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## Richmond

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# Richmond

by H. Bruce McEver

Undeterred by over a century  
of industrial progress since the War  
the cold stone-cobbled James  
runs through this city's heart.

The river floods the brick-clutter relics  
of old cannon foundries, tumbled tobacco warehouses,  
and wracked bridges, dams, and locks.  
Now on the banks, modern glass towers taint pink  
toward sunset and shadow Corinthian columned porticos.

It's charming and everywhere:

I negotiate with a landed banker whose family financed the Cause  
or casually chat with an ex-Marine cabby back to the airport.  
His great-granddaddy dug and manned those earthworks  
strongholding and surrounding this sacred capital.

It even seems alive in the glimmering eyes  
of the great generals' oils arrayed at the Commonwealth Club.  
JEB Stuart, Stonewall, and Lee  
whose stares of determination and damnation  
glow like the end of the day  
and secretly ember  
in the bosom of the citizenry:

that certain, courteous,  
soft-spoken southern character,  
somewhat deceptive,  
but capable of taking on vastly  
superior forces  
and sometimes  
whipping them.

