

that they could make but little noise ; but all must eventually starve to death.

" Besides this, the way the birds are torn up is most cruel ; wings torn off of some, heads of others, sometimes just the breast, and so on according to their plumage. Of the egrets only the slender spiral is used, which is obtained only at the breeding season, and the poor birds are left to die within sound of the cries of their young, which they are unable to help.

" The bonny, bonny little birds !
It is their hour of need.

They have no power to beg for life ;
It is for them I plead.

" The human cry to God is still
For ' mercy, mercy,' solely ;
The birds sing only ' God be praised,'
And ' holy, holy, holy.'

" Could ye but see the bright wings torn
From birds alive and bleeding,
And note their quivering agony,
I had no need for pleading.

" The wingless form flung in the dust,
Its deathly pain and terror,
Would wake in every woman's heart
A bitter sense of error.

" Ten thousand thousand little birds,
In cruel hands a-dying,
Have heard, with breaking mother-hearts,
Their hungry nestlings crying.

" The nestlings starve, and God's command
Has been defied and broken,
For He who made the universe
In their behalf hath spoken.

" The bonny, bonny little birds !
It is their hour of need.
They have no power to beg for life,
It is for them I plead.
— ELIZABETH FREELAND."

From carefully gathered statistics it is proved that, on the most moderate calculation, 5,000,000 song birds are annually required to fill the demand for the ornamentation of the hats of American women. Not only song birds, but everything that wears feathers is a target for the bird butcher.

In a single season 40,000 terns were killed at Cape Cod; and the swamps and marshes of Florida have been depopulated of their egrets and herons. In one month 1,000,000 bobolinks were

killed near Philadelphia, and from a single Long Island village 70,000 song birds were supplied, in a short time, to New York dealers.

These are only a few extracts from the ornithologist's report ; and in other countries the slaughter is as bad if not worse.

There are warehouses in London where it is possible to walk ankle deep in bright plumaged bird skins, and see them piled shoulder high on each side.

One London dealer received, when the fashion was at its height, one consignment of 32,000 dead humming birds, and another, at one time, 30,000 aquatic birds and 300,000 pairs of wings.

These are only the statistics in some of the large cities, while the sale is all over the country.

In Africa the trappers go to an Indian village and employ the men and boys to go out and kill. They are not able to tell which are wanted, and so kill all kinds. In the evening they are brought in and sorted by the collector, and not more than one bird in ten is used, the other nine-tenths being thrown away.

In preparing the birds there is a great deal of arsenic used, which is very injurious to the wearer.

The harm that is done to our orchards and gardens and to the harvest fields of America and Europe, is beyond calculation, for there is no weapon that has ever been formed powerful enough to wage war on whole species of destructive animalculæ but a bird's beak. They are also useful in destroying mice, and other animals and insects too numerous to mention. I have only given a few pictures of the cruelty and wrong that is done to these innocent creatures, which were given to us by the Creator for a great and noble purpose. And what is all this cruelty and slaughter for? With shame I acknowledge that it is for the women of the world, for our tender-hearted noble sisters, who, by encouraging a vain fashion, bring so much loss to our crops, and so much