

following examples will sufficiently illustrate our meaning:—The humming-birds inhabiting the tropical parts of America may be estimated at about a hundred species, all of them of minute size, and presenting scarcely any difference in the structure of their organs or the nature of the food they consume. It is no unphilosophical statement to maintain, that the duty assigned to these beautiful birds in the polity of nature might be as effectually performed by the same number of individuals, whether restricted to a single species or extended to a hundred. The only distinctions we observe between them is in the form of the feathers or in grouping of colours, and all this harmony and contrast as artificial and intentional as the adaptations of the most essential organs of locomotion and digestion. The same reasoning applies to the cowry-shells (*Cypræa*), of which there are so many species distinguished by the artificial workings; some in exhibiting circles of various colours, and lines resembling written characters; and hence their names of *Cypræa*, *Arabia*, and *Hebraica*, from the lines resembling the square or cursive characters employed in these languages. In the vegetable kingdom, the intelligent observer must be struck with the same diversity. In the class of orchideous plants, whether native or those cultivated in our stoves, we find not merely artistic arrangements