

Ruskin is right. Nature cannot be excelled by art. Nature cannot even be copied to fully satisfy. Even a picture of nature may fill the soul with raptures, and yet the soul will not be fully satisfied; it is intricated, but it craves more; for it feels that the all has not been seen. The soul is right — that picture was only one of a vast number that might be seen under different conditions — looking out over the very same eye-sweep.

A short time ago I was upon the Lookoff, near Blomidon, of the North Mountain Range in Nova Scotia, looking out over that beautiful picture of East Kings, Hants, and Minas Baisin. I had seen the whole, in a different way, many times before; but that day the picture, in all its parts, was beyond all compare more beautiful, and full of grandeur than any I had ever before seen. A few weeks later I was upon Mount Royal, looking over that grand picture from the Mount of Montreal, and the valley of the St. Lawrence. I had many times before looked upon the same scene. I had, however, never before me the same picture. There was a mellowness peculiar to some of our autumn days, a richer tint to the foliage, a more delightful effect of light and shade produced by the setting sun, than I here had before experienced — producing a grander picture. A few days later I witnessed a glorious sunrise scene, as, by the Canada Pacific Railway, I was running down the shore of Moosehead Lake in the State of Maine. This was peculiarly fine, from the fact that, in addition to the rare rich autumn tint upon many of the trees, everything else seemed coated over with a white frost. These all appeared to me to be magnificent scenes, and yet I had just returned from a summer of sight-seeing in old England. I had simply seen them under changed conditions.

The traveller realizes how limitless are the riches and the varieties of nature — how many the expressions of the infinite are to be seen in vast creation to him who will see.

And Emerson is right. Nature is mind escaping again and again into a state of free thought. Nature forever