

**Cornelius, by the Grace of God and favour of the  
Apostolic See, Archbishop of Halifax :**

**To the Clergy, Religious Orders and Laity of the  
Diocese : Health and Benediction in the Lord.**

DEARLY BELOVED :

We are nearing the close of a century which may well be called an era of mechanical and material progress. The grand principles of knowledge which great minds in other ages of more profound research discovered and taught for the development of man's intellectual faculties, have been adapted and applied to minister to his material comforts. It is in this deftness in the adaptation of knowledge, not in its discovery, that our age is preeminent. Hence its progress has been material, rather than intellectual. Changes important in themselves, and far-reaching in their effects, have taken place in the social and political orders during the present century. Old-time customs and methods have been discarded, and new standards of action have been introduced, new axioms in business and in government are heard in busy marts, and in legislative halls. The recognition of an overruling providence in human affairs, when not openly sneered at, is politely discouraged. The words of the Psalmist : "In the beginning, O Lord, thou foundest the earth ; and the heavens are the work of thy hands," (Psl. ci-26) are taken as a poetic figure of speech, not as the enunciation of a fact demonstrable by reason. With all our advantages it is