

*To the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.*

We the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, appointed and incorporated by an Act of Parliament, passed in this present year of your Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for carrying into effect the reports of the Commissioners appointed to consider the state of the Established Church in England and Wales, with reference to ecclesiastical duties and revenues, so far as they relate to episcopal dioceses, revenues, and patronage," have, in pursuance thereof, prepared, and now humbly lay before your Majesty in Council, the following scheme respecting so much of the recommendations in the said Act contained, relating to the union of the sees of Gloucester and Bristol, as it appears to us may be forthwith carried into effect.

Whereas by a scheme, bearing even date herewith, we have recommended and proposed that the whole archdeaconry of Dorset, now forming part of the diocese of Bristol, the see whereof is now vacant, shall be forthwith separated from the said diocese, and annexed to the dioceses of Salisbury and Exeter respectively.

We now humbly recommend and propose, with the consent of the Right Reverend James Henry Bishop of Gloucester, in testimony whereof he hath signed and sealed this scheme, that the remaining part of the said diocese of Bristol shall be forthwith permanently annexed and united to the diocese of Gloucester, and that the same, when so united, shall for ever hereafter be and be called and known by the name of the Diocese of Gloucester and Bristol.

And we further recommend and propose, that the sees of Gloucester and Bristol shall be forthwith permanently united, and shall, when so united, be and be called and known by the name of the See of Gloucester and Bristol, and that the said James Henry now Bishop of Gloucester shall be the Bishop of the said see of Gloucester and Bristol, and shall become absolutely confirmed in the said bishopric, and, ipso facto, seized and possessed of all the property, revenues, advowsons, and patronage now belonging to the said see of Bristol, and of all the episcopal jurisdiction, power, and authority heretofore possessed and exercised by bishops of Bristol, excepting so far as relates to the said county and archdeaconry of Dorset, without any other act, deed, form, or proceeding whatsoever, other than such Order or Orders as it may please your Majesty in

Council to make and issue in pursuance of this scheme, and under the authority of the said Act.

And we further recommend and propose, that the said Bishop, and his successors bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, shall be one body corporate, by the name of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and that he and his successors shall and may by that name sue and be sued, and shall and may take and hold all lands, tithes, advowsons, tenements, and hereditaments now held by the said James Henry as Bishop of Gloucester, or so transferred as aforesaid, or which may be given or granted to him or them by your Majesty, your heirs and successors, or by any other person or persons whatsoever, and may give or grant the same, and make leases and enjoy and do all other rights and acts in respect of the same, in as full and perfect a manner as other bishops of England Wales, but no otherwise.

And we further recommend and propose, that the said James Henry, as Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and his successors bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, shall occupy the same seat in the cathedral church of Bristol, and shall possess and exercise the same authority and jurisdiction, ordinary and visitatorial, over the dean and chapter thereof, as has heretofore been possessed and exercised by bishops of Bristol.

And we further recommend and propose, that the said James Henry Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol shall be exempted and relieved from the payment of first fruits, and of all costs, charges, fees, and expences whatsoever in respect of his so becoming Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

And we further recommend and propose, that upon the first avoidance of the said see of Gloucester and Bristol, the warrant for the election of a person to be the bishop thereof shall issue to the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Bristol, and that upon all future avoidances of the said see, the warrant for the election of a bishop thereof shall issue alternately to the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Gloucester, and to the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Bristol.

And we further recommend and propose, that all such episcopal acts, gifts, grants, and leases performed and made by the said James Henry Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and by his successors bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, as may require