Paragraph 1

This black-eyed, wide-mouthed girl, not pretty but full of life—with black curls tossed backward, thin, bare arms, little legs in lace-frilled drawers, and feet in low slippers—was just at that charming age when a girl is no longer a child, though the child is not yet a young woman. Escaping from her father she ran to hide her flushed face in the lace of her mother's shawl—not paying the least attention to her severe remark—and began to laugh. She laughed, and in fragmentary sentences tried to explain about a doll which she produced from the folds of her frock.

Paragraph 2

Certain authors, following Varro, have maintained that the civilization of Rome died a "natural death," the normal result of old age. It is mere fancy to suppose that nations have their birth, their maturity, and their decline under an unbreakable law like that which determines the life history of the individual. A nation may be broken up if wrongly led or attacked by a superior force, and it will suffer if its population of effective leaders is reduced. Such effects, rather than those of nature, caused the decline of Rome.

Paragraph 3

There is probably one purpose, and only one, for which the use of force by a government is beneficial, and that is to diminish the total amount of force used by others in the world. It is clear, for example, that the legal prohibition of murder diminishes the total amount of violence in the world. So long as some men wish to do violence to others, there cannot be complete liberty, for either the wish to do violence must be restrained, or the victims must be left to suffer. For this reason, although individuals and societies should have the utmost freedom as regards their own lives, they ought not to have complete freedom as regards their dealings with others. To give freedom to the strong to oppress the weak is not the way to secure the greatest possible amount of freedom in the world.

Paragraph 4

Stereotypes and preconceptions abound about Generation Y, often defined as the generation of individuals born on or after 1982. Some predict that this generation will be more civic-minded than its predecessors, possessing a strong sense of community. Others, however, point to the current tendency of Generation Y members to immerse themselves in technology as evidence that this generation may, in fact, be less civic-minded. Such ones argue that teenagers who never seem to remove ear buds from their ears and who prefer texting and instant messaging to face-to-face speech are less likely to develop personal ties with others and are therefore less likely to have strong connections to their local communities as they grow older. Which side is correct? The truth is that only time will tell.

Paragraph 5

He was so badly dressed that even a man accustomed to shabbiness would have been ashamed to be seen in the street in such rags. In that quarter of the town, however, scarcely any shortcoming in dress would have created surprise. Owing to the proximity of the market, the number of establishments of bad character, the abundance of the trading and working class population crowded in these streets and alleys in the heart of Petersburg, types so various were to be seen in the streets that no figure, however bizarre, would have caused surprise.

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