

the length of thirty-six feet; while the little serpent of the Cape of Good Hope seldom exceeds three inches; of which kind there are such numbers to the north of the river Senegal, that they cover whole sandy deserts with their multitudes.

This tribe of animals, like that of fish, seems to have no bounds put to their growth: their bones are in a great measure cartilaginous, and they are consequently capable of great extension; the older, therefore, a serpent becomes, the larger it grows; and as they seem to live to a great age, they arrive at an enormous size.

Leguat assures us, that he saw a serpent in Java that was fifty feet long; and Carli mentions their growing above forty feet. Mr. Wentworth, who had large concerns in the Brebices in America, assures us, that in that country, they grow to an enormous length. He one day sent out a soldier, with an Indian, to kill wild-fowl for the table; and they accordingly went some miles from the fort: in pursuing their game, the Indian, who generally marched before, beginning to tire, went to rest himself upon the fallen trunk of a tree, as he supposed it to be; but when he was just
going