

## The Times Issue 13 November 1877

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“John Milligan and James Woolgar, respectable lads, were charged, on remand, with putting a lighted paper in the post-office pillar box, Jamaica-road, with intent to set fire to letters, &c, the property of the Postmaster-General. It appeared from the evidence of David Lester, 7 R Reserve that, on the 2d at noon, he received information that some boys had put a lighted paper in the pillar-box at the corner of Jamaica-road, and on proceeding there saw smoke coming out of the orifice, and the prisoners running away. Another constable was with him, and he got water to extinguish the fire. Witnesses went after the boys, catching Milligan as he was entering his father's house. The other was apprehended two days afterwards. Milligan said "I struck the match, and the other boy put the paper in." Woolgar said that when they came out of school the other prisoner showed him some matches and wanted to set fire to the house. He said, "Don't do that; there's the pillar-box close by. Let's have a lark there." Several letters and newspapers were charred, but not much damaged. The magistrate ordered them to be whipped, and given up to their parents."