

either for nourishment or air, and yet taken out alive and perfect? Stories of this kind it would be as rash to contradict as difficult to believe; we have the highest authorities being witness to their truth, and yet the whole analogy of nature seems to arraign them to falsehood. Bacon asserts, that toads are found in this manner; Dr. Plot asserts the same; there is to this day, a marble chimney-piece at Chatsworth with the print of the toad upon it, and a tradition of the manner in which it was found. In the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences, in the year 1719, there is an account of a toad that was found alive and healthy in the heart of a very thick elm, without the smallest entrance or egress. In the year 1731, there was another found near Nantes in the heart of old oak, without the smallest issue to its cell; and the discoverer was of opinion, from the size of the tree, that the animal could not have been confined there less than eighty or a hundred years, without sustenance, and without air. In contradiction to these accounts there is the necessity which the animal appears under of receiving air: and its dying, like other animals, if put into an air-pump, and deprived of that all-sustaining fluid\*.

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\* Mr. Barrow in his Travels in China, mentions the following circumstance, "A remarkable circumstance not easily  
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