

The *Esculapian Serpent* of Italy is so harmless that, in that country, it is suffered to crawl about the chambers, and often gets into the beds where people lie. It is a yellow serpent, of about an ell long, and, though innocent, yet will bite when exasperated. They are said to be great destroyers of mice, and this may be the reason why they are taken under human protection.

The *Boyuna* of Ceylon is equally a favourite among the natives of that place; it is full as inoffensive, and they consider the meeting of it as a sign of good luck.

The *Surinam Serpent*, which some have improperly called the *Ammoydes* is in like manner harmless and desirable among the natives of that part of the world. They consider themselves as extremely happy if this animal come into their huts. The colours of this serpent are so many and so beautiful, that they surpass all description; and these, perhaps, are the chief inducements to the savages to consider its visits as so very fortunate.

A still greater favourite is the *Prince of Serpents*, a native of Japan, which has not its equal for beauty. The scales, which cover the back are reddish, finely shaded, and marbled with large