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"Oh, no sir! My name's Gertrude Wilson."

"What a beautiful geranium you have there."

"Isn't it lovely?"

"Indeed it is, and the finest I ever saw. Where did you get it?"

"About three years ago, a lady left a slip on the seat in a horse-car. I took it home, got the richest earth I could find, put it in this old paint can, and then set the slip in it, and it began growing right away. I've given it plenty of water to drink, and kept it in the sunshine as much as possible."

"Why, I should think you would love it very dearly."

"Love it. I guess I do love it. It seems just like a part of myself."

"Well, my child, if you love it so much, pray tell me why you want to sell it?"

"Oh, I wouldn't let it go, if I did not want to help God answer Billy's prayer. Don't you think it splendid to help answer somebody's prayer?"

"How do you know I believe in prayer?"

"Oh, I'm sure you do, for you have a prayerful look."

She broke into a merry laugh, and I joined her in it, as I said: "Yes I do believe in prayer. Now tell me who Billy is."

As I made this request, a joyous look came into her face, and her large blue eyes shone with delight; and as the dimples deepened in her cheeks, I beheld a picture that was worth going a long way to see.

"What? Billy? Oh, he's the nicest and best little fellow in all the city! Why, he is goodness, sunshine, and music all in one lump. Someone let him drop when he was quite young and broke his hip, and ever since he has been a cripple. But his leg is the only crooked thing about him. My mother says that Billy's mother was the best Christian she ever knew. Well, when she died last year, everybody in our tenement house wanted

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to adopt Billy; so you see he belongs to all of us. He pays his way by selling newspapers, and no one with good legs can get around livelier than Billy can with a crutch. But yesterday his crutch caught in a hole in the sidewalk, broke in two, and let him fall. He managed to get into the house, and was not hurt. Well, last night just as I was going to bed, I heard Billy praying. His room is next to mine, and only a board partition between—so I could hear it all. Oh, I shall never forget his words, and he said: 'Dear Lord, I've never complained about my broken hip, and I am willing to go through life with it, but I can't get on without a crutch. I've no money to get another, and I don't know who to ask, so please, dear Lord, send me another one. Mother always told me to go to you, when I was in trouble, and so I come now. Please, dear Lord, answer my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.'

"I lay awake a good while thinking of that prayer, and it was the first thing I thought of this morning, and I began wondering if I couldn't do something to help God answer Billy's prayer. Well, while I was wondering, I saw my geranium, and then I said, 'Oh, maybe I can sell it and get enough to buy another crutch.'

"Now, you know who Billy is, and why I want to sell my geranium. Won't you please buy it?"

"I was greatly moved and interested, and I will own up to a great deal of moisture in my eyes, as I inquired, 'How tall is Billy?'

"Oh," she quickly responded, "I've got the measure of his old crutch, if that is what you mean."

"Yes, that is just what I mean, so if you please, Gertrude, we'll go and see about a crutch."

It did not take us long to find a store where such a thing was to be procured, nor a great while to get the keeper of the store as much interested as I was in the girl's story. Just the right kind of crutch was found, and a minimum price put upon it.

"Well," I said, "I'll give you that much for the geranium, Gertrude, and it is very cheap at that."

"O thank you," she said, and her eyes fairly danced with gladness. "I'll take the crutch, please, but Billy mustn't know a word about where it came from. Isn't it just splendid to help God answer Billy's prayer?"

The moisture in my eyes didn't subside one bit, as I said: "I want you

to do me a favour, Gertrude. I am hundreds of miles away from the place where I live, and I can't carry this plant around with me. Would it be too much trouble for you to keep it for me?"

"What, do you want that I should take care of it for you?"

"Yes, my dear, if it will not be too much trouble!"

"Oh, you splendid man, you! I'll be glad to do it, and I'll take just as good care of it as I did when it was mine."

I carried the plant, while she carried the crutch, and after reaching the house, Billy was called in to see me, while Gertrude smuggled the crutch into his room, and came back with a face as happy as a face could be, but never betraying to Billy by word or look, that she had been answering Billy's prayer.

To sum it all up, Billy has a new crutch, and he is the happiest cripple in the big city. Gertrude helped answer his prayer, and a happier girl doesn't live. I own the handsomest geranium bush I ever saw, and the one who takes care of it for me is as proud as I am of that plant.—Author and Source Unknown.

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