

CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR SCHOOLS.

There are three little paper-covered books, price five cents each, which every teacher would find most useful. In ordering them, ask for Novello Edition of "CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES"—No. I., "Adeste Fideles;" No. II, "Christmas Bells;" No. III, "Bethlehem;" H. W. Gray Co., 2 West 45th Street, New York.

All High School pupils should know the traditional carols in No. I, viz:—"The First Nowell," "Silent Night," "Good King Wenceslas," and "God rest you merry gentlemen," as well as those beautiful words of Phillips Brooks, "O little town of Bethlehem."

In No. II, is the quaint old "Good Christian Men Rejoice," which all the children enjoy from Grade I up, although I would not teach it to Grades I and II, unless these little ones are to sing with the older pupils.

No. III contains one of the loveliest carols I know, "There came a little Child." It is suitable for all grades, and the children love it. To make a little variety, every other line of one verse may be sung by one voice, if there happens to be an especially good one in the school, or by three or four sweet voices. "Merrily rang the bells," in the same book, is very bright and attractive for all grades.

The Gray Company publishes also, "Long, long ago," and "Ring out the bells for Christmas," from *Christmas Carols and Hymns for Children*, price 5 cents, by Rev. J. S. B. Hodges.

"The Shepherds left their sheep," Novello Edition, 348, by Alfred Hollins.

The first of these is suitable for Grade I, the second for all grades, the third for older pupils or High Schools.

"Martin Luther's Hymn," price 5 cents, by Gertrude H. Swift, is another charming carol for Grade I, yet not too simple for all grades. I have heard it sung in church, by a professional soloist, to the delight of all listeners.

G. Schirmer, Boston Music Co., 26 West St., Boston, Mass., publishes the following attractive carols:

"This Happy Christmas Morning," by S. Archer Gibson.

"Beneath the Star-strewn Heaven," price 5 cents, from *Six Christmas Carols*, by Walter O. Wilkinson.

"Fling out, fling out your windows wide," by Walter O. Wilkinson.

"Everywhere Christmas Tonight," price 10 cents, from *Three Christmas Carols*, by Ethelbert Nevin.

Oliver Ditson and Co., Tremont St., Boston, Mass., publish some lovely carols, viz:—

"In the field with their flock," price 5 cents, from "Christ and His Soldiers," by Farmer.

"Ring Merry Bells," price 5 cents, from "The Birthday of our Lord," by Rosabel.

"Far on the hillside's grassy steep," by S. B. Whitney.

"O shepherds, shepherds," No. 1537, by Howard M. Dow.

"Carol, sweetly carol," No. 1269, by C. W. Whittaker.

Thomas Whittaker, 3 Bible House, New York, publishes a very bright carol, "Ring out the bells for Christmas," price 5 cents, by J. Mosenthal.

That loveliest of all Christmas hymns, "It came upon the midnight clear," set to the tune "Noel," as arranged by Sir Arthur Sullivan, and "Hark, what mean those holy voices," set to a tune by Henry Smart, should not be neglected, especially for the higher grades.

Will you bear with me if I put in a plea for sweet singing, not loud singing. The child whose forehead shows a dozen wrinkles is probably yelling, not singing, and the muscles of his throat are so contracted that nothing tuneful can be produced by that delicate organ.

The constant admonition, "sing easily" will in time prevent those ear-splitting sounds, which proceed from some school-rooms, and which possibly justify the complaint that many voices are ruined in the public schools.

In schools where the sight singing is not yet being taught it will take only five minutes after opening, every morning to sing, "Doh, Ray, Mi, Fah, Soh, Lah, Si, Doh, remembering that it is better for children's voices to begin at the high "do" and sing down the scale, singing each note a little more softly than the one preceding it. Repeat two or three times, then sing up the scale once, being most careful to lighten the tone, "easy, easy," as the voices rise. Try it for one month.

To one more point. I crave your attention—pronunciation—especially the sound of "a" as found in the words "has" "can," etc. How many schools sing, "O Keanada! O Keanada," and "My