

# The Daily Reporter.

## A LITTLE MAID.

A Pretty Story of Hundreds of Years Ago.

Away off in the beautiful country of Greece, a long, long time ago, says the *Springfield Republican*, there lived a little maiden, the daughter of a King. Her name was Gorgo—not a very pretty name, perhaps, to us who are used to calling little girls Maud and Ethel and Helen, but a strong name, and therefore quite appropriate to the little maid who bore it, as you shall see. In those old times there used to be many wars, and the country of Sparta, the part of Greece where Gorgo lived, was famous for its brave warriors, who never thought for a moment of their own safety when their country was in danger. Sometimes these were not good wars, but wars for spite and revenge instead of for freedom and loyalty to beautiful Greece.

Some wicked man would wish to avenge an injury he had received, and in order to do this he would go about among the different kingdoms and persuade the rulers to join with him and try to overcome his enemy; and there would be terrible bloodshed in order to satisfy one wicked man's revenge. Aristagoras was such a man as this. He was dissatisfied with his King, and wished to become the King himself instead. One day he came to Sparta on this evil errand, and tried to persuade King Cleomenes, the father of little Gorgo, to help his base project. He talked with the King a long time. He promised him power and honor and money if he would do as he wished; still more and more money he offered, and at last the King almost consented.

But it had happened that when Aristagoras had come into the presence of the King, the King's little daughter was standing by his side with her hand in his. Aristagoras wanted Cleomenes to send her away, for he knew very well that it is much harder to induce a man to do something wrong when there is a dear little child at his side. But the King said: "No; say what you have to say in her presence, too." And so little Gorgo had sat at her father's feet, looking up into his face with her innocent eyes, and listening intently to all that was said. She felt that something was wrong, and when she saw her father look troubled and hesitate, and cast down his eyes, she knew the strange visitor was trying to make him do something he did not quite want to do. She stole her little hand softly into her father's and said:

"Papa, come away, come, or this strange man will make you do wrong." This made the King feel strong again, and, clasping the little maid's hand tightly in his own, he rose and left the tempter and went away with the child who had saved him and his country from dishonor. Gorgo was only ten years old then, but she was worthy to be a King's daughter, because being good and true herself, she helped her father to be good and true also.

When she grew to be a woman she became the wife of a King, and then she showed herself as noble a Queen as she had been a Princess. Her husband was that King Leonidas who stood in the narrow pass of Thermopylae with his small army and fought back the great hosts of the Persians until he and all his heroic band were killed. But before this happened there was a time when the Grecians did not know that the great Persian army was coming to try and destroy them, and a friend of theirs, who was a prisoner in the country where the great Xerxes lived, wishing to warn the Spartans of the coming of the Persians, so they might prepare, sent a messenger to King Leonidas. But when the messenger arrived, all he had to show for his message was a bare, white waxen tablet. The King and all the Lords puzzled over this strange tablet a long time, but could make nothing out of it. At last they began to think it was done for a jest, and did not mean anything.

But just then the young Queen Gorgo said: "Let me take it," and after looking it all over she exclaimed, "There must be some writing underneath the wax."

They scraped away the wax from the tablet, and there, sure enough, written on the wood beneath, was the message of the Grecian prisoner and his warning to King Leonidas.

Thus Gorgo helped her country a second time, for if the Spartans had not known that the army was coming they could not have time to warn the other kingdoms, and perhaps the Persians would not have been conquered. But as it was, Leonidas, and the other Kings called their armies together, and when the Persian host came sweeping over the plains the Greeks were ready to meet them, and to fight and die for their beautiful Greece.

So this one little maid of hundreds of years ago, Princess and Queen, helped to save her father from disgrace and her country from ruin. And we may feel sure that she was strong and true to the last, even when her brave husband, Leonidas, lay dead in the fearful pass of Thermopylae, and she was left to mourn in the royal palace at Sparta.

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McCoy's to Lincoln and Zena, daily, at 2:30 p. m.

Secretary Earhart has had pigeon holes made inside the vault in his office, and is filing all the vouchers and valuable papers of his administration away, preparatory to turning that office over to his successor, next January.

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