



A pamphlet has come to me entitled "The Mark of the Beast." It identifies the Pope with this "mark" referred to in Revelations XIII, 17, 18.

It is too bad that the Seventh Day Adventists, who are so sensitive of criticism themselves, should circulate a pamphlet so antagonistic to the Catholic Church. The question you ask has been answered many times, although not in recent years, in this paper. If we have recourse to the best Biblical scholars or exegetes, we find them applying the text from Revelations to Nero, the arch-persecutor of Christianity in the first century. To give color to their accusation enemies of the Church publicize something that is not at all true, namely that the Pope's tiara is inscribed with the words "VICARIUS FILII DEI", and that if letters in that title were translated into Roman numerals, the sum would equal 666. As a matter of fact the tiara of the Pope bears no inscription whatsoever. Sometime ago a clergyman by the name of Reginald Ernest Hull gave a Latin ending to his two Christian names and then figured out what the sum total would be if he translated the letters into Roman numerals, and 666 eventuated. Your own name might spell that number. Here is the manner in which it was done: Reginald Ernest Hull: From his first name four numerals were drawn I L D V; from his second name only the letter V was extracted; from his sur-

name the three Roman numerals, namely V L L. Now the Roman numeral "D" stands for 500; the L stands for 50 and since there are three "L's" they would effect 150; the three "V's" which are identified with a "V" would mean 15 more, and the letter "I" would signify one—the total 666. The first thirty Popes lived in the golden age of Christianity and twenty-nine of them died martyrs for Christ. Imagine any one of them being designated the "beast" of the Apocalypse. Among the 262 Popes who ruled over the Catholic Church from the time of the Christ, all but four or five, were according to the unwilling admission of unfriendly historians, were among the holiest men of their times. The few unworthy ones, who were placed on the throne of Peter reached that position through the intrigue of civil rulers. Only five Popes have ruled over the Church during the greater part of the last century and every person, unless he be absolutely uninformed or ignorant, would rate them among the saintliest people. We say "unless the person were uninformed or ignorant," designedly, because the lives of these Popes have been written by Protestants as well as Catholics. It is very strange that people can regard themselves as religious and still engage in an apostolate of vituperation and slander.

Helps Parishioners



Photo Feature.

Rev. P. Wilfred Secoy. In five years Father Secoy, pastor of the Catholic church at Sinclair and Gourette, Mo., has practically transformed the entire area. Through his leadership cooperatives have been organized, telephone and electrical services secured and roads built. His two churches, only six miles apart in a straight line, were 27 miles apart by automobile until the road was built. Father Secoy is only 28 years old.

to me and said: "What the heck is he talking about? Do you know? What does he mean by a conscience?" This from a medical man who deals in human lives. Let not therefore the medical profession take umbrage at the fact that I have included medical men in my list of indolents.

DO WE NEED A DICTATOR?

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ellow-men exist in America? That's a necessary requisite for an enduring democracy. Make the check. Our prisons — we have 750,000 inside the walls, enemies of society, enemies of democracy, men and women who refused voluntary respect for law and the rights of their fellow-men, who have had to be regimented, blocked into line by prison corridors. They spurned democracy; they have had to accept by force a penal dictatorship. And that prison record, I might add, is the worst in the world. And outside the prison walls, there are perhaps another 750,000 that should be within, men and women who so far have managed to get away with it.

You'll Get Gyped If You Don't Watch Out

For confirmation, take up the Reader Digest for July and the first article entitled: "The Repair Man will Gyp You if You Don't Watch Out." The author, himself an expert mechanic, together with a companion, rolled all over the country in a mechanically perfect second hand car. He stepped now and then near garages, disconnected a couple of spark plugs, and then limped in for repairs. He got quotations on all sorts of new and "necessary" parts. The national investigation revealed that dishonest repairmen, who charge for works and parts not needed and often not done, are numerous. Sixty-three percent took the investigators for suckers when they would repair and again and treated them accordingly.

It is too bad one has to pick on garages. It would be interesting to send experts out into other fields, check if possible what is going on in the clothing world, the shoe world, the drug store world, in home construction and public works, yes and in the banking, dental and medical world.

Traffic laws—Oh, they will tell you they are nothing but penal laws like the laws against petty smuggling; if you are caught you take the punishment. If you are not caught you have done nothing wrong. And so, zoom through congested areas, ignore speed limits, stop signs and traffic lights—anything if you don't get caught. Chased on lanes; hedge on belts; squirm out of contracts, whether financial or marriage contracts; despise gambling laws—such tac-

lies surely put an end to democracy and call for some sort of dictatorship.

What is right or wrong is not always written down in positive law, nor is it necessary. Democracy means the greatest amount of liberty with the least number of laws. Of the ancient Athenian Democracy Pericles said: "It is carried on, not by formal and severe enactments, but by the ethical character and spontaneous energy of the people," by which words he implied that the people tend to do the right thing of their own accord simply because they know it is right. They recognized a natural law, the dictates of nature and common sense made known to each by his conscience.

Democracy presupposes a people spontaneously true to laws—written or unwritten—to what they know to be right or wrong. And the butcher, the baker, the garage man, the construction foreman, the banker, dentist or doctor, the tax-payer, the gambler, the debtor, the contractor—if they fail to do what they know is right, or fail to avoid what they know is wrong—are destroying democracy, such in his own individual way. A nation of such people needs a dictator.

Are We Proud Of This Fiasco?

The garbage stench in New York, gangsterism in Chicago, corrupt politicians in Kansas City and elsewhere, labor tyranny in San Francisco, political payoff in Los Angeles, and wide-spread bribery, private absorption of public funds, profligate bank-gambling with trust money, job-purchasing, questionable public works, and crime in general — all this is a mockery of that spontaneous respect for law demanded in a true democracy. I wonder if Mussolini was wrong in proclaiming democracy dead in America?

A few years ago I assisted at a commencement exercises of a certain American university. My cap and gown hid my clerical garb. I was that day just another schoolman. The orator for the occasion was vehemently urging the young graduates to be true to their conscience. On the third or fourth repetition of the world conscience my neighbor, a perfect stranger whom I later identified as a Doctor of Medicine, turned

Conscience Tells What Is Right And Wrong. Conscience is nought but the intellect or intelligence judging that a proposed act is right or wrong. When a man is properly educated, this judgment will generally be correct. A man of courage will follow his conscience, no matter what the difficulties or sacrifices. A coward will take the line of least resistance. Pontius Pilate on account of his cowardice has been called the scariest figure of history. He knew and declared that Christ was innocent. His conscience dictated freedom. But Pilate was a coward. He compromised with his conscience, and not once alone but three times. "He's a Jew — I'll send Him to Herod to be judged. But if He is innocent, why not release Him?" Herod sent Christ back. "TE scourge Him and let Him go. But if innocent why scourge Him?" This scheme too failed. "At the Passover a prisoner should be freed."

"I'll send Him alongside that foulest murderer in the prison, Barabbas—surely they will choose to free Jesus." And so this third compromise with his conscience failed, and Jesus was crucified. The futile gesture of washing his hands of the blood of an innocent man did not wash away his cowardice. No Compromise With Conscience. Let us not compromise with our conscience. If we know a thing is right, do it; if we know it is wrong avoid it. And when we are shouting to preserve democracy, let us ask ourselves what we individually may or may not be doing to destroy democracy. Our forefathers gathered of their own accord at Philadelphia, set up a state, wrote a Constitution and laws, and they freely pledged themselves to observe those laws — not through fear of punishment — but out of love for the order, peace and prosperity those laws would bring to society.

Observe these written laws, respect the unwritten laws which involve the rights of others, do this voluntarily of your own accord because you love peace and order, and you will preserve democracy. Violate these laws, spurn the rights of others, act on the slogan "Do whatever you can if you can get away with it" and you destroy democracy. The only alternative to a democracy is a dictatorship. Hitler may try to impose one on us from without, though I doubt his ability to do so; let us be careful we do not force one on ourselves from within.

Secular Paper Says Peace The Result Of Righteousness

It is suggested by an interventionist paper that St. Augustine's classical definition of peace ("The tranquility of order") should be interpreted as placing "order" and "justice" ahead of righteousness! That utopian pagan concept would have saddened St. Augustine. Try to get either real "order" or real "justice" without first achieving righteousness! It can't be done. But peace righteousness first, and the other glorious attributes come as logical consequences. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these (other) things shall be added unto you." Peace is an ingredient rather than a by-product of righteousness. When any imperialist power offers "peace" to an adversary, that power does not refer to a genuine peace; it speaks of the unrighteousness and "order" of conquest and enslavement. There is no righteousness either in Hitler or in Hitlerism wherever it may manifest its vicious attributes of faithlessness, promise-breaking, power-politics, cynical opportunism, Machiavellian ambition, the worship of might, and the cultivation of hatreds. There are well-meaning individuals who cannot comprehend these truths. Fortunately, however, four out of every five Americans have signified that they do comprehend. — Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.

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