

TO A DEAD BIRD ON A WOMAN'S HAT.

Had I found you where the sunshine
 Sifted through the lacy screen
 Of the overarching treetops
 To the mosses mottled green,
 I could smooth your downy feathers,
 Saying, "Happy fate was this,—
 Dying, while the world was fairest,
 From an overweight of bliss."

But too brief your time of harking
 To the summer's joyous laugh,
 And your crimson throat was surely
 Stiffened ere it sang the half
 Of the songs our Father gave you,
 That the forest fain had heard.
 Unappeased, I mourn you,—cheated
 Of your birthright, little bird.

—BERTHA GERNEAUX WOODS, *Washington, D. C.*

AN Irishman was painting a fence. His face wore a troubled look. Suddenly a smile shot across it, and dipping the brush into the paint pot, he began to paint faster and faster.

"Why are you painting so fast?" asked a bystander. "You're in a rush all of a sudden to finish the job."

"Sure, an' thot's all right," was his reply "I haven't much paint left, an' it's finishing the job Oi'm aafter before it's all gone."

THE SEVEN BIBLES OF THE WORLD.—The seven Bibles of the world are the Koran of the Mohammedan, the Tri Pitikas of the Buddhists, the Five Kings of the Chinese, the Three Vedas of the Hindus, the Zendavesta of the Persians, the Eddas of the Scandinavians, and the Scriptures of the Christian.

The Koran is the most recent of all, dating from about the seventh century after Christ. It is a compound of quotations from both the Old and New Testaments and from the Talmud.

The Tri Pitikas contain sublime morals and pure aspirations. Their author lived and died in the sixth century before Christ.

The sacred writings of the Chinese are called the Five Kings, the "kings" meaning web of cloth. From this it is presumed they were originally written on five rolls of cloth. They contain wise sayings from the sages on the duties of life, but they cannot be traced further back than the eleventh century before our era.

The Vedas are the most ancient books in the language of the Hindus, but they do not, according to the late commentators, antedate the twelfth century before the Christian era.

The Zendavesta of the Persians next to our Bible is reckoned among scholars as being the greatest and most learned of the sacred writings. Zoroaster, whose sayings it contained, lived and worked in the twelfth century before Christ. Moses wrote the Pentateuch 1,500 years before the birth of Christ, and it is maintained that that portion of our Bible