

WIFE SELLING IN YORKSHIRE.

An Authentic Recent Case in Which Documents Were Signed.

From The Sheffield Telegraph.

There were present the husband—an iron-worker, resident at Masborough—the wife, who, it is alleged, had transferred her affections to a Kilnhurst miner; the miner himself, the wife's parents, and two friends. The wife was prepossessing in appearance, and was of about the same age as her husband and her suitor—twenty-six or twenty-eight years. The separation had been mutual. The husband thought he was entitled to pecuniary recompense, and the following is some indication of what transpired on this point:

The Wife—I think he wants too much; he wants £3.

The Miner—When I set off this morning I only intended to give 20s. for thee.

There was more bargaining, and at last the husband said: "I fixed my price at £3, but I will come down to £2." The reduced value was not acceptable, and there seemed a possibility of the negotiations falling through, the husband at one stage intimating: "We will stop as we are, then."

More conversation as to price followed, and eventually the amount agreed upon was 30s. Afterward there were friendly drinks round, paid for by the husband. The arrangement was duly ratified in writing, the precise wording only being settled upon after some trouble. I saw the first effort at the drawing up of the document, which read as follows: "Mr. —, to let my wife, Elizabeth —, free from me forever to do as she has a mind, this day, 11th December." One other detail had to be arranged, and that was with regard to the custody of a child of the marriage. The husband, it should be stated, took all responsibility in this matter.

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