

CORNELIUS, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, AND FAVOR OF THE
APOSTOLIC SEE, ARCHBISHOP OF HALIFAX.

*To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Halifax, health
and benediction in the Lord:*

DEARLY BELOVED :

Almighty God, speaking through his Holy Prophet Jeremias, and wishing to show at once the sad state of Religion among the Jewish people, and to point out its cause, said : “ *With desolation is all the land made desolate ; because there is none that considereth in heart.*”—(Jer. XII-11.) A spiritual desolation overspread the land ; and the cause of it was, “ because there is none that considereth in heart ” ; because none really turned their thoughts to God ; because men were more intent on the pleasures and interests of this world, than on the sanctification of their souls.

Were a Jeremias to arise in one day, and receive a command to deliver God's message to the Christian world would he not have to use nearly the selfsame language ? There is a vast amount of spiritual desolation, and it is because men do not consider in heart. The sweet yoke of Faith is cast aside as if it were an intolerable burden ; the practices of religion are neglected, and sometimes derided ; the very Commandments of God himself are broken without fear or remorse. Some, forgetting the injunction of the Apostle, “ not to be more wise than it behoveth to be wise ; but to be wise unto sobriety,”—(Rom. XII-3.) arrogate to themselves all wisdom, and presume to sit in judgment on the works of God himself. They laugh at revelation ; they mock the divinity of Christ ; they call Christianity a superstition ; and sneer at devout believers as weak imbeciles. Others, not so openly impious, but in whom Christian sentiments are half choked by evil passions, lose no opportunity of having a covert thrust at the teachings of strict morality, and of throwing a doubt on some fundamental truth. They have enough of evil in them to make them wish that Christianity were false ; and enough of Christianity to render their conduct inexcusable. Truly, “ with desolation is all the land made desolate.”