

Preface. (a)

In this book of songs for little children there is an effort to lead kindergartners into a use of such songs as reflect the ideals of universal truths which the kindergarten aims to present to the child by means of stories, songs, pictures and games.

Froebel's "Mother Play Book" has furnished the standard of thought and we have tried to discriminate carefully in the song - pictures here given in order that the child may sing of ideal experiences and may grow into a love of harmonious living at the same time that he grows in love of harmonious sounds.

Carlyle tells us that "All deep things are song, x x x Poetry is musical thought. x x x See deep enough and you see musically; the heart of nature being every where music, if you can only reach it."

With the three-fold force of Music, Poetry and Thought, we have worked together, hoping to add to the power for good which lies in song; to the culture and advancement of little children towards musical seeing and finally to lead them into harmonious being, until the music of the spheres shall be within them and thus

"Make life death and that vast forever,
One grand, sweet song."

HELEN A. LLOYD.



Preface. (b)

The gratifying recognition accorded by the public to a previous issue of songs for little folks has led the composer to undertake the writing of the songs in this little book for use in Kindergarten and Primary work.

Realizing the necessity of harmony between the thought of the song and the music, we have worked together in their production in order that the text and the music might add each to the other.

Understanding as we do the innate fondness of children for rich harmonies we have given special attention to the harmonization of the melodies, and although it is occasionally necessary for children to sing without accompaniment yet such a lack is to be deplored, as the accompaniment often serves as the rhythmic expression of the thought. Children perceive rhythm before they do melody: and the cultivation of this perception is essential to any musical education. It has been our earnest endeavor to make the rhythm of music and words so fit the idea to be expressed that the child shall be trained to the recognition and consciousness of the rhythm that sways all nature.

In the trade songs we have found it necessary to deal with the primitive forms of the various trades since to think of the modern methods of production is to leave all poetry far behind. As will be seen, the Nature songs occupy a large portion of the book. It is gratifying to us to realize the almost infinite scope of music and verse in this direction, for in the study, appreciation and love of nature the child's heart is opened and made responsive to the higher things of life.

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