

## THE BETTING RAID AT MIRFIELD.

There was a large attendance at the West Riding Police-court, Dewsbury, yesterday, to hear a series of charges arising out of the recent raid by the police on the Navigation Inn, at Mirfield. There were on the bench Messrs. G. Sheard (Chairman), E. T. Ingham, J. E. Walker, and W. E. Firth.—Mrs. Naylor, the landlady of the public-house named, was charged with "keeping a common betting-house," and John Mack, well-known bookmaker, was charged with "resorting to the Navigation Inn on certain dates for the purpose of betting."—Henry Sheard, George Ellis, Fred. Withenbank, Absalom Spink, Harry Loader, Richard Lister, S. Holroyd, Terry Naylor (Mirfield), B. Crowther (Heckmondwike), and Edwin Lister (Brigg-ouse) were charged with "resorting to the Navigation Inn on the 13th inst. for the purpose of betting." Mr. Trevor C. Edwards, the West Riding Solicitor, prosecuted; Mr. J. Lodge appeared for Mack; Mr. E. W. Wilson attended on behalf of Mrs. Naylor; and Mr. Hughes (Messrs. Chadwick and Sons, Dewsbury) represented the owners of the inn.

Mr. Edwards said the proceedings were taken under the Betting-houses Act. The evidence would show that Mrs. Naylor was constantly in and out of the room where Mack was in the habit of going, and where it was alleged the illegal proceedings took place, and therefore a party to what was done by Mack. She heard bets made when she took liquor into the room, and when conversation was addressed to her relating to betting, she made no objection whatever. Mack stopped at the house to dinner on the dates in the charges, and during the time he was there scores of people went into the house to make bets with Mack. A raid was made on the premises by the police on the 13th September, and all the defendants were found there. Mack had in his possession £70 and a large quantity of sporting literature. He asked the Bench to mark their disapproval of the proceedings in such a way as would lead to a discontinuance of the practice.

Police-constable Ashburne gave evidence to the effect that he visited the Navigation Inn on various dates, and found Mack there taking bets, each time with the knowledge of Mrs. Naylor.

Mr. Lodge and Mr. Wilson both put in a plea of guilty before the officer had concluded his evidence.—Mr. Lodge, on behalf of his client, said there was no doubt Mack had indulged in betting in a small way. Mack had never been cautioned by the police, and he had never attempted to defraud any one. He always paid those who won money from him, and he had £70 in his possession when the raid was made, in order to pay his customers.

Mrs. Naylor was fined £10 for the first case, and 1s. in each of the other three cases and costs, or two months' imprisonment; and Mack was fined £25 and costs for the first case, and 1s. in each of the other three cases, or three months. The charge against the other men was withdrawn, and they were all liberated.