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SONGS AND TUNES FOR EDUCATION.

BY W. S. TILDEN.

Whatever course of study is laid down in school music, or whatever system is employed in teaching, the work of instruction is but partial and incomplete if it end with merely the presentation of elements. However ingenious the mode of treating them, and however brilliant the display of class-work in simply elemental matters, they are but means, never an end. If anything worthy the name of education in music is to be attained,—if the musical nature of the child is to be awakened and trained,—it must be by bringing to his attention music itself in real living musical forms, such as exist in songs and tunes of acknowledged merit.

The pupil can be led to think musical thoughts by coming in contact with that which contains the expression of musical thought; and this is found alone in well devised tune-forms,—never in the dry detail of melodic or rhythmic elements. And these should never be made to take the place of that which is properly food for the song-nature of the child.

The inexperienced teacher often is governed by the feeling that the children's singing hour is nothing if it is not elementary; while, in fact, careful instruction in the singing of some good song is a most valuable part of the teacher's work, though not a word be said about elements as such, or about music in its