

Rochdale Observer
Saturday February 8, 1878

BACUP COUNTY COURT.- On Tuesday, the regular sitting of this court was held before W. A. Halton, Esq, judge, when the cause list contained one adjourned case, 90 new cases and one commitment summons.- Whittaker Cunliffe, farmer, of Cloughfold, sued Captain Patrick , of the same place, for £2 damages he had sustained in consequence of the defendant having taken forcible possession of a meadow in his occupation. Mr H. Backhouse, of Blackburn, was for the plaintiff, and the defendant conducted his own case. It appeared that in April last the Rev J.B.Phillips, the plaintiff's landlord, sold to the defendant a meadow, and afterwards both these gentlemen waited on the plaintiff, told him of the sale that had taken place, and Mr Phillips added that he was going to give Captian Patrick possession of the meadow on that day. Plaintiff replied that he had put some manure on the land, and if Captain Patrick took it he should want some recompense. Captain Patrick told him to go up to his house on that night, and they would try and settle the matter. Accordingly he went to Captain Patrick's house, and agreed to take the farm for one year certain at £6 for the year. At the beginning of September, in consequence of something he had heard, plaintiff placed a lock and chain on the gate of the meadow. On the 24th of September Captain Patrick went to the farm, and because plaintiff still refused to give up possession of the meadow he broke the gate open, turned in seven cows, and had had possession ever since. Plaintiff considered that £2 was a reasonable sum for the damage he had sustained. -Captain Patrick, in his own defence, said that the agreement was that the plaintiff should give £6 for the crop, and not for the meadow, and when he had taken off the crop of hay he was to give up possession of the meadow. He added that the two cuts of grass the plaintiff had off the meadow were worth £14, and it was only out of consideration to him, and being a new neighbour of his, that induced him to let him have them for £6. His Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff.