

AT the Court at *St. James's*, the 19th day
of July 1837,

PRESENT,

The **QUEEN's** Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, 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," reciting, amongst other things, that His said late Majesty was pleased, on the fourth day of February, and on the sixth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, to issue two 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 said late Majesty, bearing date respectively the seventeenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, 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 other things, 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 sees of Gloucester and

Bristol should be united, and that the diocese should consist of the present diocese of Gloucester, of the city and deanry of Bristol, of the deanries of Cricklade and Malmesbury, in the county of Wilts, and now in the diocese of Salisbury; and of the whole of the parish of Bedminster, now in the diocese of Bath and Wells; and 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, or the patronage of benefices with cure of souls, or the revenues belonging to any see, 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 next avoidance of the see, without the consent of such bishop:

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 shall be for that purpose nominated by His Majesty under his royal sign manuel (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, Knight, should, for the purposes of the said 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