

VIOLENT ASSAULT ON A POLICEMAN AT MIRFIELD.
—George Crossley, beer-house keeper, of Mirfield, was charged at the Dewsbury Court-house, yesterday, with assaulting Police-constable Smith on the previous day (Wednesday). From the evidence adduced, it appeared that the officer, in company with another, visited the prisoner's house at 2.30 a.m. on the day in question, and found there four men "shaking" with something. They left soon after, but returned again in three-quarters of an hour and rapped at the door, which was opened for them by the prisoner. They (the officers) went inside, and the prisoner left the door and seized a gun which was near the fire-place in the kitchen. This weapon was taken from him, and he then seized the kettle rib (weighing 11½ lbs.) from the front of the fire and struck at the officer Smith with it, but he guarded himself with his night stick, and it hit one of the men they found in the house. The prisoner used very threatening language, again raised the rib, and the first time struck Smith on the side of the head with it and then on the small of the arm, and had it raised again and was in the act of bringing it down on Smith's head when the other officer seized it. They then got hold of the prisoner, threw him on the bed, and handcuffed him, but while in that position he kicked Smith severely. The prisoner, who was very drunk, was ultimately lodged in the lock-up at Dewsbury, and while on the way Smith was very sick and faint. The medical evidence tendered showed that Smith, when examined that morning, was found suffering very much from a contusion on the side of the head, and on the arm a large patch of ecchymosis about four inches by three.—Ald. Scholes, who appeared to defend, addressed the Bench, and said his instructions were that Smith was the aggressor. He called a man named Crowther to speak to this, but it was deposed that he was drunk.—Mr. Greenwood, the chairman of the Bench, then characterised the witness Crowther as a shameless fellow, and after adding that the case was a very bad one indeed, said, "We shall not be doing our duty unless we visit Crossley with severe punishment, and we order him to pay a fine of £15 to the Queen, and costs, and if he does not pay, that a distrait must issue; and if the fine and costs are not satisfied, he must be committed to prison for two months."