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4. Order and civilization play an important role in our life.

## EXERCISE 3

It is customary to say that in our machine age there is less room than formerly for the craftsman's joy and skilled work. I am not at all sure that this is true. The skilled workman now-a-days works, it is true, at quite different things from those that occupied the attention of the medieval guilds, but he is still very important and quite essential in the machine economy. / There are those who make scientific instruments and delicate machines, there are designers, there are aeroplane mechanics, chauffeurs, and hosts of others who have a trade in which skill can be developed to almost any extent. The agricultural labour and the peasant in comparatively primitive communities is not, so far as I have been able to observe, nearly as happy as a chauffeur or an engine driver. It is true that the work of the peasant who cultivates his own land is varied, he ploughs, he sows, he reaps. But he is at the mercy of the elements and is very conscious of his dependence whereas the man who works a modern mechanism is conscious of power and acquires the sense that man is the master, not the slave, of natural forces. It is true, of course, that work is very uninteresting to the large body of mere machine minders who repeat some mechanical operation over and over again with the minimum of variation, but the more uninteresting the work

becomes, the more possible it is to get it performed by a machine. The ultimate goal of machine production is a system in which everything uninteresting is done by machine and human beings are reserved for the work involving variety and initiative.

Aids to Vocabulary

