

BRUTAL ASSAULT AT MIRFIELD.—At the Dewsbury Court-house, yesterday, Wm. Schofield, who pleaded not guilty, was charged with assaulting Mary Ann Barker, at Mirfield, on the 30th ult. The complainant said that about midnight on Saturday, she was going along the road to her brother's house, when the defendant accosted her. She told him to mind his own business, whereupon he stuck a cow's heel, which he had in his hand, to her mouth, and said he would make her bite. She refused to have anything to do with him, and he then struck her over the head three times with his fist, and also on the right eye, making it black. He next threatened to kill her, and when she ran away he followed and kicked her until she fell. (The complainant exhibited several bruises on her arms, all of which, she asserted, had been produced by the kicks administered by the defendant.) She screamed "Murder," and at last a man came up and carried her into a house. The defendant was partially intoxicated at the time. She had known him from a child, and they had had frequent quarrels, though he never struck her before.—Cross-examined: When defendant was trying to cram the cow's heel into her mouth, she had a patten in her hand, and she believed that, in pushing him away, it "took him in the mouth." She had not called defendant a rogue, a thief, a "skellerdeen," or a "clam-cat"—(laughter),—and had not sought for a stone to throw at him.—By the Bench: In consequence of the injuries she had received she had had to call in a medical man, and had been in bed three days.—Samuel Smith deposed to going to complainant's assistance, and finding her kneeling on the ground in a wretched state—her hair was down, her clothes very dirty, her elbow was bleeding, and her shoulder appeared to be bruised.—The defendant said he had had a dispute with complainant, and after she had struck him with the patten, she ran away and fell, and he would admit that he had kicked her on the arm, but only once.—Charles Holmes and James Fisher gave corroborative evidence, but the magistrates thought otherwise, and characterised the assault as a most brutal and ferocious one, ordering defendant to pay a penalty of 30s. and costs, or go to prison for two months, with hard labour.