

How a Boy Saved Three Lives.*

IN January, 1882, a fire broke out in a large building in New York. In the great structure there was but one stairway, and that made of wood. Of course it was soon consumed, and numbers of the inmates were cut off from escape and perished in the flames. Many lives

were lost—but three lives were saved,—saved by the quick wit and prompt courage of a colored boy named Charley Wright, a boot-black. When the flames were raging, three men were observed high up at a corner window in the upper story. To leap would be death. Go back they could not. What could be done? The life preserving apparatus was then brought out, but the longest ladder would scarce reach half the distance, and it seemed as if the men must perish.

But in the great crowd that stood gazing in dread and pity on the sight was the colored boy just named. To this lad came a bright idea: he acted on it; he saved these three men from a dreadful death.

Looking up as all the rest were looking, Charley Wright saw something that set him thinking. He saw that, fastened to the roof of the building, just above the window where these men were, was a rope of wires. He saw that this rope ran across the street to the top of a telegraph pole on the other side. And he knew that if this rope could be cut at the top of the pole, it would fall right across the window, so that the three men could

reach it. This was the bright idea that came into Charley's mind.

No time was to be lost. In an instant he seized a fireman's wrench that lay on the stones near by, rushed across the street, and began to climb the tall, smooth telegraph-pole. To do this was no easy task in the wind and snow, but by hard, fast, desperate climbing, Charley soon reached the cross-bars. And hard and fast he worked when he got there. In a moment he had twisted

the wire rope off. Down it fell, right across the window! A great shout of joy went up from the crowd, as, one after another, the three men came down this strange fire-escape safe to the ground.

To this brave lad the American Humane Society voted a medal. Even across the sea, people heard of him and praised him. From England came a gold medal, sent by the Royal Humane Society, on which were stamped the words: "Presented to Charles Wright, for saving three lives, Jan. 31, 1882." All honor to brave Charley Wright.

[As we read the foregoing thrilling incident, it occurred

to us that we need more men of the Charley Wright stamp. We are surrounded on every hand with perishing men and women. The machinery of our religious organizations, costly (and very efficient to a certain point), does not appear to reach them. Oh, for men quick of thought

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