

HALIFAX.

JUVENILE THIEVES AND THEIR PARENTS.—At the Borough-court, Halifax, on Tuesday, a man named Rawcliffe, was charged with refusing to contribute to the support of his son, at present in confinement in the Calder Farm Reformatory, near Mirfield. This case is the first of the kind heard by Magistrates in Halifax, but one or two others in neighbouring towns have been reported in the *Mercury*. Evidence was given by Mr. Superintendent Pearson, of the fact that defendant's son Daniel, was committed to the sessions by the county bench in April, 1856, for a theft; and also that he had been frequently guilty of offences previously. After serving the specified term of imprisonment in the House of Correction, he had been sent to the school just named. Mr. Pearson also handed in the authority from the Secretary of State, for taking proceedings against the defendant. Detective-officer Tempest stated that he knew defendant and something of his circumstances. He was a coal dealer, in Park-street, hawked coals with a pony and cart, and retailed them from a yard. He gave other testimony, which showed Rawcliffe to be in moderate circumstances. He had another son, John, undergoing four years' penal servitude in Wakefield prison. The defendant pleaded poverty, and utter inability to pay more than 6d. a week. He was ordered to pay 1s. 6d. per week towards the maintenance of his son, and 5s., the cost of the summons, &c. If this were not paid he was liable to have a distraint made upon his goods, or to be committed to the House of Correction for fourteen days.