

**THE DROWNING OF TWO LADIES NEAR MIRFIELD.**—The inquest on the bodies of Mrs. Hannah Stancliffe, aged seventy-two, and Mrs. Rachel Walker, aged sixty-nine, drowned at Hopton, was held on Thursday evening, at the Ship Inn, Hopton. The evidence went to show that about a quarter to eleven on Wednesday morning, Mrs. Stancliffe, who resided at Broad Oakes, and Mrs. Walker, whose residence was at Upper House, Hopton, left the residence of the former in a gig, drawn by a rather unmanageable horse. Mrs. Stancliffe intended in the first place to convey Mrs. Walker home, and then proposed calling at the Railway Station, for a daughter, whom she expected to meet there. The two ladies had only proceeded a few yards on the road, which skirts the Calder, when they met a man driving a number of pigs. The horse shied at the pigs, and Mrs. Walker called out for somebody to take hold of the horse's head. A Mrs. Hemingway courageously seized the animal by the head and tried to quiet it. Her efforts were of no effect in consequence of Mrs. Stancliffe pulling the reins so tight that it kept rearing and plunging, at the same time backing towards the river. At last the gig slipped down the bank, dragging the horse after it, and the vehicle, horse, and the two ladies were plunged into the water. The river at the part where the accident took place is 15 feet deep, and immediately after the occurrence nothing was seen on the surface of the water but the gig cushion floating about. A labourer named Schofield, and another man, were soon on the spot, and rendered their assistance. They got hold of the harness of the horse and pulled it out. The animal was dead. Mrs. Stancliffe, who appeared to be fast to the framework of the gig, was next recovered, life being quite extinct. The body of Mrs. Walker was soon afterwards found. This most deplorable accident has cast a gloom over the whole neighbourhood, the worthy ladies being much respected. Verdict, "Accidentally drowned."