

Howard University

Digital Howard @ Howard University

Poems

Manuscripts by Anna Julia Cooper

October 2017

A Bench Beside The Road 1 poem

Follow this and additional works at: https://dh.howard.edu/ajc_poems

Recommended Citation

"A Bench Beside The Road 1 poem" (2017). *Poems*. 3.
https://dh.howard.edu/ajc_poems/3

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscripts by Anna Julia Cooper at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Poems by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

To Mary Europe & Her Friends Jan 1925
From an old convalescent at Dunbar

A Bench beside the Road.

No "stepping stones" lured this way.
Far were the big "halls" wide flung
for talent, proved & proving.
Here only a bench by the side of the road,
Unknown, unpublished, unappraised chance,^{1 word}
Till one hot day a singer rested there;
Merely to mop his brow & roll a smoke. His cycle
atilt against a tree - for far he came,
Just as a bird stays but a moment on putting twig
Poring forth his soul in minstrelsy for any
or all, or none, as ^{late} ^{decides} chance decides;
So the singer straight from the heart of things
Seeing clear into God's eternal truth,
Sang the peace, the love, the harmony of life!
And it seemed to those so privileged to listen in,
That the grand swell of the universe
Shot up the melody of that song
And that Heaven's deepest depths
Revealed its inmost secret springs
From that plain bench beside the road.
"Who - who can it be? Do give your name!" He cried.
He dropt a scribbled sheet & was gone.

Breathless we read:

A friend of them that listen in,
That was all!