

MIRFIELD.—Mirfield and neighbourhood were visited with a very great flood, the rise of which was very rapid. About four a.m. on Friday the river showed signs of a "fresh;" at half-past five it began to rise rapidly, so that by half-past eight it had covered the road near to the old station. By eleven o'clock the road was impassable even with conveyances, and a boat was actually floated on that part of the highway. As the day wore on, the rain fell faster, and the water rose higher and higher still, covering entirely all the towing paths on the river side, and concealing the wall, some four feet high, which divides the towing path from Mr. Joshua Wheatley's property. The buttresses which support the viaduct of the railway over the river rise some eighteen or twenty feet from the bed of the river, yet the water rose until it covered these buttresses. It is stated, on very competent authority, that the water has not risen so high here since the year 1839. It was higher even than at the time of the far-famed Holmfirth flood. At six o'clock on Friday night all the approaches to the railway station were rendered impassable, more especially so at the Hopton side; parties leaving the station on that side of Mirfield had to get down the embankment as well as they could, and then were carried on the backs of men, who themselves had to wade to the middle in water to accomplish this. In this manner had Mr. Edward A. Leatham, the late member for Huddersfield, to be carried to his carriage, which could not be brought within a quarter of a mile's distance from the entrance. All the mills at Ravensthorpe were stopped early in the day, and the flues of the Britannia mill were choked at noon. There does not appear to have been damage done to any large extent, nor any lives lost, but a very large amount of discomfort was undoubtedly experienced. At Shepley Bridge, the poor cottagers were driven out of their houses, and had to protect the doors with strong boards to prevent the water bursting them in. At this part, the water spread over the fields which separated the river and canal, and thus formed one immense lake. A large quantity of wreck of various descriptions came down the river—trees, timber, spars, planks, casks—both full and empty, and some tons of turnips floated down, besides bundles of straw, a bag of shoddy, dogs, &c. Wooler's and Armitage's houses were completely surrounded with water, and from the latter place, Mrs. Armitage and five children were rescued by being taken through the chamber window, and pulled up to the roof, and thence carried on men's backs to a place of safety. The road from the railway station near Mr. Johnson's mill was overflowed, and a hastily constructed embankment of planks and earth was thrown up to prevent the adjacent houses from being flooded. Men were stationed with lights to guide passers by, who were compelled to leave the road, go through a garden by the roadside, and then by the assistance of a plank, get on to the road again just before crossing the bridge.