

THE MIRFIELD MURDERS.

Mr. J. Dickinson, Leeds, writes in reply to "J. W., Upper Holloway" (CCCLXVII), respecting the Mirfield murders—

Patrick Reid and Michael McCabe were taken in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the crime, and committed to York charged with the wilful murder of James Wraith only. McCabe was admitted Queen's evidence, and Reid alone was brought to trial on the 19th July, 1847, before Mr. Justice Wightman (whose summing up occupied two and a-half hours), and found not guilty. He was still detained in custody on a charge of murdering the females, Mrs. Wraith and Caroline Ellis, the servant girl, and on the 20th December same year, he and McCabe were found guilty, and sentenced to death, and on the 8th January, 1848; Reid was executed at York in the presence of 30,000 spectators. Just before the bolt was drawn, he said to the officers around him, "Well, gentlemen, I wish to say that I alone am the guilty person, that McCabe is entirely innocent, that no human being in the world had anything to do with it but myself." In consequence of Reid's confession McCabe was respited, and on his case being submitted to the whole of the Judges, he was ordered to be transported for life.