

Serious Fire at Darnall The Hall in Danger

This afternoon a fire of a serious nature occurred at Darnall, at the old Darnall Hall, and which considerably endangered the building. The house is occupied by Police-constable (167) Harris, who acts as caretaker, and just before two o'clock this afternoon he was in bed, after having been on night duty. His wife noticed that the staircase leading to the third story was in flames, and she at once ran to her husband. He endeavoured to cope with the flames by throwing buckets of water over them, but his efforts were unavailing. Running to one of the windows he blew his whistle for assistance at the same time sending a message to the works of Messrs. Craven (Limited) from where a telephone message was sent to the Fire Station. The Attercliffe Police Station was also communicated with, and from the latter place Police-sergeants Vause and Huditch, with several constables and the fire escape were speedily at the house. The message was received at the Fire Station about two o'clock and Superintendent Frost, with the tender and several men, were quickly on their way to the house. On their arrival they found that the fire was raging in the staircase and the roof, and a hose was got to work from a hydrant, which luckily happened to be very close to the house. The roof of the house consisting of boards, and over these is laid a thick coat of lead. The flames ran underneath the boards, burning them and causing the lead to melt. This made the task of the firemen more difficult, but after stripping a quantity of the lead from the boards and playing on the flames for an hour they obtained mastery. The damage is estimated at about £200. The hall is a very old building, having been erected in the year 1723 for Mr. Samuel Staniforth, and ancestor of the present owner, Mr. E. W. Staniforth, of Kirkheaton Hall, Yorkshire.