

are really getting serious I think, about Secession; at least they are making preparation, as they say, to go out of the Union, but I suppose it will all end in smoke. By the way, the device of the pelican feeding her young is on the buttons of a very swell uniform worn by a regiment here that has been got up, called the 'Calhoun Guards.' What a farce! Because the Southerners want to go out of the Union, they think they are going headlong into a sanguinary war. They have even already organized a regiment of juveniles whose ages vary from twelve to sixteen; and people say that the very women are getting up a sort of Amazonian Home Guard.

Really, it seems as if the preparations for defending their rights were a part of the festivities of the season, for we are having balls, parties, operas, theatres, &c., in the very midst of all this excitement. - The 'Calhoun Guards' mean to do great things should a war really break out; and though I of course pretend to see a hero in every man belonging to the Regt. *entre nous*, I think they are playing at soldiering much as they play at dominoes here. The 'block' game of dominoes, by the way, is rather suggestive of this Secession business, for when neither player can go any further, each counts his spots to decide the victory, and the smaller number wins. Mine host, the barber, has given up shaving, and taken to soldiering, to wield a sword instead of a razor.* New Orleans

events which took place about this time, he says: "At New Orleans, the thunder of cannon, singing of the 'Marsellaise,' and the unfurling of the Pelican flag, attested the excitement of the people."—*L. S.*

* A Mr. Huth, a German at whose house we resided. We often heard him addressing his troop in the yard, as his boarders stood on the balconies above, looking on. He had a pet fawn, which became my constant companion in the house, and whose bell I have now in my possession. One day, (the fawn being in the yard at the time,) after Mr. Huth had been thus addressing his company, he concluded with a remark—the exact words of