

not given until the day of Pentecost, and consequently the apostles were not inspired till that time. Then we are told of the great schism in the middle ages, when there were three claimants to the pontifical chair, who excommunicated each other, and we are asked, Where was Infallibility then. If two different Councils should happen to be elected for a town, and sit in adjoining rooms annulling what each other did, would all municipal power necessarily lapse? We know that power to execute the laws must still remain somewhere, and that one of them must have been the proper Council, though we could not distinguish which. So when these men contended against each other, one must still have been the rightful Pope. Their course was a grave scandal to the Church, and deeply to be deplored; but even then they did not contradict each other in doctrinal matters.

Then we are told that the Pope condemned Galileo, which was not the case, for it was only a council of the Church which did so; and even if he had, it would be no proof against Infallibility, for he is not necessarily an astronomer, and it is only when enunciating religious doctrine, that he is preserved from error.

Is the doctrine not consistent? If God did appoint one man to be the head of the church, and to feed it with doctrinal truth, would you say He had not the right or the power? And He instituted the means by which this was to be done—the Spirit of Truth. So Pio Nono, as the successor of St. Peter, although a poor feeble old man, yet through that Spirit is preserved from doctrinal error. The decision of the Council did not make the dogma; but the dogma made the decision, which was simply to embody it in so many words to be more convenient.

We are told that Infallibility has not preserved the Pope from reverses, but that is simply in accordance with the whole course of history. For the first three hundred years, to become Bishop of Rome was to become a martyr; and of the two hundred and sixty-two Popes who have reigned, nearly all have lived lives subject to persecution. Though it grieves us to see the kind, genial old man deprived in his old age of the comforts to which he is entitled, yet even if he was put to death, it would not alter the fact of his infallibility. History tells us how Napoleon the Great treated the Pope, but chastisement came upon him, and his power was broken in the Russian campaign. His nephew withdrew his troops from Rome, saying that was his answer to Infallibility; and in three weeks after his empire was broken, and he had not a soldier that he could withdraw from anywhere. The Papacy has stood the test of over a thousand years, and has an element of strength in it which will cause it to survive all the storms which burst upon it.

The Lecturer had been careful to avoid controversy, and hoped he had got through without saying a word which could offend any one. He concluded by a tribute to Canada, his native country, and hoped that we should be able in this country to throw aside animosities, and live in harmony and good will with each other.

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MR. STEPHENS' STRICTURES UPON THE FOREGOING LECTURE, IN "OWEN SOUND TIMES" OF FEBRUARY 17TH.

*To the Editor of the Times:*

SIR,—I attended the Lecture of Rev. Mr. Ferguson, and read your