

are they that I heard a seven thousand shareholder declare that rather than allow the Steel Coy. to be bluffed he would buy seven thousand more shares even had he to pitch them ultimately in the St. Lawrence." "That proves 'said a free lance, 'that there are more bluffers in Montreal than McKeens Jimmie'. A judicious person here broke in "I scarcely think we will have the opportunity to attend the Coal Cos. funeral this fall. I do not think the case will go to the Privy Council. I do not think James Ross will pay damages. I do not think that Plummer can raise the money in time. I don't think under the circumstances the banks are unduly harsh I don't." Here some one shouted, 'don't' and the speaker forbore. If after this you have not formed a conclusion as to the outcome of the fight it is not my fault.

I have missed Probus very much during the past three weeks. If he was not an instructive he was at least an amusing fellow. Indeed, he interested me. He must be off to Springhill having failed to induce the workmen of Pictou to consent to run a labor candidate. And 'Miner' too has not been so frequent of late in the Herald. Perhaps he is growing wiser. Every man in Nova Scotia has a right to express his opinions. But then the expression of these opinions carries a certain amount of responsibility. If I am an employee, in a semi-official position, of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., I am yet a free subject—to a certain extent—and with the right to give expression to my opinions—also to a certain extent only. If I want to denounce the Steel company and call them grabbers and robbers, then the manly course for me to pursue is to quit their employ before I begin my denunciations. If I am in a position, in their employ, which carries with it a small degree even of trust, then I am a bit of a coward, and a bit of a traitor if, while working fair to their face and drawing from them a salary, I stab them surreptitiously in the back, by means of the press or in other not daylight ways. I am afraid we are, in Nova Scotia, lacking in esprit de corps. I rather like to hear a boy say 'my father can do'—this and that. It shows he is loyal. And I like to hear employees stick up for the firms or the individuals for whom they work. If they cannot be loyal—no call for being exuberant—then they certainly should seek other means of a livelihood. The man who is not loyal cannot give honest work. He certainly should lift his grith and hie to some other locality where sedition and treason are not looked upon with disfavor.

'Aberdeen' bobs serenely up again. He is a pliable sort of chap, and can face about in double quick. His last letter is didactic in style. Instruction is not his forte, for in his early training the fundamentals were neglected. I like him best when he gives rein to his fancy, and yet in spots his present letter is funny. He says that Mr. Drummond criticised him abusively. How could he possibly do that seeing 'Aberdeen' declares he is an Aberdonian while the man supposed to be abused was thought to belong to the Herald office, Halifax. And how can one abuse a man who has no identity. One may rail at a 'Nom de plume' but that is about the same thing as scolding a shadow. 'Aberdeen' in his latest

declares, that in his letters he never made allusion to mines, miners, or mining. Now that is passing strange. I confess that I read his letters in the Herald, without according them that attention which they no doubt deserved, but I could almost take my affidavit that reference was made to miners. The Dom. Coal Co. for instance, are miners and shippers of coal and they own coal mines. Did not 'Aberdeen' refer to the company in various and variegated terms? Did he not refer to shacks, and hogs and to the mining company having absorbed the land and been favored by the government in its grab all policy. Did not he weave a pitiful tale of the miners' hardships etc. etc. at Aberdeen. If he did not refer to the miners, his effusions were mere gush and gab. Now that 'Aberdeen' has revealed, to a few, his identity by repeating part of a conversation, held not in public, there is not much relish in replying to his effusions. When the knowledge of who 'Aberdeen' is was distant, there may have been some little enchantment in a playful parry. With the knowledge comes disillusion. To my regret Aberdeen's extreme candor robs me possibly of a future pleasure. By the way and as a postscript when in his last 'Aberdeen' has got fairly under way, he almost had a return of the tornado fever. For instance he bursts forth as follows:

"Mutato nomine de te fabula navitur".
Bravo Aberdeen. Without looking at the foreign phrases at the end of Webster et al, I quite appreciate the quotation. True for you. A sheep may be made mutton, but mutton will never make a sheep. But my friend why rack your brains over so small a matter? Why not say 'the boot is on the other foot', and be done with it. The English way is the more euphonious, and frees the quoter from any charge of trying to ape the pedagogue.

The socialists of the U. S. nominated for the Presidency, Martin R. Preston, a convicted murderer and below the constitutional age of eligibility. The nomination was not intended as a joke but in dead earnest. Martin Preston is now undergoing a sentence of twenty-five years' imprisonment at Goldfield, Nev., for killing a restaurant keeper there some three years ago. The man had incurred the displeasure of a labor-union by discharging some waiter girls, in defiance of union rules. A boycott was pronounced upon his place, and Preston was stationed as a 'picket' to enforce the boycott. Trouble ensued, and that Preston shot and killed the restaurant keeper is undoubted; but the Socialist-Laborites hold that the act was in self defence and justified.

As a U. S. paper remarks "to have killed a restaurant keeper is the very latest thing in Presidential qualifications". Mr. Preston, if elected could not qualify because he could not pardon himself being convicted under state laws. And if he could be pardoned he could not qualify. The constitution would be in the way. But the constitution of the U. S. is no more to the socialists than is the constitution of the P. W. A. to Wm. Watkins. Like Watkins the socialists laugh at all constitutions. In fact the delegate who put Preston in nomination used almost Wm. Watkins words. What are constitutions for. The majority can make or mar constitutions. "We are for