

floor, and stooped to take it up; but, what was his surprise upon touching it to find that it was animated, and no other than the whip-snake, of which he had heard such formidable accounts. Fortune, however, seemed favourable to him; for he grasped it by the head, so that it had no power to bite him, and only twisted its folds up his arm. In this manner he held it, till it was killed by those who came to his assistance.

To this formidable class might be added the *Asp*, whose bite, however, is not attended with those drowsy symptoms, which the ancients ascribed to it. The *Jaculus* of Jamaica is also one of the swiftest of the serpent kind. The *Hæmorrhoidis*, so called from the hæmorrhages which its bite is said to produce; the *Seps*, whose wound is very venomous, and causes the part affected to corrupt in a very short time; the *Coral Serpent*, which is red, and whose bite is said to be fatal. But the *Cobra di Capello*, or Hooded Serpent, inflicts the most deadly and incurable wounds. Of this formidable creature, there are five or six different kinds; but they are all equally dangerous, and their bite is followed by speedy and certain death. It is from three to eight feet long, with two large fangs