

longer of any use. Mr. Ellis has remarked certain pennated fins at the gills of one species, which is very common in most of our stagnating waters, and is frequently observed to take bait like a fish.

The *salamander* has a short cylindrical tail, four toes on the fore-feet, and a naked porous body. The ancients, for what reason it would be difficult to say, attributed to this animal the property of being able to live in fire; but what is more extraordinary, the same circumstance is seriously detailed as a fact in the Philosophical Transactions. This species is found in most of the southern countries of Europe; and of which the Comte de la Cepede has given the most accurate account. Whilst the hardest bodies, says he, cannot resist the violence of fire, the world have endeavoured to make us believe that a small lizard can not only withstand the flames, but even extinguish them.

As agreeable fables readily gain belief, every one has been eager to adopt that of a small animal so highly privileged, so superior to the most powerful agent in nature, and which could furnish so many objects of comparison to poetry, so many pretty emblems to love, and so many brilliant devices to valour. The ancients believed this property of the salamander, wishing