

giving vigour to a languid constitution, and prompting to venery.

The *Rattle-snake* is bred in America, and in no part of the old world. Some are as thick as a man's leg, and six feet in length; but the most usual size is from four to five feet long. It resembles in most particulars the viper: having like that animal a large head, and a small neck, and furnished with fangs that inflict the most terrible wounds. It differs, however, in having a large scale, which hangs like a penthouse over each eye. They are of an orange tawny, and blackish colour on the back; and of an ash colour on the belly, inclining to lead. The male may be readily distinguished from the female, by a black velvet spot on the head, and the head being smaller and longer. But that which, besides their superior malignity, distinguishes them from all other animals, is their rattle, an instrument lodged in their tail, by which they make such a loud rattling noise, when they move, that their approach may readily be perceived, and the danger avoided. This rattle, which is placed in the tail, somewhat resembles, when taken from the body, the curb chain of a bridle: it is composed of several thin, hard, hollow

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