

brother in distress. There are in the very nature of things many Freemasons whom fortune has not favored, and who are worthy objects for that relief, which as Freemasons it should be our highest happiness worthily to bestow. But we do desire to urge caution, not simply in our own interest, but in the interest of others, our brethren, who are equally entitled to our protection from the impositions of professional masonic beggars, in determining upon the worthiness of any applicant for aid. That is not wise charity, which distributes with a reckless and unenquiring hand. The duty of exposing those who disgrace the name of Freemason is quite as imperative as that of assisting the worthy. And our object is simply to urge that when application is made, unless the brother applying is known personally to us, or presents such credentials as makes his case an unquestionable one, the most thorough enquiry should be made; and if that enquiry should result in proving him unworthy, steps should be taken to make that unworthiness known to others.

We have been led into this train of thought by a curious case which recently occurred in Glasgow, Scotland. A mason, seeking relief, presented his credentials, among which was his lodge certificate, to the Board of Masonic Relief in the city, and asked for a sum of money,—telling a plausible story, which induced many members to believe him a worthy subject for masonic relief. The matter, however, was left for enquiry in the hands of the Secretary, and he, having his suspicions, made the enquiry somewhat searching, and discovered that the applicant had been suspended from his Lodge (in Liverpool, if we mistake not) for unmasonic conduct, and that he was totally unworthy. Upon this information, the Secretary did not content himself with simply rejecting the application. He endorsed upon the certificate of the applicant the facts as he had learned them, thus of course rendering it of no value as an evidence of masonic position again. The applicant, indignant at the liberty thus taken, had the Secretary brought before the Sheriff's Court, making against him formal complaint of injury to property. The Sheriff, however, on a full statement of the case, not only dismissed the complainant, but commended the Secretary for his wise precaution in preventing others from being taken in by the presentation of this masonic certificate. The judgment was a most righteous one; and we leave our readers to draw from it, and from the circumstances which led to it, the appropriate lesson which it teaches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The following we take from *The Daily Telegraph* St. John, N. B.,
 "MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF"

The several Lodges of Freemasons in the City have established a general Masonic Board of Relief, and at a meeting of the represen-