

Preservatives against venomous snakes seem to be scattered over the whole country, and they merit full investigation, in order to provide prompt remedies, in every place, and against different kinds of serpents, especially in the new settlements. *Convolvulus purpureus*, *purple-binding-weed*, is very powerful, if it is true that the Indians can handle rattle-snakes after anointing the hands with its juice, as Catesby relates; this grows in the south. A species of *jussiaea* is mentioned in the cited memoirs, as growing in the northern countries near the haunts of rattle-snakes, called rattle-snake plantain. The *hieracium venosum*, *foliis cuneiformibus hirtis, scapo nudo crassissimo erecto*, grows from the north to Virginia inclusively; is called poor Robin's plantain, and said to frustrate the bite both of the rattle-snake and of his supposed precursor the pilot-snake. *Erigeron*, likewise called Robert's plantain in Pennsylvania, is described by Dr. Schoepf thus, "radix repens; folia radicalia ovata, basi attenuata, dentata dentibus paucis a medio ad apicem glanduliferis, obtusa, pilosa, venis paucis. Scapus biuncialis, pedalis, striatus, villosus, uniflorus, &c. &c." Dr. Otto, a respectable practitioner, informed him, that the herb ought to be given in a plentiful decoction, and also applied with the root to the wound. The herb of *solidago virga aurea*, golden rod, is used in the same manner.\* The root of *alettris farinosa* is taken in powder, or bruised and steeped in liquor; this root is called star-root, blazing star, devil's bit, and greatly esteemed both by the Indians and the people of several States for many qualities.† The *polygala Senega* is well known. The plantain of Negro Cæsar we just mention, with a wish that an authentic account could be obtained of the experiments for which he obtained a public reward. Many credible testimonies agree in the fact, that the Indians have extraordinary skill in curing the bites of serpents; but whether any specific antidote is known appears doubtful: the plants in use act, however, as powerful sudorifics and absorbents: a narrative on this subject would here be too prolix for our plan,

\* Schoepf describes it as *hirsuta, radice amara*: Bartram as "having slender purple stalks, rising a foot high, with a spike of fine yellow flowers; for near one-third part of the length of the plant," says it is much extolled.

† Bartram speaks of it principally as a "remedy in grievous pains of the bowels;" and says, it has a stalk eighteen inches long, with a fine spike of white flowers six inches in length, blooming in June, and growing plentifully in the back parts of the country,