

upon all the mountains in the vicinity of Cape Town, and in the interior of the southern countries of Asia.

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THE SPY\*.

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THIS is another species of rock blackbird which Levaillant found in Africa, and which he is the first that has described. No bird has more cunning, more mistrust, and even malice, than the spy; to him, in particular, may be applied the common proverb, *fin comme un merle*†, for, according to Levaillant, he possesses in the highest degree the intelligence and finesse of instinct. To his subtlety he joins a great celerity of motion; he delights in letting the hunter approach towards him, while

\* Levaillant called this the *espionneur*, but Sonnini abridged it to *espion*, the French language not admitting the former vocable.

† The translator is not aware of any synonymous, or even analogous proverb in English; its literal meaning is, *as cunning as a blackbird*.