

though that consciousness arises only from the gloomy accents of nocturnal carnivorous beings: it is preferable to that silent, that immense solitude which terrifies the soul.

The pretty species of owl, discovered by the celebrated professor Pallas, and described by him\*, inhabits, in general, the neighbourhood of the Siberian habitations near Catharineburgh: it is found also near the shores of the Wolga, and in the southern regions towards the Samara and the Jaik.

Its size is about nine inches in length: it does not weigh three ounces. A pretty cinereous grey colour, finely undulated with ferruginous brown spots, and white points, cover the upper part of the body. White oblong spots are scattered over its wings. Its yellow tail has some brown stripes with points of the same colour. The iris of the eyes is yellow: the under part of the body is whitish and undulated with spots of a blackish hue. One of the quill feathers of the wing is notched: the length of the wings exceeds the end of the tail which is round: the legs are covered with a down in the form of undulated spots: the nails are brown.

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\* Voyages, vol. 1. App. No. 8. p. 711.