



The Cowbellion's first thematic parade was based on
GREEK MYTHOLOGY

On December 26, 1840, the *Picayune* reported, "Our neighbors at Mobile appear to be well supplied with amusements of different kinds. First, there is the Alhambra theatre where Mr. Tasistro is performing." The actor opened in the new theater with "Othello."

Tasistro wrote a detailed account of this visit. In it he credited another actor, a well-known Mobilian, Charles Fisher, with creating and designing the Cowbellions' 1840 parade. Fisher may have been the first to conceive of the themed parade followed a tableau presentation and ball.

Tasistro's Description of Cowbellions' First Thematic Parade.

tainly calls forth more exercise of intellect and ingenuity in the performance of the different ceremonies, which take place at stated periods of the year, than any other. The members of this club generally turn out during the Christmas holidays, and every new year witnesses the embodying forth of some beautiful conception, consisting of faithful representations of the costumes and manners of different nations, diversified by the assumption of classic characters and devices. This year, without any note of preparation, or the least betrayal of what was forthcoming, the town was astonished by the appearance of one of the most gorgeous and unique spectacles that was ever beheld in modern times. This was a personification of the Greek mythology. I have seen many beautiful sights in this world: I have witnessed, in France, in Spain, and in Italy, some of the most stupendous exhibitions that the fertility of human invention ever did conceive; but I never had beheld before anything so chaste, so compact, and so complete, as this splendid embodiment of the fabulous history of the gods of the heathen world. Every character was as perfectly represented as if a Phidias or an Apelles had sketched it out; and as the procession moved along in silent order, or went through with some of its concerted evolutions at those places of public resort where it stopped, it was impossible to contemplate its movements, the attitude of the different figures, and the exquisite unanimity of their actions, without a feeling of intense admiration for the individual who had planned and concerted the whole affair. This was Mr. Charles Fisher, of the talented Fisher family, a gentleman favourably known to the world of letters for his many valuable contributions, and universally esteemed in private life for the suavity of his manners, the brilliancy of his acquirements, and the possession of many other qual-