



*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: Reginalus Ernestus 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 fifty and since there are three "L's" they would effect 150; the three "U'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 Christ, all but four or five, even 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.