
THE OWL.

SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON NOCTURNAL BIRDS OF PREY.

By J. J. Virey.

NATURE seems to pass gradually in animals from one to the other. Nothing is lost in the region of existence. Those animals which, being the weakest are also the most fecund, are destined to become the food of depredatory beings. But, as the shades of night might conceal from destruction those who are predestined to it, there are created, in every class of animals, nocturnal species which, provided with powerful arms, with an acute sense of hearing, and with a piercing sight, traverse the gloomy asylums where those timid races hide themselves, which are
subjected