

ture, but the whole perfect petaloid structure was produced complete, evidently by the operation of a law whose function it was to produce a perfect organic structure of this class.

This is an important lesson in the modification of plant structure. It is not accomplished by random efforts or the fortuitous multiplication of parts, but under the direction of established organic laws. We frequently see variations in form among the leaves of plants. It is very observable on the common raspberry, *Rubus strigosus*. But these variations are always a modification of the general plan of structure on which the leaves of the plant are formed. It is variation according to law.

When flowers run into varieties under cultivation the more showy blossoms are not an abnormal structure, but every new petal is formed strictly on the plan of the original variety.

In higher life, too, the same rule holds. Varieties in the color of the plumage of fowls for example, is not a fortuitous combination of colors, but an arrangement after the general laws of the adornment of avarial plumage.

This is the important point of all variation of species. It is according to law, the subject of order and rule, and hence under the direction of the Divine Lawgiver. Much is made of the law of the survival of the fittest among a certain class of scientists, but the *production* of the fittest to survive is of vastly more importance to the world, and as this appears to be guided by Heaven established laws, there is little left to the wild arbitrament of fortune and of chance.

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“There is a tongue in every leaf
A voice in every rill—
A voice that speaketh everywhere,
In flood and fire, through earth and air;
A tongue that’s never still—”