

THE DEWSBURY MURDER.

PRISONER COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

At the Dewsbury Borough Court on Saturday, Harry Walker, stoker, of Mirfield, was charged, on remand, with the murder of Sarah Ann Chatman, on the 9th May. The Court was crowded. Mr. E. Mawdsley prosecuted, and Mr. Hiram A. Ellis appeared for the prisoner.

Mr. Mawdsley, opening the case, said the evidence was so abundant and conclusive as to the crime, that he had no hesitation in saying that prisoner would have to take his trial on the charge. He then proceeded to state the facts of the murder, which were to the effect that the deceased had been leading an irregular life. On Monday night she came across the prisoner at the Great Northern Hotel, Dewsbury, and went with him to Savile Town. They had some liquor at the Savile Arms, and on returning to Dewsbury Walker pushed the deceased against the railings of the bridge, then took hold of her and threw or rolled her into the river. In conclusion, Mr. Mawdsley said he would be able to submit to the Bench additional evidence of the utmost importance. Police-constable Hughes, who was in charge of the prisoner the whole of Monday night, would be called, and state that the prisoner made an entirely voluntary statement to him. Prisoner also made an important statement to Sergeant Kendall, but he would not prejudice the case by stating the purport of this further evidence.

Jubal Gibson and the other witnesses who gave evidence at the inquest on Wednesday were examined, and they repeated the statements on that occasion.

Geo. Roberts, son of the landlord of the Great Northern Hotel, and Mrs. Brooke, landlady of the Savile Hotel, were called, and proved that deceased and prisoner called at their respective houses before nine o'clock at night on the 9th inst.

Joseph Brown, chemical manufacturer, Savile Town, said he was being driven in his trap on the night in question from Thornhill to Dewsbury. Whilst passing over Savile Bridge his driver suddenly slackened speed, as there was a man and woman in front. He watched the man and woman go to the balustrade, and saw the former lounge against the latter, then stoop down, and taking her by the garments, lifted her up horizontally, and rolled her over the railings into the river. He called out to some men to stop the man who committed the deed, and looked over the bridge, but could see nothing except a man, whom he afterwards identified as the witness Gibson, wading in the water.

In cross-examination, witness said he did not see Gibson strike the prisoner with a bat, neither did he see Walker attempt to kick Gibson, as the latter had alleged.

Police-constable Hughes said he had charge of the prisoner on Monday night at the police-station. About ten o'clock Walker said, "The ——— aggravated me so much that I threw her over the bridge," and he repeated this statement.

Sergeant Kendall said that on one occasion when he visited the prisoner on Monday night, and asked him what he wanted, he replied, "No, I have had enough to-night. She is a bad 'un. If there had been a burning furnace I should have thrown her in."

Most of the witnesses said the prisoner was very drunk when the deed was committed.

Mr. Ellis asked the Bench to reduce the charge for trial to one of manslaughter, but the Justices decided that the prisoner should take his trial at the next Leeds Assizes on the capital charge.

Prisoner was conveyed to Wakefield in a cab the same afternoon, where he will remain until the Assizes commence.