

it also to as many minor and incidental functions as possible. She loves variety: and therefore brings into being a dozen conifers instead of one "standardized" pine; hundred species where half a dozen would do; a thousand wild-flowers instead of a score that would adequately enough fit the changes of condition.

This being so, we can conceive that one of the important reasons why birds, beasts, insects, and flowers are striped, variegated, spotted, mottled, and otherwise decorated is that thus they respond to Nature's demand for variety. If coloration were intended solely, or even primarily, for purposes of concealment, it would be only sensible on Nature's part to fit her creatures with the very few combinations that are best adapted to the purpose in different circumstances. To a large extent I, personally, am willing to agree with Emerson that beauty may be its own excuse for being. To those who insist on a purely utilitarian reason for everything, I would call attention to the zebra. For the sake of argument only, let us assume that his stripes are for the purpose of concealing him - or attracting attention of his own kind, it does not matter which. If that were the only reason, a regular and uniform pattern of stripes would fulfill every requisite. Then why, as is the case, does every zebra differ from every other zebra in the pattern of his hide? More: why, even, is the pattern on the right side of any individual zebra different from the pattern on his left side? The permutations and combinations are as limitless as thumb points. When the strict utilitarians have given good reasons for this one astonishing fact, then we are ready to go on. In the meantime it seems