

THE DEWSBURY MURDER.

At the Dewsbury Borough Court last 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.

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.