

A SPECIMEN DEAD-BEAT.

The writer of the following may be taken as a sample of the few contemptible "dead-beats," who by hypocrisy and cunning, creep into the craft:—

"London, Oct. 18th, 1887.

"DEAR SIR,—I have just got September number of *THE CRAFTSMAN*. Years ago, I declined to continue taking it, and sent several back at that time. Occasionally one has reached me since. I don't see why you should continue to send it, but your September number convinced me you were intending to forward it, and were expecting to be paid pretty well, hence I send you this note saying I do not want it and cannot pay for it."

It is no wonder that this honest (?) Craftsman was ashamed to sign his name to the above, leaving us in the dark as to his identity. He doubtless felt sure that if he gave his name, we would, through the Post office authorities, prove him a—liar! He says that "years ago" he "declined to continue taking" *THE CRAFTSMAN*. This, we are confident, is false, for if any such intimation had been received at this office, it would have received prompt attention, or else in writing he omitted to append his signature, as in the present instance, in which case it would be impossible for us to ascertain who among our large number of subscribers in London it was who wished to discontinue. The writer says, too, that only an "occasional" number has reached him, which must be another falsehood, for *THE CRAFTSMAN* is sent to London in parcels, and if one subscriber failed to receive it regularly, a number of others would also be minus their

copy, and numerous complaints would be the result. We have not received such, and our knowledge of the efficiency of the post office department leaves us little doubt as to the falsity of the complaint. This is only one of the contemptible dodges resorted to by miserable sneaks, who prefer lying to paying an honest debt. We are familiar with a great many of the tricks of this class, for during thirty years in the publishing business, I have, at times, had to deal with a good many of them. He says, too, that he sees we expect to get "pretty well paid!" We certainly expect to be paid at our regular subscription rate, \$1.50 per annum; and if our correspondent will only favor us with his name, we will take a great deal of pleasure in adding law costs to the amount due, to ensure its collection,—besides giving the name of our distinguished patron, so that members of the craft may avoid him as they would any other "beat."

In the meantime, he must not expect to escape by failing to communicate further with us, for we have sent the letter to London, so that the writing may be identified. We expect to be able to deal more definitely with our correspondent in our next issue.

The revival of the old notion of forming a General Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. for the whole of the United States, is not received with much favor throughout the Union. The veterans generally advise the "apprentices" to let "well enough" alone, and to cease tampering with the "ancient land-marks." Exclusive Sovereign Grand Lodges both in principle and practice are a fixed fact.