



Prisoner Sets Fire To Tree Plantation

Wilts Summer Assizes

John Burt, 34 , labourer , was charged with setting fire to a plantation of trees, the property of the Right Hon. The Earl of Pembroke, at Fugglestone St Peter, on 4th April. At half-past 4 o'clock on the day named, prisoner called at the house of a labourer named John Chalk, and asked for a drink of water, which was given him by Chalk's wife, and he walked slowly away. About 10 minutes afterwards, the woman Chalk saw the bank by the road side (bounding a plantation the property of the Earl of Pembroke) on fire. The prisoner was close by, but when he saw her he got over the hedge and ran away. The fire spread to the plantation, and was extinguished with difficulty. A man named Charles Vincent was attracted by the flames, and went in search of the prisoner, whom he overtook. He asked him what he had been doing, to which he replied that he had set fire to the plantation with a Lucifer match. When taken into custody he again admitted setting fire to the plantation, and said he did it to get out of his misery. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and his Lordship reserved sentence.

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