

which, when touched by it, died instantaneously, in the manner above stated. They afterwards regarded these efts, as may be supposed, with nearly as much horror as they would a rattlesnake; and a few nights afterwards, finding one in the kitchen, it was seized with the tongs, and thrown into a good fire which was burning in the grate. The reptile, instead of perishing, slipped like lightning through the coals, and ran away under the fire-place apparently unhurt. The house in which these animals were found, was in a remarkably damp situation.\*

If our northern salamanders are gifted with such powerful means of offence or defence, we know not how far those powers may be sublimed in the species of warmer climates; and the fire-quenching and death-doing properties of the Grecian or Roman salamanders may approach nearer to the supposed fabulous descriptions of Aristotle and Pliny, than modern Herpetologists seem willing to believe.

There appears no small analogy between these properties considered as weapons, and means by which these animals either secure their prey, consisting of earth-worms, insects, and other small game, or disarm and destroy their enemies, and those, related in the last chapter, which distinguish the electric fishes.

Spallanzani, by numerous experiments, has discovered in this tribe of animals, the power of reproducing lost or mutilated organs; Bonnet and others have confirmed his observations. So that it seems proved, if their legs and tail are cut off, and even their eyes plucked out, that in a few months they will be reproduced; and even a limb thus renewed, if again cut off, will be reproduced again.

In going upwards from the salamanders, at first sight, we feel disposed to proceed next to the other animals of a

\* The editor, without questioning the belief of the ladies above quoted, doubts the facts.—T. R. J.