken at 3 o'clock to-night. The Government, however, will not resist any desire to seriously debate the bill at further length, but a division will certainly be taken to-morrow."

In the Commons, to-night, on going into Committee of Supply on the Army and Estimates, Parnell will move that the Boers, by their gallant resistance, have proved the earnestness of their desire for independence, and have earned the right to its restoration.

Dillon said if he were an Irish farmer he would keep a rifle to shoot landlords. (Shouts of "Oh!") He wished the Irish had proclaimed civil war. The Speaker called him to order. Harcourt declared his former attacks were fully justified by Dillon's language in a previous debate.

Baxter (Liberal) gave notice he would ask Gladstone whether, as despite the new rules, the usual necessary business of the House was virtually stopped, the Government intended to propose measures which would effectually prevent obstruction.

Hanley was repeatedly called to order for charging Harcourt with uttering untruths. He was eventually "named" by the Speaker, and his suspension voted by 233 to 15. During this scene Parnell entered the House.

Harcourt said Dillon uttered sentiments that would bring horror and disgust into the mind of every honest man. (Cheers) The civilized world would be able to-morrow to pronounce on this vile conspiracy. He was justified in saying that the Land League depended for support on a Fenian conspiracy, the Irish subscriptions being copper while gold and silver came from America. Dillon had expressed the true spirit that animated the League.

Dillon said he never expressed approval of assassination.

Gray and McConn, Home Rulers, regretted Dillon's language and disapproval of any sympathy with illegal means of promoting League agitation.

Children moved the adjournment of the debate.

Chaplin (Conservative) desired to call attention to the state of public business. He wished to introduce a motion on several important matters.

Hartington said the state of affairs had been fully explained.

Northcote said he and his friends only assented to supply being taken on the ground that their action was not to be considered a precedent.

violent speech and was suspended by the Speaker.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—"The new rules of the House of Commons have a loophole of obstruction, by means of which Irish members may resist at length an adjournment of the debate on the Arms bill, which Mr. Childers, Secretary of War, will move in order to make a statement regarding the army reorganization."

Parnell made his reappearance in the House of Commons. He made a speech, in which he expressed his regret at the violence of the language which had been used by his colleague Dillon last night, but Parnell added that he must also express his condemnation of the speech of the Home Secretary, Sir W. Harcourt. Parnell's remarks did not attract much attention.

LONDON, March 4.—Parnell resumed debate on the Arms' Bill. He justified Devoy's telegram to Harcourt. The Ministry were trying to prove that the Fenians were right, and drive men like himself and Dillon outside the lines of the Constitution, but they would not succeed. The Arms Bill, he said, would not prevent the shooting of bad landlords.

Parnell declared that he exceedingly regretted the establishment of League Courts, and stated that the Land League had expressed disapproval thereof.

Henry (Liberal and Home Ruler) charged Parnell with deluding Irishmen into the belief that the House was determined to prevent any amelioration of their condition; teaching them they could only hope for redress through violence. Although Parnell recalled his advice to the tenants to plough up land, some pasture had been ploughed up.

The Arms Bill passed its second reading—145 to 31.

LONDON, March 7.—In the Commons to-day, Stanhope gave notice of a resolution condemning the withdrawal of the British troops from Southern Afghanistan.

Northcote will, to-morrow, ask what day will be convenient for the debate. This action will amount to moving a formal vote of censure by the Opposition on the Government's Afghan policy.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Arms Bill this evening. Several Home Rule amendments were rejected. The proposal that persons suspected of carrying arms should be arrested and taken before a Magistrate instead of being searched by the police was inserted in the Bill.

One clause of the Arms Bill was adopted with unimportant alterations.

#### TELEGRAMS CONDENSED

Tuesday, March 8.

The plague has made its appearance in Bagdad. Mr. Langtry, the husband of the "Jersey Lily," is in Toronto.

A London cable announces the death of the dowager Lady Raglan.

Bishop Sweeney, of St. John, N. B., is to leave for Rome about the 15th inst.

Recent shipping disasters on the English coast have caused a loss of upwards of 200 lives.

The French Government has demanded heavy indemnity for Tunisian raids in Algeria.

L. B. Boomer, the great bridge builder of the West, died suddenly in New York on Sunday.

It is reported at Victoria, B.C., that Attorney-General Waken will be the next Lieutenant-Governor.

The British Columbia Legislature offer a bonus of five thousand dollars for the erection of a woolen mill.

The loss of life by the earthquake at Ischia is feared will reach 200. Another shock occurred yesterday.

In a private interview with President Grey yesterday, Gambetta said he had no desire to take the management of affairs.

The American-French Archaeological Expedition, for whose safety fears have been entertained, has arrived at Palmito, Mexico.

The Connecticut Legislature has passed a bill extending the southern boundary of the State to the middle of Long Island Sound.

A London despatch says Sir Garnet Wolseley is to be made a peer, so that he can conduct military affairs in the House of Lords.

It is stated by the Press Association that the Government is desirous of declaring the forthcoming Land Bill a measure of urgency.

On the first of March the Syndicate took possession of the Pembina Branch, and from that date run through trains from St. Paul to Winnipeg.

The Governor of California has signed the amended revenue law, exempting from taxation stock of Corporations and deposits in Savings Banks.

Thirty-five persons have died of plague in Kerbet, Nudi fi, and Djagra, Province of Bagdad. Precautions have been taken to localize the epidemic.

C. J. Whelan, of Rapid City, is now in Ottawa, en route for England, to take charge of the first batch of emigrants to be brought to Canada by the Syndicate.

The existence of plague in Mesopotamia is confirmed. There have been 28 deaths at Nefar and 80 at Cuaro. Energetic measures are being taken to prevent a spread of the plague.

During the month of February, 288 immigrants, men, women and children, arrived at Halifax from Great Britain. Of these 73 were English, 65 Irish, 14 Scotch, 4 Scandinavians and 2 French.

Jeremiah Robinson, farmer, of the 13th concession, township of London, Ont., committed suicide yesterday by hanging. Mr. Robinson was one of the pioneers of London Township. No cause is assigned for the act.