

THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS.
INCREDIBLE AUDACITY OF THE
MURDERER.
A HUMAN KIDNEY RECEIVED BY
POST.

From inquiries made in Mile End on Thursday night the Press Association is enabled to give the following particulars of a communication made to members of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee. Mr Lusk, builder, of the Alderney Road, has received several letters purporting to be from the perpetrator of the Whitechapel murders, but believing them to be the product of some practical joker he has regarded them as of no consequence. On Tuesday evening, however, he received the following letter in a cardboard box containing some fleshy substance :—

“FROM HELL.

“Mr Lusk,—Sir, I send you half the kidney I took from one woman. Prasarved it for you. The other piece I fried and ate. It was very nice. I may send you the bloody knife that took it out, if only wait a while longer. (Signed) “CATCH ME IF YOU CAN.

“Mr Lusk.”

The receiver was at first disposed to think that another hoax had been perpetrated, but eventually decided to take the opinion of the Vigilance Committee. That body decided to take the contents of the cardboard box to a medical man whose surgery was near. Mr F. S. Reed, assistant to Dr Wiles, examined the contents of the box, and declared the substance to be half of a human kidney divided longitudinally ; but, in order to remove any reason for doubt, he conveyed it to Dr Openshaw, who is pathological curator to the London Hospital museum, who examined it, and also pronounced it to be a portion of a human kidney—a “ginny” kidney ; that is to say, it had belonged to a person who had drunk heavily. He was further of opinion that it was the organ of a woman about 45 years of age, and that it had been taken from the body within the last three weeks. It will be within the recollection of the public that the left kidney was missing from the body of the woman Eddowes, who was murdered and mutilated in Mitre Square. Mr Lusk and another member of the Vigilance Committee took the parcel on Thursday to Scotland Yard, but the police authorities there referred them to the detectives at Leman Street. At the latter place the officer who is directing the inquiries took down Mr Lusk’s statement, which he considered to be of great importance, and the contents were left in the care of the police pending further investigation. Mr Lusk states that a day or two before receiving the box he had sent to him a postcard, which he now considers of sufficient importance to make public. It is in the following words :—

“Say, boss, you seem rare frightened. Guess I’d like to give you fits, but can’t stop time enough to let you box of toys play copper games with me, but hope to see you when I don’t hurry too much. Good-bye, boss.”

The Vigilance Committee held another meeting on Thursday night, when this new feature in the case was considered.