EVENING BULLETIN.

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FIFTH EX. AND INFALLIBILITY.

On the 25th of May Pope Pius IX. entered on the 25th year of his age. On the 17th of June he will enter on the 25th year of his Pontificate. There is a superstition that no successor of Saint Peter in the Papacy can have a longer reign than his, which lasted twenty-five years, two months and seven days. It is a fact that of about two hundred and sixty successors, no one has reigned so long. If Pius IX. lives beyond the 24th of August, 1871, his reign will exceed that of St. Peter. But that date is distant a year and three months, and that is a long time in the life of an octogenarian.

The idea of this good and venerable prelate's determining, in his extreme old age, and in the conventional latest possible year of his reign, to bind the faithful of his church to the dogma of papal infallibility, saves somewhat of senility—it might be said, of dotage. Knowing that Popes have proved fallible, in past ages, even when there was less civilization and education than there is now, and consequently, less appreciation of the faults of ecclesiastics, the dogma in the nineteenth century seems like an anachronism. But as we are not in the Œcumenical Council, we do not propose to argue the question of infallibility. We refer to it chiefly by way of introducing to our readers a sign that has been circulating among Americans in Rome. A sojourner there has sent it in a private letter to a correspondent here. Even those who say most reverently their *Pater Noster* will acknowledge its cleverness. Here it is:

> "*Our Father who art in the Vatican; Infallible be thy name. Thy temporal sovereignty come, thy will be done, in Europe and America, as it is in Ireland. Give us this day our bills and tiffes, and forgive us our trespasses as we give plenary indulgence to those who pay penitently unto us; and lead us not into Œcumenical Councils, but deliver us from thinking; for thine is the crozier, and the keys, and the tiara, Rome without end, Amen.*"

As a simple illustration of what is thought, in certain circles of very enlightened people in Rome, this *jeu d'esprit* is worthy of notice. The author of it, who has been able to parody, without outraging, the universal prayer of Christians, for the sake of the cause of common sense and that religious liberty which the most enlightened Catholics recognize, as do the most enlightened Protestants, is deserving of credit. Twenty years ago, when Rome, was wicked than he is now, he could not have been led into an Œcumenical Council, nor could he have tried to lead his people into one that has such a purpose as that of Pius IX. is trying in Rome. But, after all, what can come of the promulgation of such a dogma, except discontent and doubt among the Catholics, and greater strength and courage among the Protestants, that believe nothing human or earthly to be infallible.

A POOR BARGAIN.

Our telegraphic despatches yesterday asserted that the forthcoming message from the President to the Senate upon the San Domingo treaty, will make the following recommendation: That the United States shall be responsible for the debts of that island only to the amount of $1,500,000. If this arrangement is agreed to by Baez, it will remove one of the principal objections to the annexation treaty. It will defeat the schemes of the speculators who have been loaning money to San Domingo at enormous discounts, with the hope that the United States would pay these loans at par; and it will preclude the possibility of a demand being made upon our Treasury for a sum greater than the amount named. But when this objection is removed others of nearly equal force present themselves. We cannot afford to expend even a million and a half of dollars for such a purpose while our financial burdens are so heavy, and while Congress is refusing, upon the ground of necessity, to abolish an income tax which is hateful to every citizen of the country. We have more territory now than we can dispose of to actual settlers for the next fifty years. We have the best reasons for doubting the honesty of the vote which declared the Dominicans to be unanimously in favor of annexation. We know that the whole southern portion of the island is under the government of Cabral, who is opposed to the treaty and to the schemes of Baez. We question the propriety of any measure which undertakes to confer American citizenship upon a people who differ from us in customs, laws, language, ideas and race. We believe that our occupation of the island will have to be made good by a manifestation of force, which will involve economy and increasing expense. We remember that just such a treaty as this with Spain induced the Spaniards to enter the island, from which they were driven after a contest in which thousands of lives and twenty millions of money were expended; and, finally, we cannot perceive that annexation will benefit anybody but Baez and the speculators who have secured valuable franchises in the island which will be profitable only under our rule. Considerations, such as these, ought to have weight with every truly patriotic man in the Senate; if they have not, and this iniquitous treaty is ratified, we hope the House of Representatives will refuse to vote the money to fulfil its provisions. The interests of the country will justify such extraordinary action as this.

THE END OF A MISERABLE BUSINESS.

The Fenian demonstration on the border will be merely ludicrous ending, will have accomplished one good result if it teaches enthusiastic and patriotic Irishmen to put no further trust in any of the leaders of the Fenian organization. It was perfectly apparent to disinterested observers long ago, that these men were using and intended in the future to use their authority and the machinery of the brotherhood for their personal enrichment. But Irishmen, filled with patriotic ardor, which of itself was not discreditable, and impelled by that instinct which leads them to participate upon general principles in any fighting which happens to be going on, refused to listen to the warnings that were uttered, or to think rationally of the folly and absurdity of the schemes in which they were asked to engage. At the time of the first Fenian raid thousands of Irishmen enlisted in the cause, eager for the fray, and the Patricks and Bridgets all over the land with lavish generosity contributed savings into the Fenian coffers. After months of delay, spent in quarreling over the spoils, the leaders at last made a pitiful raid upon Canada with a handful of men; when that was ended ingloriously, and a few brave fellows were killed and a few more imprisoned, O'Mahoney, Stephens and the rest disappeared, purged with their ill-gotten gains, and nothing has been heard of them from that time to this. The demonstration last week was merely an attempt made by a new set of rascals to use the old material for the purpose of playing the old game and winning the accumulated spoils. The result ought to convince every sane Fenian that he has been deceived a second time. O'Neill knew that his attempt would fail, and he was afraid to face the danger into which he urged his men. He retired safely, conveying the spoils with him. At Trout river, that other Fenian brave, General Starr, ran away and left his command as soon as the firing began; and the third of the prominent chiefs, General Spear, being satisfied that the whole thing is a fizzle, now denies that he ever had anything to do with it. The money in the hands of these men will never be accounted for. Like their predecessors, they will now retire from the organization to live upon the fruits of their rascality, careless alike of the freedom of Ireland and of the fate of the infatuated men who sacrificed their lives in these ventures.

We advise sensible Irishmen to cut loose from this organization, and to have nothing to do hereafter with its leaders and their schemes. Under the most favorable circumstances that can be imagined; with a full treasury, a disciplined force, honest chiefs, and perfect unanimity of opinion, such an organization could do nothing towards freeing Ireland from British rule. England would be likely to defeat an attempt in this direction made by a powerful nation, but could come into the contest with all the advantages which belong to a recognized government when engaged in war. It has defeated such attempts before, and it most assuredly could destroy any hostile undertaking on the part of American Fenians, without exerting more than a small fraction of its power. The Fenian agitation, thus far, has done Ireland vastly more harm than good. It has compelled the wheels of the British Government to move more briskly than they would have done if there were no such agitation in existence. It has made Irish men and Irish sympathy the subject of ridicule and reproach in the United States. It has given the British Government a pretext for the execution of Mr. Mitchell, who was a patriot and a gentleman, and who, if he had been left to himself, would have been a useful and honorable subject of the Queen. It has made the Irish people in Ireland the victims of the severest penal laws that have been enacted against any people since the days of Cromwell. It has given the British Government a pretext for the imprisonment of Mr. Vincent Scully