

A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

We are exceedingly sorry to find it necessary to complain of the tardy manner in which a large percentage of our patrons remit the small amount of their subscription to *THE CRAFTSMAN*. One would think that with the class of men we find in all the lodges, that scarcely in a single instance would it be a hardship to remit \$1.50 in the course of a year, and it doubtless is not that which induces many to defer payment, but rather the impression that that sum is so trifling that it is of as little value to us as it would be trouble for them to send it. If we owned a bank, or knew of some plan by which we could buy paper, ink, and pay labor, rent, taxes, etc., without money, perhaps the remitting of \$1.50 a year to us would be a matter of little consequence, but unfortunately our bank account is a small one, with the balance too often and too long on the wrong side, and our employees are very punctual in presenting themselves at the cashier's desk every Saturday night; and there would be great disappointment in several families if we were not in a position to pay the wages justly earned and properly due.

In our last issue, we sent out our accounts, and though they only ranged from \$1.50 up, the whole represented to us the important sum of between four and five thousand dollars. On the back of each account we printed a request for immediate payment, as the money was urgently required for the liquidation of obligations which have accumulated in consequence of the non-payment of accounts in years past. After stating

as plainly as we did the necessity of the prompt remittance of all sums due us, however small, we certainly looked for the receipt of an amount that would be of substantial benefit to us, but, we regret to say, our expectations have not been realized. Though one month has elapsed since the receipt of these accounts by our subscribers, up to the time of writing the returns have not reached \$50 on account of them. Is this not too bad, brethren? Is it fair? Is it doing us justice? We are doing our best to give you a publication that will compare favorably with those hailing from other larger and wealthier jurisdictions, but we cannot do this without money. One brother wrote us a short time ago to say that he couldn't be bothered sending a dollar-and-a-half; if we couldn't send *THE CRAFTSMAN* until the subscription amounted to \$10 we could stop it. We did stop it. The idea did not occur to this good brother, if he preferred to pay \$10 at once, to send that amount in advance. We have hundreds of subscribers who have never paid one cent for *THE CRAFTSMAN* since it came into our hands six years ago, and they treat our accounts when sent to them with lofty disdain. This may be honesty, but it is of a kind we have not much respect for, and such as we think every good Mason will condemn. Recently, we took the trouble to write to every subscriber owing us for three years and over—not a little labor when it is considered there was over four hundred of them—but we have not heard from more than three or four of the number,—a result we little expected.

We now take this method of asking