



## The Young Urchin

—1839—

At midnight on a quiet Monday night in 1839, the hotel's cook was woken by a dog barking wildly. As he walked over to shush the dog, he heard a voice from the fireplace calling '*Let me out!*' With the fireplace strongly ablaze, the cook was baffled. "*I'm in the chimney a grilling!*" came the nervous voice again.

"How the deuce did you get there?" the cook shouted. There was no reply. The panicked cook rushed to get help.

A policeman soon arrived, and the cook showed him to the roof of the building. The policeman climbed the chimney with a rope and looked down. He saw something like a mop which sung out desperately. The stuck mop-haired man – later to be described as "a young urchin" – grabbed hold of the rope.

The policeman and the cook pulled with all their might until the stuck man popped out like a cork out of a bottle! He was covered in soot and clearly shaken by the ordeal, surely unlikely to ever try robbing by chimney ever again.

### Reference

Hobart Town Police Report, *Colonial Times*, Tue 17 Sep 1839, p. 6