

THE MIGRATION TO BRITAIN.

A couple of nightingales had hurried back from Africa, in honour of the occasion. From dawn the fierce competition for the best *Preislied* was in full swing under my bedroom window among the small Meistersinger. There was a soft murmur of bird voices and an incessant fluttering of wings in the thicket of laurel bushes; there seemed to be some talk between a pair of blackcaps of starting building their nest there. But I told them that until the miracle man Mussolini had seen his way to provide Capri's thirsty birds, flowers, and creeping things with more water in the summer they had better come on with me to England, and spend their honeymoon there.

But will they all be safe there, my beloved birds? Can it be possible that among your bird-loving people is still to be found a man, a woman, or a child who has the heart to capture and imprison any of these messengers of joy, who ask for nothing but to sing to you? What would your English summers be without them; how could you live on without them?

It was high time indeed that your House of Lords should have voted Lord Buckmaster's Bird Protection Bill as the first step to put an end to this degrading slave traffic in small wild birds. Let your House of Commons not be slow in giving their unanimous sanction to this act of mercy! Birdlovers all over the world expect that every man will do his duty.

THE BIRD CATCHING TREE.

The Parapara (*Pisonia*), or bird catching tree is found on the islands and coast of the Northern parts of New Zealand. It is particularly non-frost resisting. With its large elongated green leaves it makes a very beautiful tree. Each seed of this tree is contained in a pod about 2 inches long and the outside of this pod is covered with a sticky material of bird lime tenacity. Nature's idea is evidently seed distribution as a bird settling in this tree may get foul of one of these sticky pods which easily break off. Then the bird flies away, picks off the messy thing and thereby distributes the seed. Where this tree is growing naturally in a forest, as on Little Barrier, little or no hurt to bird life seems to accrue from its presence, but when the tree is growing singly in an exposed situation its top is easily cut off by winds as it is a plant of delicate nature. When this happens the seed pods form in a mass on the top of the tree. A parapara was recently cut down on Motiti Island, near Tauranga, because birds were continually getting captured by it. It was growing in an exposed position. At the time of its destruction 84 dead silver-eyes were counted in the tree.