

A MIRFIELD COLLIERY AGENT ROBBED OF £700.

ESCAPE OF THE THIEVES.

Yesterday morning a daring and carefully planned robbery was reported at the head-quarters of the West Riding Police for the Dewsbury Division, at Dewsbury, as having taken place near the Mirfield Railway Station. It appears that Mr. James Womack, the representative of the Charleston Colliery Company, and residing in Knowle-road, Mirfield, arrived at Mirfield at six o'clock from Bradford with a bag in his possession containing about £700, which he had collected the same day, and consisting of £400 in gold and about £300 in cheques and drafts. A porter accompanied him to the bottom of the station steps, where he was met by a cabman named Richard Lister, who asked him if he was going to ride or walk home. He made no answer, but Lister took hold of his arm, and before they had got many yards he said he would ride home. Lister's son immediately brought a cab alongside the causeway, and as Mr. Womack was taking his seat a tall, well-dressed man suddenly appeared at the cab door, and told the occupant that a guard from Charleston wished to see him particularly at the station. Richard Lister, who knew Mr. Womack was in the habit of returning home with large sums of money, told the stranger that Mr. Womack did not wish to see anybody until he had been home. The stranger made it appear to Lister that he was a friend of Mr. Womack's, and entered the cab before it had got out of the railway arch. Before the rugs were removed from the horse in order to make a start, the man who entered the cab passed the bag belonging to Mr. Womack to two confederates, who made off up Station-lane, and have not since been heard of. Workpeople were leaving the mill at the time, and the thieves had a better chance of making their escape. Mr. Womack missed his bag immediately, and shouted, "My bag is off." The cab-driver jumped down from his seat and saw the man who entered the cab with Mr. Womack running up the lane. Lister and others gave chase, but were unable to capture any of the men. Information was soon afterwards given to the police, but up to late last night no clue to lead to the apprehension of the thieves had been obtained. At eleven o'clock the same night Mr. Womack's bag was discovered near the garden gate of Mr. Parkin, and adjoining Caxton Buildings. Mr. Parkin's son, who was talking to two of his companions at the time, stated that he picked up the bag, and on examining it found the name "J. Womack" inside. The three youths at once took the bag to the police-station, and it was found to be quite empty. The place where the bag was found was in Queen-street, which is not a public thoroughfare, and where the thieves would be able to empty the bag without being seen by anybody. The three men who took part in the robbery can be identified by several persons who saw them at the station. They arrived at Mirfield without tickets, from Wakefield, early in the afternoon, and told the collector they were going to Bradford. Their fares were demanded, and they paid the collector and then proceeded to Bradford. The ticket-collector describes the men as being very much like card-sharpers, and says they were all well dressed. The same men were seen to alight from the same train that Mr. Womack came by from Bradford on Thursday night, and a porter saw the thieves follow Mr. Womack into the urinal at the station. They would have achieved their object here but for the interference of the porter, who had been watching them, and the same official saw Mr. Womack safely to the steps leading into Station-road. Our correspondent saw Mr. Womack last night, and was informed that at Bradford station the thieves were prohibited by one of the railway inspectors from entering the same compartment as Mr. Womack.