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USE AND BEAUTY.

IF Substantives had a Master of Ceremonies whose business was to direct the order in which they should appear in the procession of literature, he would have about as much difficulty as old Mr. Pepys with French and Dutch Ambassadors at the English Court. Whether should Use precede Beauty, or Beauty Use? Is not the Necessary before the Ornamental? Must we not eat that we may admire? and be clothed before we buy feathers? There may seem to be but one answer to these questions. Your smart man will tell you at once that only fools prefer the ornamental to the useful, and that these are at most but a small proportion of the human family, while if you were to ask the question of the lower animals, they would be found universally on the side of the wise. There are no fools among them.

Mr. Darwin will tell you otherwise. He says that the ornamental is the grand desideratum of all the polygamists. The duck gives the cold shoulder to the beau who has not highly ornamental feathers. So do the hens and turkeys to the plain feathered masculines. Magpies and daws steal jewels and bright things, hoarding them past, as misers their gold. If parrots could talk, would not their discourse be of flowers more than of fruits,—of pretty feathers rather than of warm clothing? The hen does not care a straw for the worm to which the lord of the harem calls her, save as an index of his affection: she can catch worms for herself, but she cannot find elsewhere such a pleasant, agreeable fellow as this one who calls; and then, what a charming voice he has. The squirrel, who scolds you as he runs along the rail, and then sits up