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## The Malady Of Genius

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## **Cover Page Footnote**

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## THE MALADY OF GENIUS

RICHARD B. OSTERMAN

Nervalian art survived his madness  
For here the juice of genius flows,  
*Sylvie* had echoed frantic gladness . . .  
Poetic, plastic, vertigoes.

Parisian moonlight snatches gleams of  
His frosted tears and pallid face,  
A madman's pockets cache the dreams of  
Celestial Order, Mystic Grace.

Numb knuckles threaten doss-house doors  
With desperate pleas for warmth and rest,  
Scratch panes do but elicit sores  
That syphiloid mind could but infest.

The man-wrought bars that spared the pane  
Do now befriend an apron string  
That clasps the throat that rasped in vain  
And sought relief from wintry sting.

An empty wood was not disturbed  
By silent acorn when it fell,  
Le Bon Gerard, a voice unheard,  
Has ended his Descent to Hell