

CARDINAL GIBBONS of Baltimore has cordially endorsed a measure soon to be submitted to the Legislature of Maryland for the protection of song-birds in that state, and adds : " We are a nation of vandals, and our condition cannot be compared with that of England and Ireland. Birds make the choir of the heavens, and they should, by all means be protected."

Saint Augustine speaks of the soul as " naturally Christian." A remarkable instance of this natural longing for union with God through fulfilment of the law of Christ is recorded in the last issue of the *American Ecclesiastical Review*. A priest relates that one evening a lady called upon him and, though professing no religion, asked to be baptized. The priest explained that unless she believed in the efficacy of the ceremony he could not perform it.

" Could a person who is not baptized himself baptize me ? " she queried.

" Yes," was the reply.

" But I must believe ? "

" Yes."

" That is right," she continued ; " my boy died a Catholic. He baptized himself. Give me one of your books and I shall try to believe if I can."

Then she told how her little boy feeling as if he were going to die, begged that he might be baptized. She put him off with the remark that he was not about to die, and she sent away the Catholic nurse who had she believed, influenced the child. A few days afterwards her little son asked for water, and when he got it, taking some with his feeble hand, he put it on his forehead, saying : " I baptize myself in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

The case was a decidedly touching one, and the editor of the *Review*, answering the priest's request for information as to the validity of the baptism, observes that any person who should sincerely attempt to baptize himself in such an emergency would receive the grace of baptism that is to say, salvation not through the sacrament of faith, but through his faith in the sacrament.
