

“It is to be observed as a singular circumstance, that the title, *vicarius filii dei* (Vicar of the Son of God), which the Popes of Rome have assumed to themselves, and caused to be inscribed over the door of the Vatican, exactly makes the number of 666, when deciphered according to the numeral signification of its constituent letters, thus:

V I C A R I V S	of the Son	of God	added to-
5 1 100	F I L I I	D E I	gether thus:
	1 50 1 1	500 1	

V.....	5
I.....	1
C.....	100
A.....	0
R.....	0
I.....	1
V.....	5
S.....	0
F.....	0
I.....	1
L.....	50
I.....	1
I.....	1
D.....	500
E.....	0
I.....	1

666”

—“*Our Bible Chronology, Historic and Prophetic, Critically Examined and Demonstrated,*” R. C. Shimeall, p. 180. New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1867.

“Sir,—In answer to your observation and queries, permit me to say—the things I have asserted are stubborn, clear facts, not mere suppositions or fancies.

“The inscription in question, was actually written over the door of the Vatican at Rome, in express Latin words and characters, as inserted in this publication, viz., VICARIUS FILII DEI; and those Latin words and characters contain Latin numerals to the amount of 666, exactly corresponding with the number of the beast.

“With respect to the supposition you have conjured up, that the Pope might be called *Vicarius Christus*, or *Vicarius Christus Filii Dei* (a sort of gibberish that is neither Latin, German nor English), it is a matter I have nothing to do with. Mr. D. may adopt these or any other fancies to amuse himself, and to screen the head of his holiness, but when he has done all, this question will still remain to be answered: Have those inscriptions ever appeared over the door of the Vatican at Rome?

“As to Mr. D’s attempting to obscure the number of the beast 666, contained in the numerals of the words VICARIUS FILII DEI, by objecting to a V; however the Pope or his emissaries may be obliged to him for his kind exertions on their behalf, yet I presume neither of them will condescend to appear his humble fool in Latin, for the sake of sheltering themselves under his ignorance of the Latin alphabet and the ancient inscriptions.”—*Id.*, p. 180.