

THE LATE CASE OF STACK FIRING AT MIRFIELD.—
COMMITTAL OF THE ACCUSED FOR TRIAL.—On Saturday last, Martha Jane Gledhill, milliner, of Mirfield, twenty-six years of age, was brought up on remand before Mr. Charles Wheatley, at the Dewsbury Court-house, charged with having set fire to a wheat stack belonging to Mr. Richard Hurst, a resident in Easthorpe-lane, in the former township. Mr. J. Ibberson appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Ferns, of Leeds, for the defence. The examination lasted for nearly eight hours.—Mr. Richard Hurst said he was the owner of a stackyard situated behind his house. On the morning of the 10th ult. all the stacks were safe, but the same evening one was destroyed by fire. He was the owner of some kilns on the canal side at Mirfield, and the prisoner's mother had property adjoining. He claimed a right of road over her land to his kilns, and on the 10th, acting under legal advice, he set some men to dig up some posts Mrs. Gledhill had had put down to prevent him and his men passing. At half-past two he saw the men digging about the posts, and in about two hours afterwards he gave them certain instructions, and a horse was yoked to one to pull it up. Prisoner came up, and said to him "If I had a pistol I'd shoot you," or "I'll shoot you," and afterwards she said "I'll have my revenge." The post was pulled up, and some time after information was brought to him that a wheat stack in his stack-yard was on fire. He went home and found it to be one which might easily have been set on fire by a person from the road. It was surrounded by loose straw.—Cross-examined: The posts might have been down twenty years. It was about twenty years since he bought the property near the canal. Mr. Gledhill bought another portion. The post had not long been connected with a chain. He did not recollect the prisoner saying "I'll fetch law of you" that afternoon, but he heard her mother and sister say so. He believed he first heard of the fire a little after five o'clock. A mistal or shippon stands between his house and the stack-yard, and prevented a view from one to the other.—Albert Marsland, aged 14, the son of a person residing near the prisoner, said that when Mr. Hurst's men were digging up the posts he saw the prisoner near them, and heard her say she would shoot Mr. Hurst, would kill him, and would go home, sharpen a knife, and either stick Mr. Hurst or his horses. She also said that she would be taken up for manslaughter, and only get one month. Mr. Hurst was not present then, but at half-past four he was, and the prisoner said, "I will go down home, put my bonnet on, and fetch him some law." She went, and witness saw that when she returned she was wearing a black hat, shawl, and dress. The witness then went on to say that he watched a woman, whom he believed was the prisoner, go up Easthorpe-lane, and that he saw her in custody at the Black Bull Inn, the same night. The witness was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Ferns, but that gentleman failed to shake his testimony.—After the examination of other witnesses, the Magistrate said that he felt it his duty to commit the prisoner for trial at the assizes, but would admit her to bail on entering into her own recognizances for £100, and finding one surety to the same amount. A surety was at once forthcoming, and the prisoner was then liberated.