

several commissions to certain persons therein respectively named, directing them to consider the state of the several dioceses in England and Wales, with reference to the amount of their revenues, and the more equal distribution of episcopal duties, and the prevention of the necessity of attaching, by commendam, to bishoprics, benefices with cure of souls; and to consider also the state of the several cathedral and collegiate churches in England and Wales, with a view to the suggestion of such measures as might render them conducive to the efficiency of the Established Church, and to devise the best mode of providing for the cure of souls, with special reference to the residence of the clergy on their respective benefices; and reciting, that the said Commissioners had, in pursuance of such directions, made four several reports to His Majesty, bearing date respectively the seventeenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and the fourth day of March, the twentieth day of May, and the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six; and reciting, that the said Commissioners had in their said reports, amongst other things, recommended that commissioners should be appointed by Parliament for the purpose of preparing and laying before His Majesty in Council such schemes as should appear to them to be best adapted for carrying into effect, amongst others, the following recommendations; and that His Majesty in Council should be empowered to make Orders ratifying such schemes, and having the full force of law; and that the southern part of the diocese of Bristol, consisting of the county of Dorset, should be transferred to the diocese of Salisbury; that all parishes which are locally situate in one diocese, but under the jurisdiction of the bishop of another diocese, should be made subject to the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese within which they are locally situate; and that such variations should be made in the proposed boundaries of the different dioceses as might appear advisable, after more precise information respecting the circumstances of particular parishes or districts; and that none of the proposed alterations affecting the boundaries or jurisdiction of any diocese, the bishop of which was in possession on the fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, should take effect until the avoidance of the see, without the consent of such bishop; that all the archdeaconries of England and Wales should be in the gift of the bishops of the respective dioceses in which they are situate:

It is enacted, amongst other things, that the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being, the Lord Archbishop of York, and the Lord Bishop of London for the time being, John Lord Bishop of Lincoln, James Henry Lord Bishop of Gloucester, the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord High Treasurer or the First Lord of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being, respectively, and such one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State as should be for that purpose nominated by His Majesty under His royal sign manual (such Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord High Treasurer or First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State being respectively members of the United Church of Great Britain and Ireland), the Right Honourable Dudley Earl of Harrowby the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse, and the Right Honourable Sir Herbert Jenner, Knt. should, for the purposes of this Act, be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, and by that name should have perpetual succession and a common seal:

And it is further enacted, that the said Commissioners should, from time to time, prepare and lay before His Majesty in Council such schemes as should appear to the said Commissioners to be best adapted for carrying into effect the thereinbefore recited recommendations, and should in such schemes recommend and propose such measures as might upon further enquiry, which the said Commissioners are thereby authorised to make, appear to them to be necessary for carrying such recommendations into full and perfect effect; provided always, that nothing therein contained should be construed to prevent the said Commissioners from proposing in any such scheme such modifications or variations, as to matters of detail and regulation, as should not be substantially repugnant to any or either of the said recommendations; and, in particular, that it should be competent to the said Commissioners to propose in any such scheme that all parishes, churches, or chapelries which are locally situate in any diocese, but subject to any peculiar jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese in which the same are locally situate, should be only subject to the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese within which such parishes, churches, or chapelries are locally situate:

And it is further enacted, that when any scheme,