

A no less doubtful property has been given to toads; namely, that of sucking out the poison from cancerous breasts, and thus performing a cure; a circumstantial detail of their performing which is given in a letter by Dr. Pitfield to the bishop of Carlisle. He says, the toads were put into a linen cloth, all but their heads, which being placed near the affected part, they immediately laid hold, and sucked with great greediness until they were very much swollen, when they fell off and expired; and he was convinced of their having sucked, by weighing them before and after they were applied to the breast. Their sucking, however, has been positively denied by others, who indeed admit of their swelling and dying, but that they think it as likely to be occasioned by the external as the internal application of the cancerous poison.

Of

to be accounted for, occurred in opening a cask of Birmingham hardware. Every one knows the necessity of excluding the sea air as much as possible from highly polished articles of iron and steel, and accordingly all such articles intended to be sent abroad are packed with the greatest care. The casks or cases are made as light as possible and covered with pitched canvass. Yet, when the head was taken off, and a few of the packages removed, an enormous large scorpion was found in the midst of the cask, nearly in a torpid state, but it quickly recovered on exposure to the warm air.

“This thing we know is neither rich nor rare,

“But wonder how the devil it got there.”

See *Barrow's Travels, and Universal Magazine*, VOL. II. New Series (1804) p. 411.