

Fire at Wadsley Bridge

Last evening about a quarter to six a fire was discovered in the house of Mr. Thomas Usher, clogger and shoe dealer, at Wadsley Bridge. The daughter of Mr. O. Beaumont was going down the road where the house is situated, and observed a light, as if something was on fire in the bedroom. She immediately went into the house and informed the children of Mr. Usher of what was occurring. Mr. and Mrs. Usher at the time were at Mr. Beaumont's house, and they were quickly fetched. On Mr. Usher arriving he went upstairs and attempted to get into the bedroom, but it, was so full of flame and smoke that he found it impossible. A ladder was then procured and placed against the window on the outside. Mr. Usher rushed up, broke the window, and being supplied with buckets of water by the neighbours, poured their contents on the flames and quickly succeeded in subduing them. In the meantime Mr. Siddall whose mother owns the property, had ridden off to Sheffield for the fire brigade, and Mr. Pound and his men were quickly on the spot, but found on their arrival that their services were not required, the fire having been put out. This fire seems to have originated in the right-hand corner of the room. Here there were some boxes on a dressing table. On the former were the children's clothes. About fifteen minutes before the fire was discovered a daughter of Mr. Usher's had been to a drawer near the spot in which was kept her hat. She had carried a lighted candle with her, and it is supposed, and it is the only reason which can be given for the outbreak, is that she dropped a spark which fell among the clothing and ignited them. Before the flames could be got under control the whole of the property in this particular portion of the room had been destroyed, and the flames had caught hold of one of the beds, burnt the widows, charred the flooring and the door, the damage to the occupier's property being estimated at £10. Mr. Usher is not insured, but it is unknown whether the owner of the property is or is not.