

MIRFIELD REGATTA.

On Saturday afternoon last, the fifth annual regatta took place on the River Calder at Mirfield, in the presence of at least 20,000 people. Visitors thronged the river side, filled the grand stand and scores of barges, occupied the bridge, and took cogn of vantage on sundry elevated spots. The railway companies ran special trains from Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Brighouse, &c., and sundry omnibus proprietors reaped a good harvest by carrying passengers from Dewsbury and other places in the neighbourhood. The day was beautifully fine, and all the people seemed to enjoy themselves most heartily. Not a single accident, that we have heard of, marred their pleasure.

The first race was one for four-oared boats, 23 feet long over all, for a first prize of £5 and a second of £2. There were four entries, and all, to use a phrase current in sporting circles, came to the scratch at the sound of the starter's bell shortly after one o'clock. A fair start was made. The boat "Rocky Road" soon took the lead, and, maintaining it to the end, won the first prize; "Witch" being a good second; and "Lads About" third. Time, 12½ minutes; distance, 2,450 yards.

The next event was a single-oared race, in which H. Ault, sen., in the boat "Hollingworth," had it all his own way from beginning to end; Geo. Naylor, in "Lewis," being a bad second. There were three other competitors, but they were "nowhere." Distance three-quarters of a mile.

A two-oared race in boats 23 feet long, took place next, over the first course. There were four starters, but the race was virtually between three, viz.—"Witch," "Rocky Road," and "Lads About." The first-named came in five lengths ahead of the second, but there was only three-quarters of a length between the latter and the third.

The great race of the day was one for four-oared boats, the prize being the Prince of Wales' stake £10, with prize of £5 for the second boat. It was run in heats, the distance being 2,450 yards out and home. In the first, "The Five Friends," "Colleen Bawn," and "Hollingworth" competed. The "Colleen," which was manned by a Manchester crew, won easily, and many bets were laid that it would beat the "field." In the second heat, the "British Queen" carried off the palm, but when the deciding race was pulled off the Manchester men won easily.

There was also a sculling race, in which Fred Oates took the first prize, and John Bottomley the second. This was followed by a swimming race, in which about a dozen professors of the art of natation took part. After the races were over, some pole-walking for a couple of pigs took place, the said pole being laid horizontally over the river, and well greased. Much amusement was caused by the many unsuccessful endeavours made to untrap the pigs (they were suspended in a box at the end of the pole), and save themselves from a ducking. When the pigs had been caught, an adjournment was made by a portion of the company to a field where a gala was held, and dancing and rustic sports indulged in. The Hopton and the Huddersfield Rifle Corps brass bands were present, and added much to the pleasure of the visitors.