

which his Masonic posterity, the Grand Officers, and all of his brethren will feel justly proud. The line of conduct we have suggested is within the ability of any Master, and no one can adopt it without adding largely to his own gratification, as well as to the healthy development of the Fraternity. Will not every Worshipful Master who reads this hastily penned, and feeble, and yet earnest appeal to their sense of official duty, their Masonic manliness, and their manifold opportunities to distinguish themselves as Masons, try some at least of the methods herein suggested for giving increased spirit, interest and value to their Lodge meetings?—*The Keystone.*

MASONIC DEAD-BEATS.

In the present situation of Masonry, having upon the rolls of membership of her lodges hundreds of thousands of brethren scattered over the entire habitable world and engaged in almost all the pursuits of life known to men, the calls for help are frequent, and the demands for charity require large appropriations of time and money. The open-handedness of Masonry has a tendency to make these demands larger and much more frequent than they otherwise would be. It also presents an opportunity for *dead-beats* and impostors to ply their nefarious vocation of living upon others by concealing their true character. It is a well-established fact that a large proportion of what has been given as Masonic charity, in the past, has gone into the hands of those not entitled to receive it. It was thus worse than thrown away, for it has kept upon the

road a vast horde of travelling impostors, who have lived upon this bounty, while needy brethren, or their widows and orphans, in many instances, have been left to suffer for want of even the necessities of life. The worst feature of this whole business is that these scoundrels, who are thus defrauding worthy Masons and their widows and orphans, are but seldom punished for the crime. The footpad who robs upon the highway is arrested and sent to prison, there to expiate his crime in penal servitude, clothed in a convict's garb. The fraud who robs a Mason, or a Masonic lodge, is no less a criminal, and should be made to suffer in like manner. He is a worse criminal than the highwayman, for the latter selects for his victims those to whom the loss of a purse is but a trifle, while he robs the poor as well as the rich. This condition of affairs, says the *Masonic Advocate*, makes it the imperative duty of Masons and Masonic Lodges to protect themselves, so far as is possible, against unworthy applicants for Masonic charity. The exigency of the case demands their most serious consideration and united co-operation. In the smaller towns, where there is but one Lodge, the usual plan of constituting the Worshipful Master and Wardens a Committee on Charity, with authority to draw from the funds of the Lodge, is perhaps as good a plan as they can adopt. But from a lack of proper facilities for detecting impostors, it is here that they are generally most successful in accomplishing their purpose. If these officers would be more vigilant, and withhold relief until they can obtain some proof of the worthi-