

BREAKING STONE FOR BREAD.

No Man Who Is Willing to Work Need G
Hungry in Kansas City This Winter.

Cracking stone is not classed as one of the intellectual pursuits, yet it will afford thousands of hungry men the means of subsistence this winter. There is a stone pile at the corner of Twentieth and Holmes where from twenty to fifty men secure work every day. There is always work there and at no time so far has the supply of workmen exceeded the



TESTING A BEGGAR'S SINCERITY

demand. The stone that the workmen break was taken out in excavating the O. K. creek sewer and it has been purchased by a benevolent institution at ten cents a yard. The men are paid forty cents a yard for breaking it, and there is one little old Irishman in the crew who is so spry that he can make \$3.50 a day any day he sets out to. But there was another old man who tried his hand at rock cracking recently and although working faithfully for two solid days only had a "string" worth sixty cents. The average men on the rock pile make about \$1 a day.

This rock pile is a severe test of a man's sincerity when he professes that he would work if he only had a chance. Last March when the Provident association first established the rock pile the office of the association was crowded every morning with men who were cold and hungry and professed to be willing to work for their breakfast. There was no work and the men knew it; so the tender-hearted manager of the Provident association gave the hungry men food for nothing. During the first month that the rock pile was established only five out of twenty-eight who applied for work and were sent to the rock pile, really went there. In the next month only five out of twenty-nine who applied for food refused to work for it. That per cent still holds. The professional beggars have found that they cannot "work" the Provident association, and they have given up going there to try. The rock pile is now a self-sustaining charity. The city and the paving contractors buy the broken stone as fast as the men can turn it out.