

## 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.)