

and that hang out beyond the other. The rest of the snake tribe are destitute of these; and it is most probable, that wherever these fangs are wanting, the animal is harmless; on the contrary, wherever they are found, it is to be avoided as the most pestilent enemy. Our first great attention, therefore, upon seeing a serpent, should be directed to the teeth. If it have the fang teeth, it is to be avoided as venomous, and if without them, it may be considered as inoffensive; for although some of the latter have been set down as dangerous, yet not one of the whole tribe which has not fangs has a bag for containing the poison, or a conduit for ejecting it into the wound. The black snake, the liboya, the blind worm, and a hundred others that might be mentioned, have their teeth of an equal size, and with no other apparatus for inflicting a dangerous wound than a dog or a lizard: but it is otherwise with the venomous kind; these are all furnished, not only with an elaboratory, situated behind the head on each side of the eyes, where the poison is formed, but a canal, by which it is conducted to the jaw, a bag under the tooth for keeping it ready, and also an aperture in the tooth itself for injecting it into the