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OBSERVATIONS ON THE BUTCHER BIRD.

*By Sonnini.*

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THE wickedness of the butcher bird has become proverbial: we compare to it quarrelsome and peevish women: but as loquacity and sourness of character do not always exclude the existence of good qualities, so we find many in the butcher bird. It possesses in a high degree that courage which multiplies strength, and that prudence which foresees and avoids the wants of the future: it is not even useless to agriculture, and the cultivators of many countries hold it in much esteem, because it wages war with field mice and other vermin: it destroys also many noxious insects, and particularly May bugs, for which food it has a decided predilection. Thus its wickedness has nothing pernicious in it; it turns to the profit of man, as it frees the harvests and the groves of many destructive animals: and under this relation, the butcher bird, as it never injures the crops, merits