

**I had not expected**

I had not expected hustle and bustle here  
near where the River is at home  
had preferred solitude which in any event  
has a way of asserting itself . . . .

Now those older than I are here  
and everywhere near where the River flows  
and the chatter picks up carrying this poem  
to children, grandchildren and other satisfactions . . . .

This the easy time of caring and not caring  
of strolling in the civilized wild mid the City  
of thoughts plucked from years like flowers  
near the rotunda, in sun or in rain . . . .

—Ken Samberg