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## "Sterling Calhoun" Poem By Anna Julia Cooper

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Item: a colored man plunged in the river to save two  
drowning children. He was a good swimmer, had  
rescued the girl & with one hand was holding her above  
the water when the struggling boy clamped his arms &  
drew him down. The three went under." An eye witness.

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Who cares what was his color!

What matters what was theirs,

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A cry from helpless innocence

Stirs hidden human fires.

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He sees and heeds distress signs,

He reckes not self nor cost.

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One desperate throw - he makes it

And who shall say he lost.

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God give us back our pity

Smash frankensteins of pride

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Put once more in our midst a Child

The least of these, our guide.

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Anna Cooper

201 T St. N.W.