

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:

The solemn warning of the Apostle—"Be sober and watch: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour," (Pet. V, 8), does not appeal as powerfully to the hearts and consciences of all professing Christians as it should.—Many think they can disregard the adjuration to be sober, and to be watchful over their inclinations and their senses, and still be safe. Others, alas! an increasing number, deny the necessity and reasonableness of the words of the Apostle, asserting that there is no devil to devour us, and no hell in which the wicked shall suffer for the crimes committed in this life. To make men believe this is the greatest triumph of Satan since his victory in Eden. For it not only fosters a recklessness of moral evil, and destroys a most salutary restraining influence, as well as a powerful motive to repentance, but it, also, kills, so to speak, the intellect, by deadening its reasoning faculties, and thus unfitting it for the reception of supernatural truth. The seed takes root and flourishes only in good soil; a mind that reasons aright is the good soil in which alone the seed