Melody

It might be diverting to set four texts in counterpoint, or, say, at counterpoint, or harmony, maybe, or melody. Half-recalling the music theory half-learned half a lifetime ago, with an eighth of his mind he began pulling books off his shelves.

C. The first thing I did was make a mistake. I thought I had understood capitalism, but what I had done was assume an attitude – melancholy sadness – toward it. This attitude is not correct. | G. Work is the cause of all intellectual degeneracy, of all organic deformity. Compare the thoroughbred in R.–’s stables, served by a retinue of bipeds, with the heavy brute of the N– farms which plows the earth, cart. | D. The reason why manufacturing is “technologically progressive” has to do with its intrinsic attribute – production in this sector can be readily standardized, and consequently, the information required for production can be formalized in a set of instructions which can then be easily replicated. | A. Let us imagine a man whose wealth is equaled only by his indifference. | B. B– went to the movie. He was watching his favorite flick, The Rise of Capitalism, with S– and R–. When he had finished viewing the film, he went out and bought a printing plant, for fifty thousand francs. “Henceforth,” he said, “I will publish myself, in handsome expensive deluxe editions, cheap editions, and foreign editions, duodecimo, sextodecimo, octodecimo.” | B. The first principle was moral: the plan should have nothing to do with an exploit or record; it would neither be a peak to scale nor an ocean floor to reach. What B– would not do would not be heroic, or spectacular; it would be something simple and discreet, difficult of course but not impossibly so. | F. However, personal services cannot be easily standardized and subject to the same mass-production methods used in manufacturing. These types of services, therefore, will be “technologically stagnant.” | C. Today every son of the newly rich makes it incumbent upon himself to cultivate the disease for which quicksilver is a specific in order to justify the labours imposed upon the workmen in quicksilver mines.

B. The second was logical: all recourse to chance would be ruled out, and the project would make time and space serve as the abstract coordinates plotting the ineluctable recursion of identical events occurring inexorably in their allotted places, or their allotted times. | G. In general, if there are two activities, one of which is “technologically progressive”, and the other “technologically stagnant”, then in the long term the average rate of growth will be determined by the activity in which productivity growth is lowest. | D. Others, endowed with the bump of philanthropic discrimination, dry up their brains over political economy, or jurisdictional philosophy in elaborating thick soporific books to employ the leisure hours of composers and presmen. | A. This is the main reason why capitalist economies eventually head toward the stationary state. | E. “R.–,” M– says, “the embourgeoisment of all classes is the cause of all intellectual degeneracy, of all organic deformity. Compare the thoroughbred in R.–’s stables, served by a retinue of bipeds, with the heavy brute of the N– farms which plows the earth, cart. | B. The third was aesthetic: the plan would be useless, since gratuitousness was the sole guarantor of its rigor, and would destroy itself as it proceeded; its perfection would be circular; a series of events which when concatenated nullify each other; starting from nothing, passing through precise operations on finished objects, B– would end up with nothing. | F. The philosophers of antiquity taught contempt for work, that degradation of the free man, the poets sang of idleness, that gift from the gods: O Melibae Deus nobis haec otia fecit. | C. Smo- ke, rain, acidity.

Or was it abulia? That could be inconvenient, or maybe not, maybe not, greatly moved, finally, by indifference.