

“ thing was left her but poison. For this pur-
“ pose she chose out a dose that she supposed
“ would be most effectual, and having calcined
“ some toads, mixed their powder with his
“ drink. The man, after taking a hearty dose,
“ found no considerable inconvenience, except
“ that it greatly promoted urine. His wife,
“ who considered this as a beginning symptom
“ of the venom, resolved not to stint the next
“ dose, but gave it in greater quantities than
“ before. This also encreased the former symp-
“ tom; and, in a few days, the woman had the
“ mortification to see her detested husband re-
“ stored to perfect health, and remained in ut-
“ ter despair of ever being a widow.”

Here then we have sufficient evidence of the injustice with which this animal has been treated. It has been held forth as possessing a poison with which it could kill at a distance; of ejecting its venom upon whatever gave it disturbance; of infecting those vegetables near which it resides; of having an excessive fondness for sage, and poisoning every plant upon which it had fed; with a thousand other charges equally false and absurd, and which have most probably been attributed to it by those who have taken an antipathy to the animal from its forbidding and displeasing appearance; and as