

proportions are nearly the same; and its chief difference is in its colour, which is blacker; and its slow and heavy motion, which exhibits nothing of the agility of the frog: yet such is the force of habit, begun in early prejudice, that those who consider the one as a harmless, playful animal, turn from the other with horror and disgust. The frog is considered as a useful assistant in ridding our grounds of vermin; the toad, as a secret enemy, who only wants an opportunity to infect us with its venom.

As the toad bears a general resemblance in figure to the frog, so also it resembles that animal in its nature and appetites. It has been said by a French gentleman, that he saw an instance, in the king's gardens at Paris, of the male toad assisting the female in the exclusion of her eggs, but naturalists agree, that it must have been an uncommon circumstance, possibly arising from the delivery being on land, as it is invariably the same as with the frogs when in the water. When like the frog, these animals have undergone all the variations of their tadpole state, they forsake the water, and are often seen, in a moist summer's evening, crawling up, by myriads, from fenny places, into drier situations. There, having found out a