

Children's Work.

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Christopher Columbus.

BY AGNES.

PART II.

So Columbus went away to the convent for his son, determined to go next to France. But the kind prior was not discouraged; he went to the queen himself and won her over. You must understand that Isabella was not merely a "queen consort," she was a "queen regnant," and equal in power to her husband, King Ferdinand.

After more delay Columbus was allowed to fit out three vessels, called caravels, only one of which, the Santa Maria, was decked. They were manned by one hundred and twenty men, and had provisions for a year.

On Friday, the 3rd of August, 1492, Columbus set sail from Palos. One can fancy his son, Diego, now a well-grown lad, down among the crowd of people assembled to see them off, and possibly his good friend, the prior, from the convent above the port, helped to conduct the devotional exercises that took place before starting.

For days a strong wind from the east drove them steadily westward. These winds, which have since been called the "trade winds," frightened the sailors. Then when they were calmed in the Saragossa sea, or Sea of Weeds, these superstitious men were still more frightened, and tried to make Columbus turn back.

It is this great patience and forbearance and power over men that makes Columbus a great man. For more than a month he held his mutinous sailors in check; then, when they grew so unruly no man could manage them, he promised to turn back in three days if land were not discovered.

On the first of the three days they picked up a branch of a tree or shrub, with red berries on it, on the next day, a board; on the next, a carved stick; then, at midnight, they saw a light moving, and the watchman called, "Land! Land!"

The next day, October 12th, 1492, they landed. Columbus stepped out of the boat first, knelt down and kissed the soil, weeping for joy.

It was a very beautiful island they had landed upon, covered with wonderful trees and herbage. Columbus piously called it San Salvador, which means, Our Saviour.

The people who gathered to meet them thought they were children of the

sun, and offered them everything they thought would be of interest or value to them.

He cruised about until the 4th of January, 1493, when he set sail for home, landing in Palos in March, after a rough voyage. When he reached the court, he was received by the king and queen, and made to sit in their presence, a great honor for the ceremonious court of Spain to bestow, but honors were heaped upon him.

Columbus made only four voyages to the New World. The second one was in 1493-1496; the third in 1498; the last, 1502-1504.

In 1498, Francis Bovadilla was made governor of the port in San Domingo, displacing Columbus. He hated Columbus, coveting his honors and distinction. For some petty pretence he seized him, kept him in prison for awhile, then sent him to Spain with chains on his wrists and ankles.

Queen Isabella was dead, and Ferdinand neglected the man who had made his reign glorious. This hurt Columbus. He was poor; he had no home, and his health was broken. He died at Valladolid on the 20th of May, 1506.

He had kept the branch with the berries on it they had picked up at sea, and the board and the carved stick. They were where his eyes could rest on them in the room in which he lay dying. Many other curious things he had from the New World Skins and plants, stones and nuggets of gold, but in the most conspicuous place of all were the chains he had worn, and which he had directed to have put in his coffin. He was buried in Seville, Spain, first, then removed to San Domingo, then again to Cuba, where his body lies now in the cathedral at Havana.

When we think how late it was in life before Columbus could carry out his enterprise, how small his boats were, how few his men, how inefficient his instruments of navigation, and how little sympathy and comprehension he met with, we cannot but admire the man. He was a man God made to fill a very special place.

Day Dreams of the Future.

THE DREAMER.

CHAPTER IX.

Once more I dreamt, and found myself standing on a wharf, close to which was moored a large vessel in process of lading; not only was it of unusual size, but of magnificence of design and finish such as I had never imagined before. Its sides glistened in the sunshine like burnished silver, while the upper decks were resplendent in gilding and upholstery of the richest description. I was standing, looking on in wonder and admiration, when I heard my name called, and found the sound proceeded from a person on the vessel, who was a friend from a distance. I seemed to accept her invitation to



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come on board, and my astonishment increased as I noticed the splendor of every appointment. For the first time too I was conscious that an immense crowd of people crowded the wharves, on both sides of the harbor, while near by a long train of cars was also being filled with well dressed people, and a look of pleased anticipation rested on the faces of the pleasure seekers, while a feeling of lively interest, mingled with a shade of regret, seemed to be the sentiment of the others. One thing that claimed my attention was the behaviour of this huge crowd. Busy as so many were in every department, the work seemed to go on so smoothly, while not an angry word or an oath marred the wonderful effect. I was so lost in wonder and pleasure at it all that I forgot my friend and everything else, and had not noticed that the work of preparation was all finished, the signal for starting been given, which was of so unique a character that I could think of nothing else. At a given signal, and led by some wonderful musical instruments on the upper deck, the whole crowd of passengers burst into song, the words of which had been familiar to my mind

for years, "O! sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth," and with one accord every voice on shore took up the refrain, and the chorus rang clear and loud, while the echoes caught the sound and lent their aid to the effect. It was not until the sounds ceased that I became aware that the ship had glided away from the wharf and was already far from the shore. What was I to do? I had paid no fare, was not a recognized passenger, and when I turned to question my friend she was nowhere to be seen. My next thought was to seek out one in authority and state the case, so that I might be put on shore again. I could see no one for a while who seemed like an officer, except one who had already attracted my attention, absorbed as it had been in so many other things. At first he appeared to be just an unusually fine looking man, but, by degrees, it dawned upon me that he was more than that. There seemed to be such a look of dignified gentleness about him, and, although he seemed to be responsible for everything and everybody, not a shadow of irritation or worry marred his benign expression. Apparently he was the person of whom to enquire as to what I was to do; but how could I address such an august looking person? With a readiness of action possible in dreams, I ventured to approach him, and, at the first sound of my voice, he turned to me with a look of kindness such as no merely human face ever wore, and, after I had told my story, he bade me set my mind at rest, for the vessel belonged to the King, and His subjects were privileged to travel without money and without price. My face must have expressed the wonder I felt, when he added: "If you will come back in an hour, I will answer all the questions you may like to ask. In the meantime, there are many things of interest you may wish to see." With another smile he turned to his work again, and I wandered away.

The sky was cloudless, and the waters beneath were of a most wonderful blue, while a breeze just cool enough to temper the hot rays of the sun fanned me, and I seemed to lose every feeling of weariness and pain, and a delicious sense of rest and ease stole over me as I wandered about from one point of beauty to another.

A dream hour is not long, and I was soon standing at the appointed place, eager to hear something of the wonders around me. My new acquaintance was before me, but was looking attentively at the water, and then, as if speaking to himself, he said, "I think it must have been just here that it happened," and then becoming aware of my presence, he remarked that possibly if he told me his story, it might be the most satisfactory way of answering my questions. He pointed to a luxurious seat close by, and, when I had taken it, he began

(To be continued.)