

it a degree farther : “ he cut off the head, and
“ the animal lived twenty-three days after its
“ separation from the body. The head also
“ continued to rattle the jaws, like a pair of
“ castenets, for above a quarter of an hour.”

Such is the longevity of turtles, that they are commonly known to exceed eighty years of age ; and Goldsmith says there was one kept in the Archbishop of Canterbury’s garden at Lambeth, that had been remembered above a hundred and twenty. It was at last killed by the severity of a frost, from which it had not sufficiently defended itself in its winter retreat, which was a heap of sand at the bottom of the garden.

This principle of vitality seems not easily to be accounted for, as its food is the simplest possible, though in its choice not very delicate ; it indifferently feeds on leaves, fruit, corn, &c. and usually fills itself with whatever offers.

Like the bat, the serpent, the lizard, and some other animals, the tortoise retires to some cavern to sleep during the winter ; and at the time that food is no longer in plenty, the tortoise becomes insensible to its want ; but it is sufficiently attentive to make its retreat as comfortable as possible, by furnishing it with moss, grass, and other substances, as well for