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EDITORIAL

THE WASTE OF GENIUS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT should need no more than to rescue from the rubbish heap of “news,” and publish unvarnished in editorial setting, the bellow “item” from Passaic, N.J., for it to tell its tale in full—and all that thereby hangs:

“William Sogerka, 13 years old, played truant, stole 80 cents from his father and stayed out all night so he could get back to the State Reform School where he could study music and perfect himself in telegraphy.

“Sogerka’s parents are poor. He was sent to the State School at Jamesburg several years ago for some boyish misdeed, and was released nine months ago. While at the institution he learned something of music and telegraphy. He has not been able to continue either study since his return.

“‘I want to go back to the State home,’ he told Judge Costello. ‘I want to learn more music. I can’t get it at home, so I played hooky and took the money so I would be sent back.’

“The boy had a clarinet under his coat in court, and played a selection from *Il Trovatore* in the court.”

Is the case of this boy a freak exception? or is it a sample of numerous other and similar instances of chill penury chilling the genial current of the soul in a generation where material possibilities are ample to unfetter genius?

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