

THE ROMANCE OF MIRFIELD.—S. J. C., Dewsbury, in answer to “J. B.,” same place (XL.), says—“Up to the year 1261 Mirfield formed part of the Saxon parish of Dewsbury, and it was separated from Dewsbury for the following cause:—It happened that as the lady of Sir John Heton, of Mirfield, was going to mass before dawn on Christmas Day to Dewsbury Church, she was waylaid and robbed, and her principal attendant murdered, at a place called Ravensbrooke Layne. On the same day, while she was at dinner, two mendicant ecclesiastics came to crave her charity, telling her that they were going to Rome, where her husband was then living. She wrote a letter to her husband, relating the horrid scene which she had witnessed, and requested him to beg the Pope to erect the chapel of Mirfield into a parish church, that the inhabitants might no longer be exposed to such dangers as that which she had encountered. This letter was taken by the ecclesiastics to the knight, whose suit was successful. Mirfield being made a rectory, and the patronage being given to Sir John Heton. The church at Mirfield was afterwards appropriated as part of the endowment of the nunnery of Kirkstall. For further particulars on this subject see Greenwood’s ‘Early Ecclesiastical History of Dewsbury.’”—W. S., Morley, says that soon after the change was made Mirfield owned a parochial church, of which Sir John’s younger brother was the first clergyman. He built the rectory house about the year 1300. It was not long after the living of Mirfield was joined into a parish when it was diverted to the support of the nunnery at Kirkstall. In the time of Henry VIII. it was restored to the parish, and the patronage was given to a Thomas Saville, of Clifton.