

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

**To the Clergy, Religious Orders, and Faith of the Diocese ;
Health and Benediction in the Lord.**

DEARLY BELOVED :

So many and such wonderful changes have taken place in the social condition of mankind, during recent years, chiefly by reason of the development of the mechanical arts, that the unthinking are inclined to believe a similar change has been effected in the nature of man, and in the laws which should guide and govern his conduct. Material comforts and conveniences, now within such easy reach of so many, have a tendency to undermine, and eventually destroy, the virility of the human race,—to engender a spirit of resentment against all laws which impose restraints, or are looked upon as inconvenient of observance,—and to render difficult and distasteful the pursuit of virtue through self-denial. The practices of Religion become irksome, and, whilst money may be readily given to help the needy, any act of charity which requires personal labour, or attention, seems repulsive. A false standard of Morality is set up, and sought to be justified, by the plea that it is more