

“ go to a ditch where toads, instead of frogs,  
 “ were found in abundance. The Germans  
 “ no way distinguishing their sport, caught  
 “ them in great numbers ; while the peasants  
 “ kept looking on, silently flattering themselves  
 “ with the hopes of speedy revenge. After be-  
 “ ing brought home, the toads were dressed up,  
 “ after the Italian fashion : the peasants quite  
 “ happy at seeing their tyrants devour them  
 “ with so good an appetite, and expecting every  
 “ moment to see them drop down dead. But  
 “ what was their surprise to find, that the Ger-  
 “ mans continued as well as ever, and only  
 “ complained of a slight excoriation of the  
 “ lips, which probably arose from some other  
 “ cause than that of their repast.”

Solenander also relates a story which serves  
 to exculpate toads from the charge of pos-  
 sessing any poisonous qualities : “ A tradesman  
 “ of Rome,” says he, “ and his wife had long  
 “ lived together with mutual discontent ; the  
 “ man was dropsical, and the woman amorous :  
 “ this ill-matched society promised soon, by the  
 “ very infirm state of the man, to have an end ;  
 “ but the woman was unwilling to wait the  
 “ progress of the disorder, and therefore con-  
 “ cluded, that to get rid of her husband, no-  
 “ thing