

HOPTON, NEAR HUDDERSFIELD.—UNPROTECTED STATE OF THE CALDER.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE LEEDS MERCURY.

GENTLEMEN,—You will probably remember the melancholy accident which occurred at Hopton, near Mirfield, in August last, by which two elderly ladies of the highest respectability, and universally esteemed in the neighbourhood, lost their lives in consequence of a pony backing into the river Calder, at a place where there is not the slightest fence or protection of any kind, although the bank is very steep, and the water in that part of the river is at all times very deep. That part of the river where the fatal accident occurred is close to the public road, and immediately opposite to a road leading straight to the very spot. Now, Gentlemen, can you suppose it possible that the very part of the river side where the accident occurred should still remain unfenced and unprotected in any way, although more than six months have elapsed since the accident occurred? During that period I have frequently had occasion to pass the place, and to my utter astonishment and unspeakable disgust I have observed that month after month has been allowed to pass and yet the public safety is not provided for, although the remaining portion of the river side has been fenced off in a substantial manner, and at considerable expense. Permit me to ask, through the medium of your widely circulated paper, if there is no board of surveyors, or if there are no influential gentlemen in the neighbourhood, upon whom it devolves to remedy this strange and most unjustifiable neglect? In the district in which I reside, I am quite sure that such gross negligence would not be suffered, and that such unreasonable delay would have aroused such a storm of indignation that no gentleman would be willing to encounter. If I resided in the neighbourhood, or had any interest in the property there, I should feel that it was a matter which concerned my honour, that no such unreasonable neglect should be tolerated on any pretence whatever. As an Englishman and as a gentleman I feel called upon to make my most earnest and indignant protest against further delay in providing for the public safety, and I trust that this letter, which is written entirely on public grounds, may be the means of calling the attention of the local authorities to this glaring wrong. The deep distress into which a most estimable family have been plunged by the late melancholy accident, and the danger which might at any moment occur to a traveller by the spot are sufficient reasons why not a single day should be allowed to pass without providing for the public safety.

Huddersfield, March 14th, 1860. "A PASSER BY."