

“ came to the candle, and looked up, as if ex-
“ pecting to be taken up and brought upon the
“ table, where I always fed it with insects of all
“ sorts. It was fondest of flesh maggots, which
“ I kept in bran; it would follow them, and
“ when within a proper distance, would fix his
“ eyes, and remain motionless, for near a
“ quarter of a minute, as if preparing for the
“ stroke, which was an instantaneous throwing
“ of its tongue at a great distance upon the in-
“ sect, which stuck to the tip by a glutinous
“ matter. The motion is quicker than the
“ eye can follow. I cannot say how long my
“ father had been acquainted with the toad,
“ before I knew it; but when I was first ac-
“ quainted with it, he used to mention it as the
“ old toad I have known so many years. I can
“ answer for thirty-six years. The old toad
“ made its appearance as soon as the warm wea-
“ ther came; and I always concluded it retired
“ to some dry bank, to repose till spring. When
“ we new laid the steps, I had two holes made
“ in the third step, on each side, with a hollow
“ of more than a yard long for it; in which I
“ imagine it slept, as it came thence at its first
“ appearance. It was seldom provoked. Nei-
“ ther that toad, nor the multitudes I have seen
“ tormented