

diminutive species having the appearance of a terrier. The ribbon fish (*iris maritima*) is very frequent there, and measures from 5 to 36 inches. Another kind is speckled like the leopard, and builds itself a dwelling like the beaver. Then there are green tortoises, some 5 feet in length, and zoophytes such as sea anemones."

The report of the committee of the Austrian Reichsrath on the Army Bill, stating the reasons for which it recommends that the bill should be passed as proposed by the Government, has just been published at Vienna. It states that the military system now to be adopted in Austria is similar to that which exists in Prussia and France, and that "no one can resist the conviction that the present tension of the defensive forces of Europe cannot long continue, but must find its solution either in a general disarmament, obtained by peaceful means, or at no very distant period through a great war followed by general exhaustion; for no State can long support the present armed peace without falling into utter financial and industrial ruin." The report then compares the proposed strength of the Austrian army with the forces now at the disposal of the other great European Powers. The Austrian army, it says, would consist in all of 1,053,000 men, viz., 800,000 regulars, 53,000 "military frontier" men, and 200,000 Landwehr; while the forces of the North German Bund are 1,028,946 men, and with those of South Germany, 1,229,000 men; of France, 1,350,000 men; and of Russia, 1,467,000 men. From this comparison the committee concludes that the proposed military establishment of Austria "would not exceed the limits of what is necessary for its security and the maintenance of its dignity as a European power." "The existence of Austria," it continues, "is only to be secured by her asserting her present position and influence among European States. Her political system must, it is true, be directed with self-denial to the maintenance of peace, but she should also, at the same time, possess the power of successfully resisting any attack on her internal organization, and her free material development. A glance at the map shows that the geographical position of Austria unfortunately renders the solution of this problem so difficult that it can only be arrived at by her possessing a large military force." The report concludes by pointing out that the passing of the bill would show Europe that both halves of the monarchy are resolved to stand by each other, and would thus be "one of the most important elements in the preservation of the peace of Europe."

**ARMY REDUCTIONS.**—It, perhaps, may be well again to say that the rumours which are prevalent respecting particular reductions in the army do not rest on any authentic foundation. It needs no official inspirations to foresee reductions next year. But, as a matter of fact, the estimates have not yet been touched, and it is mere guess-work to say, for instance, that depot battalions are to be swept away. It is true that the 3rd Depot Battalion at Chatham is to move to Shorncliffe and be reconstituted, being replaced at Chatham by the 27th Regiment from Dover. But this arises only from the fact that, from the large draughts sent from Chatham to India, the garrison has been denuded of duty men, several of the depots have become skeletons, and, with a view to relieve the men fit for duty

from the extra work, a battalion of infantry is being sent in place of the depot battalion. It is this move which probably caused the rumour concerning the depot battalions. As a matter of probability we should not be surprised if some part of the plan put forth in this journal just a year ago were carried out as regards a diminution of the number of subaltern officers in the cavalry and infantry. But even this has hardly yet arrived at the stage of being "under consideration."—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

**THE LATE COLONEL PRIESTLEY OF THE 42ND ROYAL HIGHLANDERS.**—A beautiful stained glass tablet has been erected in the Episcopal Church Sterling, to the memory of the late Colonel Priestley, of the 42nd Highlanders. Two figures are represented—one clad in armour, with his hand on his sword, representing the warrior, and the other robed in the garments of peace, with a palm in his hand. The regimental badge and the arms of the deceased are seen below, while above is a scroll, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Under the window is a brass plate, bearing the following inscription:—"In memory of Col. Edward Ramsden Priestley, late Colonel 42nd Royal Highland Regiment.—The Black Watch—died at Stirling, 25th March, 1868, in his 51st year. Erected by his brother officers." The window is the work of Messrs Ballantine, Edinburgh.

A prominent officer of the army commanding in Texas, in a private letter to a friend at the North, says that in the north-eastern part of the State the rebels are organizing regiments, pretending that it is by authority of General Reynolds and other commanders, and ostensibly to protect themselves against the Indians, but really to drive out all the Union States troops and Union men in the southern section of the State. The Colonel commanding has, by proclamation, forbidden the organization of men in this section. Among the prominent men named as leaders in this movement is ex-Governor Throckmorton.—*New York Times*.

The project of constructing a tunnel under the Detroit river, so as to connect Canada and the United States, has been revived, Mr. Chesbrough, Engineer, of Chicago, was in Detroit last week to make a preliminary examination of the river, as to the feasibility of tunneling it so as to make it practicable to run a railroad through it. He had examined the bearings already made on both sides of the river, in and below the city. From the examination made, Mr. Chesbrough is satisfied that the project of a tunnel is feasible.

**REDUCTION OF THE PAPAL ARMY.**—The *Pall Mall Gazette's* Roman correspondent says that the Pope is in favor of a reduction of his army.

**DARING BRIGANDS.**—A despatch from Agram in Croatia, announces that brigands invaded the town of Pilanki, in open day, and took away the public treasury, containing a million of florins.

Bayard Taylor writes from Rome:—"An intelligent Roman nobleman said to me:—"We are now living under a double rule—that of Pius IX., and that of his successor, who is already secretly chosen!" "Who is the latter?" I asked. "I can only tell you" he replied, "That it is *not* Antonelli."

A preacher in a frontier settlement had been collecting money for some church object. There was some twenty dollars wanting, and after vain efforts to make up the deficiency he plainly intimated, as he locked the church door one day after service, that he intended to have that said twenty dollars before any of them left the house. At the same time he set the example by tossing five dollars on the table. Another put down a dollar, another a half dollar, another a quarter of a dollar, and so on. The Parson read out every now and then the state of the funds: "Thar's seven and a half, my friends." "Thar's nine and a quarter." "Ten and six bits are all that's in the hat, friends and Christian brethren." Slowly it mounted up. "Twelve and a half." "Fourteen." "Sixteen and three bits," and so on until it stuck at nineteen dollars and fifty cents. "It only wants fifty cents, friends, to make up the amount. Will nobody make it up?" Everybody had subscribed, and not a cent more was forthcoming. Silence reigned, and how long it might have lasted it was difficult to say, had not a half dollar been tossed through the open window, and a rough explanatory voice shouted:—"Here parson, there's your money, let out my gal. I'm about tired of waitin' for her."

#### A DAY WITH GENERAL PRIM.

The following sketch of the present everyday life of the chief leader of the Spanish revolution is taken from a recent letter of the special correspondent of the *Times* at Madrid:—

Wait upon General Prim, for instance, at his apartments in the Hotel de Paris at the Puerta de Sol. He has lately left his noisy quarters in that central locality, but he can scarcely be said to enjoy greater privacy in his new apartments in Calle Barquillo. The poor man has a fagged, worried look—the look of a man not one minute of whose life can be called his own. Wait upon him at any hour of the day or night. You force your way through the throng of sturdily beggars besetting his entrance *en queue*: you find a host of servants, aides de-camp private secretaries, a devoted band, all intent upon the bootless task of forcing back the tide of visitors. "The General transacts no business out of office hours; the General is engaged; he is not at home; he is at dinner; he is in bed; he is ill; he is dead." All in vain! The mob will take no denial. The rabble are not to be beaten back. The fortunate few smuggle themselves in one by one; the rest can afford to wait; their power of waiting is boundless. They know the house has only one exit. If the General is to go out, he cannot choose but see them. Let him only come forth and they are sure to have him. And out, doubtless, he comes. Between eight and nine in the morning he is up and doing. He has scarcely leisure for one affectionate word to his wife, for a parting kiss to his lovely little girl. The distance between his home and the War Office is barely a hundred yards; it would be affectation to order out his brougham or to call a cab. It would be an outrage to popular sovereignty to get four civil guards to clear the way before him. He takes one of his friends under each arm; he bids two of his aides de camp follow close to his heels—a poor contrivance to screen him from the importunities of determined button-holders. Prim is a thoroughly