

A Boy's Quick Wit.

Ezekiel Willis of Geneseo was brought prominently before the public last Saturday. By his quick wit the little fellow saved the life of Devilio Sanders, a professional steeple climber, whose home is in Belmont, Allegany county, N. Y.

A few weeks ago the spire of the Episcopal church in Geneseo was struck by lightning and suffered some damage but a few feet from the apex. On account of the inaccessibility of the damaged portion the trustees of the church and insurance companies were at a loss to estimate the proper damages sustained whereby a settlement could be effected by the insurance companies.

Saturday afternoon Mr. Sanders arrived in Geneseo with his paraphernalia and proceeded at once to the task for which he had been engaged. A large crowd had gathered to witness the hair-raising feat. Sanders climbed into the belfry and from there passed out onto the ridge of the roof, where he placed a ladder which reached some distance up from the base of the spire. When he had reached to the top of the ladder, which was steadied by several men, he passed a slender rope around the steeple and around his body and began to work around the steeple and upwards. His progress was slow but steady, and at length he reached the damaged portion of the steeple. Here his progress stopped and he seemed to be trying to adjust his rope. Seconds grew into minutes minutes slipped away, and still he seemed unable to move, and the anxious spectators became more and more apprehensive. Finally from his giddy height he was seen to pause, wave his hand as if in signal and shout something to the men waiting on the roof sixty feet below. At first his words could not be distinguished, but at length he made them understand that the rope had become caught in a crevice where the thunderbolt had forced the stones apart, and he was unable to move forward or back. His shout was for help. But the men were nonplussed.

Many schemes were hastily suggested, but at once were seen to be impractical. A generous prize was offered to anyone who would ascend, as Mr. Sanders had done, and carry him a rope by which he could descend. But none dared to make the attempt.

At this juncture little Ezekiel Willis was seized with a thought and he was seen to leave the crowd and run with all his might to his home. In a few moments the lad returned bearing with him a large kite that his uncle, James M. Robinson, had made for him but a few days before. Many of the spectators saw in an instant what the boy's thought was and wonderingly asked each other, "Can it be done?"

The boy tested the wind, selected the spot and prepared to fly the kite, while the spectators watched with breathless anxiety. Slowly the kite left the ground and rose above the tree tops, then above the steeple to which was clinging the unfortunate Sanders. Then little Ezekiel's manipulation brought the kite string across the steeple and soon it was in reach of the imperiled climber, who hastily grasped it. A clothesline was fastened to the slender kite string which was drawn up by Mr. Sanders, and to that a heavier rope was fastened, and this, too, was soon drawn up and fastened to the spire, and by this Mr. Sanders descended to the roof below. From there his descent to the ground was easy.—Geneseo Correspondence Buffalo Courier.

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to be added to a category which includes almost everything from fire to cyclone. Joseph E. Woods, 170 Madison street, is the man who is willing to take the risks.

Mr. Woods has noticed that open-air entertainments, such as summer gardens, ball parks, and spectacular affairs, lose a lot of money because of bad weather. He has noted, too, that they often cut their "dates" because of stormy weather.

Therefore he is prepared to insure them, at so much per day or night, that they will have pleasant evenings and sunshiny afternoons. He has made such a proposition to H. B. Thearle, manager of the Pain Pyro-

technic company, which opens its "Ancient Rome" production at Monroe street and Fortieth avenue on August 4. The offer includes protection against rain, hail, lightning, and wind.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Name Famine in Denmark.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt has sent his paper an interesting article on the "name famine" in Denmark. In no nation, he says, is the choice of the family name so limited. It very often happens that four persons unknown to each other sit down to a game of

whist, and later present themselves, respectively, as Hansen. He proves this statement by quoting Dr. Krak, the compiler and publisher of the Copenhagen Wegweiser, the largest Danish street directory.

According to Dr. Krak, out of a population of 500,000 in the Danish capital, 42 per cent end their names with "sen." Some 50,000 are named Hansen, which is used by the largest number of persons.—New York Times.

President Roosevelt delivered the address at the opening of the state fair in Syracuse, N. Y., on September 7. He received a magnificent reception from the citizens of that vicinity.