

FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR DEWSBURY.—FOUR MEN DROWNED.—On Saturday night, about eight o'clock, four men were drowned by the upsetting of a pleasure boat on the river Calder, at Ravensthorpe, near Dewsbury. In the afternoon, Mr. Robert Hemingway, manufacturer, of Staincliffe, along with Charles Culverwell and Thos. Boothroyd, clerks in the goods department of the London and North-Western Railway Station at Dewsbury, and Wm. Thornton, met at the Ravens Wharf Inn, a public-house situated on the Dewsbury and Huddersfield turnpike-road, and near the boundary of the parishes of Mirfield and the former place. After staying there a while, they went to a boat-house on a part of the river Calder called Broad-dam, and hired a pleasure boat. In this they proceeded in the direction of Mirfield, and then returned towards the boat-house, and were in the act, it is said, of changing seats, when the boat capsized, and the whole party were precipitated at a point where it is some forty yards wide, and three or four deep. This was in the presence of some spectators who were on the bank, but at too great a distance from the place where the other boats were kept for one to be procured and rowed to their assistance. Mr. Hemingway, it is reported, floated down the stream for some distance, and was taken out 150 yards below where the accident occurred; but the others struggled and sank near where they were thrown into the water. Mr. Hemingway, it is said, breathed once after he was taken out of the water, but, though every effort was made to restore animation, it entirely failed. Grapnels were used and Culverwell's body was discovered at ten o'clock the same night, but those of his unfortunate companions not till the next day—Boothroyd's being found at six o'clock on Sunday morning, and Thornton's at twelve o'clock—the latter at a place 300 yards below where the boat upset. Thornton was about seventeen years old, but the others were approaching middle age, but unmarried. On Monday afternoon, Mr. Taylor held an inquest on the bodies. One of the jury remarked that Hemingway, whom he had known personally, was subject to fits, and he believed he must have been attacked by one while in the water. Another jurymen observed that such boats as that which the deceased had hired out were unfit for public use. The room was then cleared, and the jury deliberated on their verdict. In about half an hour they returned one of "Accidental death," and appended to it a recommendation to the three Boards of Health of Dewsbury, Thornhill, and Ravensthorpe, that they should take into consideration whether such boats as were in use on that part of the Calder, as public pleasure-boats, were fit for the purpose.