

SERIOUS CHARGE.—On Monday last, at the Court-house, before J. B. Greenwood and F. Wormald, Esqs., Henry Healey, James Rayner, and Thomas Senior, were charged with committing a rape upon the person of Charlotte Flocks, a married woman, living at Crossley, in Mirfield. From the circumstances disclosed before the Justices, it appeared that on Easter Tuesday there was a tea party at the Shepley's Arms Inn, in Mirfield, and that about nine o'clock in the evening, Mrs. Flocks went there and stayed till about twelve. During the time she remained, she and another female drank three pennyworth of gin, which appeared to be all she had, but which had affected her. On her leaving the Shepley's Arms, a man called Robert Senior also left, and promised to see her home. They proceeded for some distance, but when near to Bolderstone Hall, they were overtaken by a number of men, who knocked Senior down, and the prosecutrix was also thrown to the ground by, as she believes, the prisoner Henry Healey. She, however, got from them, and went about three fields further, and to within 200 yards of her own house, when she was again thrown down by several men, her face covered, her mouth stopped, and the offence complained of committed, the particulars of which are not fit for publication. During the time she was being ill-treated, a person named Sidney Hirst heard a woman call out "murder," and on going to the place saw Mrs. Flocks lying on the ground, the three prisoners ill-treating her, and also a number of other men at a short distance. He, however, went away without interfering, giving as his reason for so doing that he expected some violence would have been used towards him if he had. Shortly after this a person called Hallas, who lives next door to Mrs. Flocks, heard her call out, and went to the place, and lifted her up. She was then in a very exhausted state, and her face bloody. He wiped off the blood, and then assisted her home. She was confined to the house till the Saturday morning following, when she obtained a warrant, and the three prisoners were apprehended, and on Monday placed before the Magistrates, who after hearing the evidence of the woman, and of Sidney Hirst, and Mr. Parker, the surgeon, who stated that great violence had been used, the prisoners were remanded till Monday next, in order to give time for the apprehension of three other parties against whom warrants have been issued, viz., Uriah Healey, Joseph Muffitt, the younger, and Joseph Brock, who have absconded.