

## SHOCKING AFFAIR AT KIRKHAM.

A dreadful affair occurred at Kirkham, near Preston, on Sunday night. It appears that a party of Irish harvest men went to the Swan Inn, where they had something to drink. About 11 o'clock they became very noisy, and the landlord, Mr. Henry Rawcliffe, expressed his desire to clear the house. He asked the men to go, but they refused. He then seized one of them, named Garrety, who seemed to be the worst, and got him into the lobby, but was unable to eject him. Subsequently he went to the door, and gave an alarm with a dog whistle. This brought a policeman named Fletcher to his assistance, who tried to get the men away, but he could not do so. The officer then went out and whistled, and Sergeant Lofthouse came up, and Garrety was apprehended. The other Irishmen then turned out of the house. A man named James Cain, his wife, and Patrick Cain, their nephew, tried, but ineffectually, to rescue Garrety, who was taken to the lock-up. The three Cains then ran away, but were pursued by the police. Whilst the officers were thus engaged, they were informed that Rawcliffe, the landlord, had been killed. They then went to the Swan, where they found Rawcliffe almost dead, and attended by two surgeons. It appears that after the officers had left, the door of the Swan Inn was immediately closed, and Rawcliffe and his eldest daughter, a girl 15 years of age, went into an upper room, with a view to see what was going on in the street. At that time the crowd in front of the door had gone away, and Rawcliffe was about leaving the window. His daughter had gone just before; but she had not proceeded very far before she heard a great crash, and, on looking round, observed her father with his head near the window. She went up to him, when, to her horror, she found that a poker had been driven into his eye. It had been hurled at him from the street. She did her utmost to extract the poker, but her efforts were ineffectual. She immediately raised an alarm, and several neighbours came in. Rawcliffe was found lying on a chair near the window, bleeding profusely, and with the poker still protruding from his right eye. A man named Smith tried to pull out the poker, but for some time his efforts proved unavailing. At length he placed the unfortunate man's head between his knees, and even then it required all his force to extract the poker. Of course Rawcliffe was quite insensible. Two medical men were sent for; but Rawcliffe died an hour afterwards. The poker had entered under the lower lid of the eye, and had thence passed into the brain.

On Monday, Garrety and the three Cains were brought before the Kirkham magistrates. Garrety was committed for two months for assaulting the police, and the others were remanded until Thursday.

On Monday, the inquest was opened, and after some formal evidence had been given, the inquiry was adjourned until Monday next. At present nothing definite is known as to who threw the poker at deceased.

A correspondent writes that after the hearing of the case at the Police Court, the landlady of the Cains volunteered a statement to the effect that on Sunday night James Cain ran into her house and seized a poker, swearing that he would have somebody's life, or some one should have his, that night; and that he took the poker out with him a few minutes before the landlord was struck.

**SUICIDE OF A LADY.**—On Thursday evening an inquest was held at Matlock Bath, on the body of Jemima Wheatcroft, the wife of Mr. Edward Wheatcroft, who had that morning committed suicide by throwing herself from off a balcony, some 20 feet high, into the river Derwent, which runs behind her husband's house. From the medical and other evidence it appeared that the deceased had been in a low desponding way for some time, and that she had frequently expressed her intention of destroying herself. On the Wednesday previous she had become unusually excited and wild, which caused her family great trouble and uneasiness. She was, however, got to bed, and as the evening wore on she became more quiet. The family retired to rest with their fears somewhat subsided. On the husband awaking at the break of day, and not finding his wife in the room, an alarm was immediately raised, and a search was made for her throughout the house; but not finding her there, a boat was procured, and, on proceeding down the river, the lifeless body of the poor woman was found floating on the surface, some distance from the house. After a careful consideration of the facts the jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased had drowned herself whilst suffering from temporary insanity."—*Nottingham Guardian*.

**A DESPERATE LEAP.**—On Sunday night an inspector of carriages on the South Eastern Railway, living at Tunbridge, jumped out of a train which was going at its full speed near the Tunbridge station. It appears that the man, whose name was Blanche, had by mistake got into an excursion train at Ashford, expecting that it was a train which would stop at Tunbridge. It happened to be the excursion train from London to Ramsgate, on its return, and did not stop between Ashford and Redhill, so that it passed through Tunbridge station at great speed. The man, heedless of danger, jumped out at Tunbridge in order to get home. The wonder is he was not killed on the spot; fortunately, however, he escaped with injuries which, though of a serious character, were not such as to endanger his life. He was cut and bruised about the head and face, and sustained a shocking laceration of the hand, part of which has since been amputated. He was rendered almost senseless by the shock, and wandered down the line as far as Pad-dock Wood, where he remained till an up-luggage train brought him back to Tunbridge. Mr. Cook, surgeon, was called in to attend him, and he is still under medical treatment, progressing favourably.—*Sussex Express*.