

SECESSION

When the Civil War began,
Northern Alabama
had mountains and few slaves
and decided to secede
from the secession.
The rest of Alabama said no.
Shootings and hangings followed
and the northern counties
became Confederate.

I dreamed those Alabamans
succeeded in seceding.
Treaties were signed;
they celebrated with barbecues
and dances. And at one party
the toastmaster arose to say,
holding his glass aloft,
“My friends and foes alike,
at this propitious moment
I secede from you.
I secede from this county.
I secede from this state,
this nation, and gentlemen,
I secede from myself!”

With a cork-pulling pop
he vanished pleasantly,
leaving only his white cravat
suspended in mid-air.

(This was a dream brought on
by too much education.)