BUSINESS NOTICES.

EVENING BULLETIN

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IS SECRECY IMPOSSIBLE?

It would seem as if it were impossible that any of our intended movements should be kept secret. We all remember that when McClellan was obliged to disclose his plan of the Peninsular campaign to the President, the enemy, by his evacuation of the chain of fortresses at Manassas within a few days, showed that correct information had reached him, and this disclosure undoubtedly cost us Richmond. Again we have lost Richmond by the news of Kilpatrick's intended expedition being carried to the enemy. It is now asserted that the information of his expedition was communicated to some "ladies" at a grand ball given in the army, as far back as the 22d ult. Of course there were plenty of Belle Boyds on hand. Davis seems to have a special corps of prostitutes as one of his most efficient aids. He also informed Mrs. Greenhow, (so that respectable lady, now so much cherished in London, affirms) that "but for her, there would have been no Bull Run."

That such a state of things should ever have existed, is disgraceful enough; but that it should be permitted to go on for long years, is incomprehensible. With some of our officers reticence seems to be an impossibility. We ourselves once witnessed a scene in a railroad car, between this city and Washington, which struck us forcibly. A Brigadier-General of the Army of the Potomac took his seat, and presently a shrewd-looking individual sat down beside him, drew him into conversation, and extracted from him a vast variety of particulars as to numbers, army movements, &c., which this officer unhesitatingly communicated to a man whom he had evidently never seen before. As soon as the stranger knew all he wanted, he wrote off a telegram, and succeeded in getting it despatched from a way station within five minutes.

The disclosure, however, of an intended movement, like that of Kilpatrick, is a graver matter. It would seem to be an affair of the most ordinary common sense that such things should be communicated to the smallest possible number of persons, and if prematurely disclosed, that the individual in fault should be sought out and disgraced, not so much as a punishment to himself as for a warning to others. The lives, time, treasure and opportunities which have been sacrificed in this war by this species of imprudence (to give it no worse name) are incalculable.

CITY COUNCILS—"A POWER BEHIND THE THRONE."

It appears that there exists behind the Councils of our city, a power greater than they;—capable of controlling them at will, capable of making members violate pledges, capable of causing them to place themselves on record and before the community in positions anything but favorable.

It is scarcely necessary to say that this dominant power consists of a compact knot of contractors *in esse* and *in posse*, of men who have had fat jobs and want more, and if men who have had none, and are all the keener to begin. To all these the odor of plunder which reeks out of every orifice of the Highway Department has an appetizing, in fact an intoxicating effect. Under the influence of this potent stimulus, these men assume to be "the republican party" and to control the actions of councils and their members. These they hector and cajole, bully and wheedle, as seems most likely to answer. Anything like reform is to them the removal of their lawful prey; they become furious, combine their forces and make a series of desperate efforts to check the movement.

So far their efforts have been successful. The bill to reform the Department was finally defeated last Thursday. The question now arises, are the corruptions and infamies which have been introduced within the last few years into the Highway Department to become established and perpetual? For if we have not a reform now, when can we hope for it? Our citizens are aware that the money of the city is being poured like water to raise volunteers, after our actual quota has been furnished, and that we are thereby entailing a heavy load of taxation upon ourselves and our children. Can we afford, in addition to this, to waste large sums annually upon the sharks who surround the Highway department and who pillage us at will? Are we so rich that we can afford to waste our money so recklessly? If our taxes were now raised so as to pay the interest on our actual debt, there would be a universal outcry as to the impossibility of meeting such exactions. Shall we then keep adding a heavy annual increase to this debt by neglecting to reform the most expensive department of the city government? Reform in the city administration has been all along promised by the party now in power. Will they venture to refuse it when they can bring it about by simply recording their votes in favor of measures of the most obvious propriety and necessity?

It is high time that public opinion was brought to bear upon councils in so unmistakeable a manner as to make them feel that they must act up to their duty without further delay or hesitation. The question is squarely before them, which is to triumph, REFORM or CORRUPTION?

COLORED SOLDIERS.

New York has recently given to the country, indubitable evidence of the great change in public sentiment which has taken place during the past year. We all know how opposed were the authorities and the large mass of the people to the organization of Colored Regiments, and how many threats were made by the Copperheads of New York of future interference, even should actual attack of armed miscreants be necessary to prevent their marching through the streets, or from embarking from the wharves for scenes of distant and prospective conflict. A few days since the first of such regiments left the city for the Gulf of Mexico, and previous to proceeding to the steamer, marched through fashionable Fifth Avenue, busy Broadway and other principal highways, the sidewalks of which were crowded with men, women and children, representing all conditions and phases of society, and who repeatedly manifested their approbation and gratification by cheers, smiles and the waving of handkerchiefs. Doors and windows were also well filled with spectators of both sexes, but not an insulting word or gesture was attempted, even by the veriest sympathizer with treason, who was an eye-witness of the unusual display. At Union Square the regiment was presented with a stand of colors, the gift of the "mothers, wives and sisters of the members of the New York Union League Club." The presentation address was made by President Chas. King, of Columbia College, and how appropriate and patriotic was the language in which it was clothed, may be judged from the following extract:

"You are in arms," said the eloquent orator, "not for the freedom and law of the white race alone, but for the God-implanted right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to every being whom He has fashioned in His own image. When you put on the uniform and swear allegiance to the standard of the Union, you stand emancipated, regenerated and disenthralled; the peer of the proudest soldier in the land; and withered be the hand and palsied be the tongue that shall ever give consent to your being subject to other treatment at the hands of the enemy than such as is measured out to other soldiers of the Republic. Prejudice, indeed, and the rancorous hate of brutalized minds and the ingrained meanness of factious partisanship may still throw obstacles in your way; but that way is *upward* and onward, and your march in it cannot be stopped, cannot be much delayed, unless by your own want of faith and want of work. To your own selves, be true to your high mission as the vindicators and asserters of your worth as *men*, and you cannot then be false to any one, or fail in any high and honorable endeavor. You may fail, as many of your race did fail, with the gallant, good young Shaw at Wagner; and the ignoble foe thought to dishonor that youthful hero's grave by heaping into it the corpses of his colored soldiers. Dishonored! Who would not die such a death to be worthy of such a grave! Who that rightly feels would exchange that lowly resting place on the barren shore of South Carolina, lulled by the eternal requiem of the solemn sea, for the proudest mausoleum in the loftiest temple built with human hands! No, no, my friends, you cannot be hindered now in your high calling. It is but to look back for a few years—nay, but for a few months in this city—to realize what a forward step has been taken, and to feel quite sure that in such a path there is no step backward."

Such a military display and such an address would two years ago have been the signal for an outbreak among the populace, which, in its horrors, would have been exceeded only by the disgraceful Copperhead riots of last July. This change of sentiment is apparent, not only in New York, where a similar organization is already full and only awaits arms to take its departure, and a third numbers between two and three hundred men, but in every section of the country where negro regiments have been organized; and, as a result, we find the ranks of such corps filled within a brief period after the first name is enrolled. In Philadelphia one regiment is barely filled to its minimum standard before another is under way, with satisfactory promise of early completion; in Delaware and Maryland the colored residents, slave and free, are flocking to the flag of liberty; and in the South and West, in loyal and disloyal States, the army of the Union is increased monthly by thousands of stalwart representatives of the colored race. And yet this great movement is but in its incipiency. With such a brilliant commencement, who can foresee the future magnitude and brilliancy which will result from the introduction of this important element into the service of the Union?

MR. GOTTSCHALK Will give a final concert at Concert Hall on Thursday evening next. He will have the valuable assistance of the delightful German tenor, Herr Habelmann, as well as Mrs. Behrens, Carlo Patti and Charles Schmitz. We doubt not that the hall will be crowded, as it has been at all Mr. Gottschalk's recent concerts.