

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT THE CALDER VALE REFORMATORY.

About a quarter to nine o'clock on Saturday night last, Joseph Broadhead, of Barnsley, a youth under sentence of detention at the Calder-vale Reformatory, Mirfield, made an attempt to murder two females, and succeeded in wounding one in a very dangerous manner. Broadhead for some time was working, with other of the Reformatory boys, on the farm, but of late has been placed in the kitchen to attend to certain duties there. On Saturday night he was in the bread room, and in the next apartment, a sitting room belonging to the schoolmaster, were Mrs. Johnson (wife of that official) and Miss Louisa Huggon Johnson (his sister), who was staying with her relatives as a visiter. Broadhead fastened a door leading into the school-house, and then taking up a large knife used for cutting up loaves of bread for the boys, he went to the Johnsons, and, rushing at the schoolmaster's wife, attempted to stab her. Luckily, she evaded the thrust, and ran upstairs with the intention of raising an alarm, but failed in doing so, for she fainted. Miss Johnson, now left alone with Broadhead, tried to escape through the bread room, but he rushed upon her, stabbed her in the side, and then inflicted a deep wound in her shoulder. It is supposed that she fell on to a dresser, or supported herself by it before she sunk exhausted to the floor, for upon it was found a large quantity of blood which had gushed out of the wound in her side. Broadhead, no doubt thinking he had succeeded in killing the woman, tried to make his escape through the window of the sitting room, but before he was able to do so he was clutched by Mr. Hepple, the master of the reformatory, who had run up from his office on hearing an unusual noise in the schoolmaster's apartment. Mr. Marsden, surgeon, of Mirfield, was sent for to attend the wounded lady, and on examining her he pronounced her very seriously injured, though it appeared that her life had been preserved, for a time at least, by the knife of the would-be assassin having glanced from one of her ribs. Mr. E. B. W. Balme, a magistrate, and a member of the committee managing the institution, was informed of what had taken place, and he attended for the purpose of taking Miss Johnson's deposition if it was thought necessary. The boy was examined and said the attempt to assassinate the Johnsons was made by two men who had got over a boundary wall and then attacked him, tearing his clothes. He said he got away from them, and that then they went into the schoolmaster's apartment and made the attempt at murder already described. His clothes were found to be partially destroyed, and blood was noticed on them. Superintendent Martin, who had been sent for, now saw the boy, when he changed his tale and owned that he was the only guilty person. He stated that ever since the previous Wednesday he had entertained a strong desire to kill Mrs. and Miss Johnson, though could not tell why, for they had always behaved well to him—the former like a mother. He told the superintendent that he had cut his own clothes, and destroyed portions in a fire in the bread-room, to make it appear that he had been first attacked by the men. Broadhead was taken to the police-station at Dewsbury, and most probably he will be brought up to-day for the purpose of being remanded. He is seventeen years of age, and was committed from Doncaster sessions three years ago to the Reformatory, it having been proved that he had stolen some money. He bears the appearance of a quiet inoffensive youth.