

OBJECTIONS MADE
TO MR. ROBERTSTaylor of Ohio and McRae of Arkansas
Head the Opposition to His Being
Sworn In.Taylor Introduces a Resolution for a Committee to Investigate
the Charges Against the Member from Utah—Case Goes
Over Till Tomorrow Afternoon—Text of the Resolution—
Inquiry Can be Prolonged Indefinitely—Committee to Con-
sist of Nine Members—Authorized to Secure Testimony—
Both Sides Agree to Postponement Today—Some Doubts as
to Procedure—Mr. Roberts's Entrance Into Representatives'
Hall—Converses with Democratic Leader—Buzz of Commem-
but No Disrespectful Demonstration—Election of Speaker

SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."

Washington, Dec. 4.—When the clerk
called the name of Representative Robert
Taylor to appear at the bar of the House
to take the oath of office, Representative
Taylor of Ohio objected to his being
sworn in.
Representative McRae of Arkansas
seconded the request.
Mr. Taylor then offered a resolution
authorizing the Speaker to appoint a
committee of nine members to investi-
gate the charges preferred against Mr.
Taylor and to report the same to the
House.The resolution was laid aside until after
the President's message is read to-
morrow.Mr. Roberts says he has nothing to
say to what action will be taken to-
morrow, and will give no statement un-
less the House concludes its considera-
tion of Taylor's resolution.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following is the text of Repre-
sentative Taylor's resolution for the
appointment of a special committee to
investigate the charges against Mr.
Taylor: "Resolved, That the House do
appoint a committee of nine members,
consisting of three members from each
of the three grand divisions of the
House, to investigate the charges
preferred against Mr. Robert Taylor
of Ohio, and to report the same to the
House on or before the 10th inst."The resolution was introduced by
Mr. Taylor, and was referred to the
committee on the whole. The committee
will consist of nine members, three
from each of the three grand divisions
of the House. The committee will be
authorized to secure testimony from
any person who may be able to give
information in regard to the charges
preferred against Mr. Taylor, and to
report the same to the House on or
before the 10th inst.

PUT THE MATTER OFF.

After conference by the House lead-
ers on both sides, it became generally
understood that the Roberts case would
be postponed until tomorrow, after the
reading of the President's message.
This will permit the formal organiza-
tion of the House and the selection of
its officers to proceed today.
The formal objection to Roberts also
was postponed today, but the under-
standing is that the main question will
be decided tomorrow.

PUBLIC INTEREST AROUSED.

The opening of the Fifty-sixth Con-
gress at noon today attracted great
attention, which always attracts at-
tention to the annual assembly of the
legislative body. There was added
to the event this year, for many
persons, the interest in the Roberts
case, which gave unusual importance to
the opening of Congress.From this time, the Roberts case in-
creased in phase which promised some-
thing outside of the ordinary develop-
ment of an opening day.
In the day the throngs began
gathering at the Capitol. The day was
bright and propitious and the throngs
were leading to the building presented
a gay and animated appearance. With-
out the building all was bustle and ex-
citement long before the hour for call-
ing the members to order. The outer
doors were open to all, and through
the great corridors, the great galleries,
and rotundas were fairly packed.
At 10:30 o'clock the conspicu-
ous presence of Congress began to arrive
and the waiting for the day's work
began. The House went direct to theSpeaker's private office, where he
shared his time with the House leaders
and with those pleading for admission
cards.Representative Richardson of Tennes-
see, the Democratic House leader, was
also early on the scene, conferring with
his lieutenants.

MR. ROBERTS COMES IN.

Shortly before 11 o'clock Mr. Roberts
of Utah, in silk hat and black frock
suit, made his way through the crowd
to the members' private lobby. Here he
chanced to meet Mr. Richardson, and
the two held a short conference as to
whether Mr. Roberts would seek to ad-
dress the House.A buzz of comment followed the gen-
tleman from Utah wherever he went,
but there was no disrespectful demon-
stration.Seldom, if ever, have such enormous
crowds swarmed about the House to
witness the opening scenes of the ses-
sion, as beset the doors today. The
assembling of the new Congress al-
ways attracts a big attendance. Today
the proceedings in the case of Repre-
sentative-elect Roberts, which prom-
ised to be exciting and possibly sensa-
tional, furnished an additional attrac-
tion.For hours before noon, the hour for
the House to meet, people streamed
through the corridors to the galleries,
which looked down upon the arena
where the statesmen were congregated.
By 11 o'clock a brilliant gathering had
assembled. The galleries were black
with people and through the swinging
doors could be seen pushing hundreds
who were unable to gain admission.
The ladies and members' galleries
were filled with brilliantly gowned
women, the wives of members and their
friends. The executive gallery was
filled with high dignitaries of the gov-
ernment and the diplomatic gallery re-
spondent with the representatives of
foreign governments.
Scattering through the galleries were
people prominent in the political, so-
cial and financial world.

MONSTER PETITION.

Very early in the day a monster peti-
tion said to consist of seven million
names, protesting against the seating of
Mr. Roberts, was brought into the hall.
It had been collected by a New York
newspaper. It consisted of twenty-
eight rolls of names each about two feet
in diameter, encased in the American
flag. These rolls were stacked up in
the area in front of the clerk's desk and
were viewed with great curiosity.Later, Maj. McDowell, clerk of the
House, ordered all except two of the
rolls taken into the lobby.
Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, who was
selected as the leader of the minority
on Saturday, came upon the floor early
and was surrounded by a group of
Democrats. Mr. Roberts came into the
hall shortly after 11 o'clock, but he was
not generally recognized, and he retired
to the cloak room almost immediately.
At 11:30 a. m. a shrill-voiced clerk di-
rected those not entitled to the floor to
retire, and officers and pages rapidly
cleared out those already in.Conspicuous on the floor were the old
veterans, Payne of New York, the lead-
er of the majority; Gen. Grosvenor, of
Ohio; Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa; Mr. Dal-
zell, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Bailey, of
Texas; Mr. McClellan and Mr. Sulzer,
of New York.
Representatives of Utah came over
from the Senate wing and held an
earnest conference with Mr. Roberts.
Mr. Lantz of Ohio took part in the
conference. After it was over, the re-
port was circulated that Mr. Roberts
would not present himself to be sworn
in. But this was immediately denied.
Mr. Roberts himself said he had not de-
cided what he would do, but that he
might desire to be heard when his case
came up. He took a seat to the right
of the main aisle, and soon became the
cynosure of all eyes. His daughter sat
in the members' gallery.
Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, who represents
Prest McKinley's district, who was to
conduct the case against Mr. Roberts,
was conferring with his colleagues on
the Republican side. As the minute
hand of the clock opposite the Speak-
er's rostrum overtook the hour hand at
noon, the gavel of the clerk of the last
House, Maj. McDowell, descended with
a bang. The indescribable buzz ceased.
The members at once arose and the
spectators in the galleries bowed their
heads. In this stillness, the voice of the
blind chaplain, Rev. Henry Couden, of
Michigan, was elevated and his prayer
made the occasion reverent.After the invocation the reading clerk
began calling the roll and a minute
later the buzz had recommenced, mak-
ing a noisy background for the staccato
voice of the clerk as he called out the
names.

ROBERTS ANSWERS ROLL CALL.

Mr. Roberts sat listening intently for
his name, and when it was called he
responded "Here," in a loud voice.
But he looked nervous and ill-at-
ease. There were no demonstrations
during the roll call. When it was con-
cluded, Clerk McDowell announced that
32 members had answered to their
names, a quorum.
"The next thing in order," an-
nounced the clerk, "is the election of
Speaker."
Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, offered a resolu-
tion which was adopted viva voce,
providing that the House proceed to
the election of a Speaker for the Fifty-sixth Congress. Thereupon Mr. Gros-
venor, of Ohio, as chairman of the Re-
publican caucus, presented the name of
David B. Henderson, of Iowa. The
mention of the name of Gen. Hender-
son was greeted with a round of ap-
plause from the Republican side. Mr.
Hay, of Virginia, chairman of the
Democratic caucus, nominated James
D. Richardson, of Tennessee, and his
name drew the plaudits of the Demo-
cratic side.Mr. Ridgley, of Kansas, nominated
John C. Bell, of Colorado, as the Popu-
list candidate, and Mr. Wilson, of
Idaho, placed Francis G. Newlands, of
Nevada, in nomination as the candi-
date of the Silver party. Each party
having put forward its candidate, by
the direction of the clerk the roll was
called and each member voted for the
candidate of his political affiliations.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. Morris, of Minnesota, Mr. Over-
street, of Indiana, and Mr. Carmack, of
Tennessee, were appointed tellers.
Mr. Newlands, himself a candidate,
voted for Mr. Richardson.
The roll call resulted:
For Richardson, 157; Richardson 153; Bell
4; Newlands 4.
The clerk thereupon announced the
election of Mr. Henderson, amid great
Republican applause. He designated
Mr. Richardson, Mr. Bell and Mr. New-
lands as a committee to escort the
Speaker to the chair.

READY FOR THE OATH.

When the name of Brigham H.
Roberts was reached in the House roll
call, the Utah member-elect proceed-
ed alone to the area in front of the
Speaker's desk, and awaited the ad-
ministration of the oath.
At the same time Representative
Taylor of Ohio secured recognition, and
amidst breathless interest protested
against the swearing in of Roberts, on
the ground of his being a polygamist
and not a properly naturalized Ameri-
can citizen. Mr. Taylor spoke calmly
and dispassionately. Mr. Roberts
stood gazing intently at him and not
once moved a muscle throughout the
protest.Mr. Taylor said:
"I do so Mr. Speaker, on my responsi-
bility as a member of this House, and
because specific, serious and appar-
ently well-grounded charges of ineligibility
are made against him. A transcript of
the proceedings of court in Utah evi-
dencing that he, the claimant, was in
1889 convicted of the crime of unlaw-
ful cohabitation. Affidavits and other pa-
pers in my possession indicate that ever
since then he has been persistently guilty
of the crime, and that ever since
then he has been and is now a polygam-
ist.""If this transcript and these affidavits
and papers tell the truth, the member-
elect from Utah is, in my judgment, in-
eligible to be a member of this House
of Representatives, both because of the
statutory disqualification of the Ed-
munds law, and for higher and graver
and quite as sound reasons.""I ought also to say, in addition to
what I have just said, that I have in
my possession a certified copy of the
entry under which the claimant to this
seat was naturalized, and that eminent
counsel assert that if this be the record
in the case this claimant is not a citi-
zen of the United States. I offer and
express no opinion upon that proposi-
tion.""Mr. Speaker, if it were possible to
emphasize the gravity of these charges
and the responsibility that is at this
moment imposed upon this House, we
will find that emphasis in the memori-
als, and in the part of which could be
physically cured for in this hall, all of
which I now present to this House
from over seven million American men
and women protesting against the en-
trance of this Representative-elect from
Utah."Representative McRae of Arkansas
followed with a protest from the Demo-
cratic side, saying this issue was one
involving the sacredness of the Ameri-
can home, a sentiment that brought an
outburst of applause.

MUST STAND ASIDE.

Speaker Henderson then addressed
Roberts, saying:
"Will the gentleman stand aside until
the roll call is completed?"Mr. Roberts assented with the state-
ment, in so doing he waived none
of his rights."I can assure the gentleman," an-
swered the Speaker, "that he waives
none of his rights by this course."
Mr. Roberts then resumed his seat
and the roll call proceeded.It was agreed by unanimous consent
that the consideration of the resolution
should go over until tomorrow after
the reading of the President's mes-
sage. The swearing in of the remaining
members was then completed.

OTHER PROCEEDINGS.

The officers of the House, Clerk Mc-
Dowell, of Pennsylvania, Sergeant-at-
arms Casen of Wisconsin, Doorkeeper
Glen of New York, and Postmaster Mc-
Elroy of Ohio were elected.
The usual resolution to inform the
President and the Senate that the
House was organized was adopted. A
committee consisting of Messrs. Payne
of New York, Cannon of Illinois and
Richardson of Tennessee, was appointed
to wait on the President with a similar
committee from the Senate.
The financial bill drafted by a special
committee of Republican members was
today introduced in the House of rep-
resentatives by Representative Over-
street of Indiana, and accorded the dis-
tinction of being Bill No. 1 on the rec-
ords of the House.

THE ANTI-ROBERTS PROTEST.

The formal memorial and protest
against the admission of Brigham H.
Roberts to a seat in Congress was cir-
culated in printed form and placed on
the desks of the members during the
day. The main points are that Roberts
is not a citizen, since "at all times after
1883 he was and now is a bigamist and
polygamist, contrary to the law; that
he had been prosecuted and punished
for unlawful cohabitation with more
than one woman; that he was born of
British parents within the British
realm, and has never renounced his al-
legiance to Queen Victoria."
After reciting the legal and moral ob-
jections to Roberts, the petition asks
that he be not allowed to take the oath
of office or to take a seat in Congress,
that a special committee investigate
the subject, and that the Roberts seat
be declared vacant.
The document is signed by Josiah
Strong, New York, president of the
League of Social Service, and many
others.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

Tribute to the Late Vice President—Quay's
Credentials Presented.Washington, Dec. 4.—In the shadow
of the recent death, the Senate convened
at noon today in the first session of the
Fifty-sixth Congress. The death of
Vice President Hobart cast a pall over
the preliminary proceedings in the Sen-
ate. As usual in the opening days of
Congress the Senate chamber was a
veritable conservatory. Scarcely a sen-
ator was forgotten the lavish floral
display and particularly notable was
the offering of flowers to the new mem-
bers of the body. The desks to which
they had been assigned were loaded with
the choicest selections from the public
and private conservatories of the city.
(Continued on page two.)FATAL COLLISION
ON THE D. & R. C.Six Persons Killed Outright, and
Several Severely Injured.

SIGNAL LIGHT WENT OUT.

Glenwood Passenger Carashes Into the
Train Ahead with Fearfully Dis-
astrous Results.Denver, Colo., Dec. 4.—A rear-end
collision occurred between two passen-
ger trains on the Denver & Rio Grande
this morning in which six persons were
killed outright and several others
severely injured. The accident hap-
pened at English Switch, about six
miles east of Salida, at 6 a. m.The killed are:
C. E. Osgood, of Denver.
H. R. Matthews, Denver.
Peter Barnes, Denver.Mrs. George Porter, Grand Junction.
A. H. Johnston, Oberlin, Ohio.
One unknown man.Seriously injured:
George W. Pierce, Denver.
Thomas M. German, Denver.

A. M. Johnston, Oberlin, Ohio.

Train No. 5, the narrow gauge train
for Grand Junction, Durango and New
Mexico points, which left Denver last
night, had been flagged at that switch
and had stopped, owing to an obstruc-
tion at a bridge. Standard gauge train
No. 15 for Glenwood Springs was fol-
lowing, and failing to get a signal to
slow up, plunged into the rear of the
narrow gauge sleeper for Durango.
The Pullman was thoroughly splintered
and the coach ahead was also wrecked.
The killed and injured were in these
cars.Mr. C. E. Osgood, who was killed, was
an elder brother of Mr. J. E. Osgood,
president and general manager of the
Colorado Fuel & Iron company, and
was a brother for that company.Mr. Matthews, another of those killed,
was traveling passenger agent of the
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy rail-
road.
At the offices of the Denver & Rio
Grande railroad in this city it was said
that a brakeman was sent back to sig-
nal the second train, but that the light
in his lantern became extinguished and
he was therefore unable to stop the
train.George W. Pierce, who was injured, was
a well known mining man, secretary
of the Golden Fleece Mining Co., which
owns valuable mines at Lake City,
Colo.A. H. Johnston was president of the
Arkansas Midland railroad. His son,
A. M. Johnston, who was traveling
with him, had his back broken and will
probably die.

DELINQUENT TAX LIST.

Publication Begun in Tonight's "News"—
Will Run Ten Days.The "News" this evening commences
the publication of the delinquent tax
list for Salt Lake county. According
to law it will be published for a period
of ten days. It contains about 7,000
names and represents about \$100,000 of
unpaid taxes, which is very near that
of last year, both with reference to the
number of names and as to the amount
of money."Most of this, however," said County
Treasurer Lynch today, "will be paid
in before December 15th, when sales
will begin. It should be understood
that it does not altogether represent
taxes that are difficult to collect. Some
large owners permit publication simply
to have the use of their money another
month. That is notably true of a num-
ber of companies and individuals whom
I might name. You see it costs them
but 25 cents extra for publication,
whereas the use of \$500, or \$1,000 for the
time mentioned is worth considerably
more to them than that quarter of a
dollar."

TO FIGHT THE BOERS.

George R. Rees Aided Uncle Sam and
Will Now Assist John Bull.George R. Rees, a former member of
Battery E, who returned along with
the rest of the Utah boys from the
Philippines last August, came in from
Silver City this morning, and tonight

FATAL SILVER CITY EXPLOSION.

Samuel Pulver Killed in the Dragon Iron Mine—Frank Harriman
Expected to Die—Two Others Slightly Injured.[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."]
Silver City, Dec. 4, 3:45 p. m.—At
11:30 this morning an accident occurred
at the Dragon iron mine here in which
Samuel Pulver was killed and Frank
Harriman seriously injured, while two
other men were slightly hurt.The men were at work in the 500-foot
level of the mine when they drilled into
an unexploded charge of giant powder
left by the night shift. The explosiontore Pulver almost to pieces and Harri-
man's injuries are such that he may
die.Pulver was married only recently and
his wife is now living at Robinson. E.
H. Pulver of the Tintic Miner, a brother
of the deceased, was notified of the
accident and arrangements were made
to ship the body to Payson, where the
parents reside, for burial. Harriman was
sent to the Keogh-Hosmer hospital in
Salt Lake on this afternoon's train.

KIMBERLEY IS RELIEVED.

Dispatch from London Which May Mean that General Methuen's
Vanguard Has Entered the Town.London, Dec. 4.—The Evening News it
learns that a cable dispatch
was received today from an officer of the guards saying simply:
"In Kimberley," which, it is added, may mean that Gen. Methuen's van-
guard has entered Kimberley.will take his departure for Great Brit-
ain. Mr. Rees is a native of Swan-
sea, South Wales, and came to Utah
about three or four years. He is a
brother to David Rees, an ex-Salt Lake
barber, and now a resident of Silver
City.In the war now on between England
and the Boers the sympathies of Mr.
Rees are altogether with the mother
country. After paying a brief visit to
his people in Wales he intends taking
train for London and there join one of
the regiments whose destination is
South Africa. Although only twenty-
three years old young Rees has seen a
great deal of the world, having spent
four years of his life on board ship.
He reckons the war will be all over in
six months, and if his life is spared, it
is his intention, he says, to return to
Utah.Young Rees has a host of friends
hereabouts, who wish him good luck.

TALKS ON UTAH.

Gen. Dodge Has Only Pleasant Words
for the Mormons.General Granville M. Dodge returned
yesterday from a visit to Salt Lake
City. He had not looked upon the spot
for sixteen years, says the Denver
News, and the pioneer was highly
pleased at the evidences of progress not
only in the development of the city,
but in the thrifty towns scattered
throughout the beautiful valley. While
in Salt Lake, the general was called
upon by George Q. Cannon and many
friends of past years, and old experi-
ences were renewed. General Dodge
feels especially drawn toward the Mor-
mons, as he was received by Brigham
Young and the officers of the Church
with great hospitality a third of a cen-
tury ago, when the Pacific railroad was
in course of construction, and many
evidences of friendliness were extended.
"Brigham Young," said the general
last evening, "was one of the best
friends of the railway, and when we
needed men he ordered out his people
by the hundred. When we needed sup-
plies, he saw that they were abundantly
furnished, and that prices in all cases
were reasonable. I found the Mormons
honest and thoroughly conscientious in
all their business transactions, and I
shall always have in my heart a warm
place for those people. I regret that
my differences have arisen over the
congressional question and I trust that
all these differences will be settled
amicably. I made careful inquiries
while in Salt Lake and it is my opinion
that the Mormons are sincere in their
desire to uphold the law and to be good
American citizens. I can hear a pio-
neer speak unkindly of the Mormons
and certainly I never could find it in
my heart to do so after the many ex-
periences of friendship I have experi-
enced."The general as interested in talk-
ing to the early settlers about Salt Lake
City, and the reports that the surface of
the lake is steadily receding. He says the
water is much lower than it has been
for forty years, although at the time
the Mormons first entered the valley it
was lower than at present. Canals were
then driven across an arm of the lake
to Antelope island, a feat which cannot
be accomplished now. It is a question
yet to be determined by science whether
the lake does not rise and fall in
cycles.

ALLEGED HOLDUP ARRESTED.

A. A. Pero Charged with Attempting
to Rob C. Carlson.Sergeant Burbridge and Officer Roberts
made the arrest of A. A. Pero, a
switchman in the employ of the Union
Pacific, last night, on the charge of
highway robbery. It is alleged that he
held up C. Carlson near the corner of
Third West and Second South streets.
The particulars, as related by Carlson,
are that he was in company with Pero
and two other men went out for a ride
and were making in the direction of the
Grand Pacific hotel. The men separat-
ed, leaving Pero and Carlson together.
They had not proceeded far when Pero
showed a pistol into the face of Carl-
son and told him to throw up his hands.
The latter raised the gun and promptly
dropped the would-be hold up into the
light. Pero then tried to convince
Carlson that he was only having a little
fun at his expense. Carlson swallowed
the story and released Pero, but later
had him arrested and threw up his hands.
He had \$175 on his person and that Pero
knew of it. Pero denies that he intended
to rob his companion, and says he was
merely joking.

ELI OPENSHAW.

Former Bishop of Santaguito Died To-
day of Bright's Disease.Santaguito, Dec. 4.—On yesterday Eli
Openshaw, an old resident of this place
died of Bright's disease, a complication
of other troubles. He was formerly
Bishop of this place and was much
respected by the people as a good citi-
zen. For many years Bishop Openshaw
was superintendent of the Co-op store
here and at the time of his death was
agent for the "News". He was born
Feb. 1, 1855, and was consequently 64
years old.

NIGHT STOPS THE FIGHT.

The British guns kept up a heavy fire
all day, and fearful havoc was wrought
on the Boer positions, the enemy being
forced to fly from their outposts.
Night put an end to the terrible
bloodshed. The infantry brigade was
drastically cut up.
The Boers retreated at night, taking
their guns with them, and are now
occupying their positions. The enemy's
loss was tremendous.London, Dec. 4.—The later details re-
ceived from Modder river show that
even the desperate courage the attack-
ing force displayed all day long (Nov.
28) failed to drive the Boers from their
strong entrenchments, and night fell on
an undecided battle.

BOERS RETREATED.

But, apparently during the course of
the night, Gen. Cronje, commanding
the Boers, who are said to have num-
bered 11,000 men, decided that the
struggle was hopeless, for the British
found the town and surrounding posi-
tions evacuated when daylight broke,
and the whole British army crossed theSTORY OF MODDER
RIVER BATTLE.Boers Held Their Own All Day, but Their
Retreat at Night Saved the
British Position.Terrific Fighting for Fourteen Hours—At Night the Battle Was
Undecided—Boers Retire in Good Order, with All Their
Equipment—Charge of the British Infantry—Boer Fire Hor-
ribly Accurate—Highlanders Forced to Retire—Hardest
Fight in the Annals of the British Army—Scots Guards Had
to Abandon Maxim Guns—Next Day the British were Too
Exhausted to Follow—Kimberley in a Tight Place—Difficul-
ties Before the Ladysmith Relieving Force—Ladysmith is
Closely Pressed—Immense British Army in South Africa.

THE BRITISH FORCE.

Our force consisted of the second
battalion of the Coldstream guards, the
first battalion of the Scots guards, the
third battalion of the Grenadier guards,
the first battalion of the Northumber-
land fusiliers, the second battalion of
the Yorkshire light infantry (the King's
Own), a part of the first battalion of the
royal Lancashire regiment, the ninth
lancers, the mounted infantry, three
batteries of field artillery, and the first
battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders (Princess Louise's).The latter reinforced us from Gen.
Wauchop's brigade, and arrived just
in time for the fight.

OPENING THE BATTLE.

The battle started at daybreak, our
guns shelling the Boer left.
The enemy replied with artillery.
Hotchkiss and Maxims, and the artill-
ery duel lasted some hours. Then there
was a brief lull in the enemy's opera-
tions, of which we immediately took
advantage. Infantry advanced across
the plain towards the river in two bri-
gades.The guards on the right were met by
an awful hail of bullets from the en-
emy's sharpshooters posted close to the
river on the opposite bank. Ours had
no cover whatever and were simply
mowed down. It seemed impossible to
live through the terrible fire, but the
brave fellows did not retreat an inch.The Boer fire was horribly accurate,
and they must have numbered at least
10,000.

FORCED HIGHLANDERS BACK.

The Scots guards advanced six hun-
dred yards before they were fired on.
Then they had to lie down to escape
the deadly fusillade, which lasted with-
out intermission throughout the day.
The Highlanders made several attempts
to force a passage of the river, but they
were exposed to such a murderous en-
sanguinating fire that they had to retire
after they had suffered terribly.Subsequently a party of the guards
got over and held their own for hours
against a vastly superior force.The general opinion of the staff is
that there had never been such a sus-
tained fire in the annals of the British
army as that our troops had to face
yesterday. Our men fell in dozens while
trying to cross the bridge.Among the many heroic deeds, one of
the most conspicuous was that of Lieut.
Col. Creighton of the Coldstream
guards, Capt. Sellspeyn of the Queens-
land contingent, and a dozen members
of the Coldstream guards, who jumped
into the river and swam nearly to the
other side in the face of a steady fire;
but who were forced to retire, and, find-
ing hands, swam back, two of their
number being nearly drowned in the re-
treat.

WHAT SAVED THE BRITISH.

It was only after dusk that a portion
of the British troops succeeded in
crossing the river by a mill dam on the
extreme left. When night fell, the
Boer artillery fire was still as vigor-
ous as in the morning, but the Boers'
retirement in the night saved the situ-
ation for the British. The exhausted
condition of the British troops preclud-
ed the possibility of a pursuit of the
enemy.The conclusion of the correspondents
that the Boers must have suffered
heavily must be confirmed from official
sources before it is accepted as fact.
In any case the Boers retired
without any sign of disorder, carrying
off their guns and equipment. Thus
Gen. Cronje's force is still intact.The fact that Gen. Methuen and Gen.
Keekewich are now in communication
may cause a reconsideration of the
Boer commander's plan to give battle
at Spytfontein, where he might be
simultaneously attacked by both British
forces.

DIFFICULTY IN NATAL.

All the news from Natal emphasizes
the difficulties before Gen. Clery.
There is growing a belief that some
delicate flanking operations has been in-
trusted to some tactician, while Gen.
Hildyard carried out the direct front
demonstration.The latest advices from Ladysmith,
dated Saturday, Nov. 25th, say the shel-
ling of that place was continued. It also
appears that Gen. Schalkbarger, com-
manding the Boers, sent a message sug-
gesting that all the wounded be sent to
a neutral camp and that Gen. White
peremptorily refused, when it is added,
the Boers deliberately shelled the hos-
pital.All accounts agree that the Boer shells
were much more damaging than previ-
ously.A number of civilians and police were
killed or wounded, while the Liverpool
and Gloucester battalions lost eleven
men November 24th.