

GREAT FIRE AT MIRFIELD LAST NIGHT.

Last night the principal portion of the woollen manufactory belonging to Mr. Benjamin Simpson, Mirfield, was destroyed by fire. The works are situated on the banks of the Calder, on the south side of the railway station, and the portion burnt down is that part nearest the river. It was fifteen windows long by five wide, and was five storeys high, and filled with very valuable spinning and weaving machinery. The fire broke out in the upper storey shortly after seven o'clock, and had there been a supply of water available might have been put out in a few minutes. Unfortunately the only engine in Mirfield is a small one, and nearly three-quarters of an hour elapsed before assistance arrived from Heckmondwike, Dewsbury, and Brighouse. The evening was calm, and the fire, though unchecked for so long a time, did not spread with very great rapidity. It, however, seized firm hold of the building in which it originated, and floor after floor succumbed, as well as the roof. About half-past nine large portions of the side walls fell, but no person was injured. The firemen chiefly directed their attention to saving a portion of the mill separated from that which was burning by a double wall and iron-plated doors. In this they appeared to have been successful, though at the time our correspondent wrote this account (10.10), the flames were raging with great fierceness.

A deal of salvage was made in the earlier stages of the conflagration, but the loss must be £16,000 or £20,000. Mr. Simpson, we hear, was insured.