

“ cage, while the snake at the other continued  
“ fixed, with its eyes glaring full on the little  
“ animal, and its jaws opened to their widest  
“ extent: the mouse, for some time, seemed  
“ eager to escape: but every effort only served  
“ to encrease its terrors, and to draw it still  
“ nearer the enemy, till, after several ineffec-  
“ tual attempts to break the fascination, it was  
“ seen to run into the jaws of the rattle-snake,  
“ where it was instantly killed.”

Both this story however and that of the serpent's possessing such a fascinating property, has been greatly doubted; and by way of proving its improbability, it has been as roundly asserted by others, that if the snake be put into confinement, so far from opening its mouth for the prey to run in, it refuses all kind of food, and will absolutely die for want of nourishment.

A serpent, called the *Whip-snake*, is still more venomous than the former. This animal, which is a native of the East, is about five feet long, yet not much thicker than the thong of a coachman's whip. It is exceedingly venomous; and its bite is said to kill in about six hours. One of the Jesuit missionaries happening to enter into an Indian pagoda, saw what he took to be a whip-cord lying on the floor,