

## IMPOSTORS.

In our last *Journal*, we repeated a former recommendation, that the money thrown away on itinerant vagrants, who were imposing on the confidence of Masons, could be saved by using the telegraph, and some of it spent in a little purifying discipline by civil process.

Bro. H. R. Mitchell, Secretary of our local Relief Board, is very prudent, and always patronizes the telegraph freely, thus not only saving money by it, but detects impostors who bleed the fraternity in other localities. On the 8th inst., Freeman Hoyt applied to Bro. Mitchell for relief, having a plausible story (as all such do not neglect) to the effect that he had assurance of employment in Nashville as a bridge builder, which he could not obtain here, and wanted assistance to go to the Rock City. He had told the same story in Cincinnati, substituting Louisville for Nashville, and obtained assistance from Bro. D. H. Pottinger, Secretary of the Cincinnati Relief Board, who mentioned Hoyt in his correspondence with Bro. Mitchell, giving his suspicions. Hoyt presented himself in due time, and claimed to belong to a Canadian lodge; that he lived in Ohio, and that this was his first application for Masonic aid! Judge R. H. Thompson, K. T., of the City Court, and detective Bro. D. C. Bligh, interviewed Hoyt, while Bro. Mitchell examined the reports from the Grand Lodge of Canada, and spent fifty cents in telegraphing. Hoyt's alleged lodge was not in existence, and the telegraph pronounced him a worthless fellow, who had deserted his family. The interview ended by Bro. Bligh "taking care of" Hoyt until morning, when he appeared before the Police Court with other prisoners, and Judge Thompson came off the bench that a non-mason might try the case. The judgment was \$20 fine, and \$1,000 bond. In default, Hoyt will contribute to the wealth of the city, by scientific investigations of the internal structure of our limestone

quarries. In other words, he will break rock for six months at the city work-house.

Keep this sort of thing up for a while, and there will be thousands of dollars saved for the deserving. Relief Boards should pay their Secretaries, and give more attention to applicants for assistance. Bro. Mitchell has done good work, and plenty of it without pay. It is too much to require of any man.—*Ex.*

## CLAIMS, APPELLATIONS AND RITES.

The questions which have been raised by some unwonted claims and developments of new appellations and elaborate rites are neither few nor easy to solve. It is most important, while on the one hand we carefully bar the door against childish masquerades or absurd pretensions, we should never forget, upon the other, the important and enduring claims of fairness, toleration and justice. The course adopted, or proposed to be adopted, in one or two American bodies to interfere with such movements by *ex post facto* decrees of Craft Grand Lodge seems to be opened to the gravest objections. A Craft Grand Lodge has no duties except quoad the craft. It cannot rightly take cognizance of any grade which oversteps the limits of Craft Masonry. Within its own dominion it is supreme, and none can question its jurisdiction or dispute its dicta. But the moment it seeks to legislate for other bodies, to lay down the law as regards separate organizations, it finds itself incessantly headed by difficulties, alike serious and overwhelming.

It can, indeed, lay down a law that in its own assemblies none of its members shall wear insignia or claim affiliation with any other existing grade whatever, and can ignore any and every other rite not of Craft Masonry; but this is all it can fairly do; this is all it ought legitimately to attempt to effect. The wisdom of the