

SHOCKING CRUELTY TO AN ASS AT MIRFIELD.—

At the Dewsbury Court-house, yesterday, George Wright, an old man who obtains a living by hawking potatoes, &c., was charged with cruelly illtreating an ass, his property. He pleaded guilty, but the Magistrates (Mr. J. B. Greenwood and Mr. E. B. W. Balme) ordered a plea of not guilty to be entered, as they did not think Wright properly understood the position in which he stood. Police-constable Smith deposed that, on the 22nd ult., he was going along Back-lane, Mirfield, in plain clothes, when he met the defendant riding in and driving a donkey cart. His feet were upon the shafts, and, in order to make the ass go forward with greater speed, he struck it three times with the edge of a long piece of hoop-iron; a wound was caused by the defendant's violence, and blood flowed from it down the animal's legs. Witness remonstrated with him, on which the defendant used bad language, but desisted on being told that he was a police-officer. The Magistrates asked the defendant what he had to say in answer to the charge. He replied that he beat the donkey because it was unruly. He was committed to prison for one month.