

others, entertain none themselves, but maintain a dignified composure.

"Thus you will find it among mankind. Weak, mean, petty characters are suspicious, snarling, and petulant. They raise an outcry against their superiors in talent and reputation, of whom they stand

in awe, and put on airs of defiance and insolence through mere cowardice. They fear no injury, and offer none. They even suffer slight attacks to go unnoticed, conscious of their power to right themselves whenever the occasion shall seem to require it."

NATURAL HISTORY.



THE BOBALINK.

The Bobalirk has an instinctive horror for cold lead, and the faculty of dodging out of the way, which no other bird, so far as our ornithological knowledge extends, is possessed of. Frequently have we crept under a low ash or alder, upon the top of which one of these chatteringers was perched, taken deliberate aim, and blazed away. Down the bird would come all but to the ground; and when we thought we had him secure, off he would fly.

After performing divers fantastic gyrations, and flapping his wings to convince us that we had not wounded him, he would suddenly stop still in the air, perk knowingly and wickedly in our face, and, in a joyousness of his exuberant fancy, would open with a song of his own composition, the burden of which sounded to us like the following:—

"Ha, ha, ha, ha,—don't you wish you could—Click, bang! Wasn't I off in season? Hitti ca dink. Put in more powder. Chickadee, de, de.