

years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Acts relating to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England," after reciting that Her Majesty had issued a commission to certain persons therein named to inquire, amongst other things, whether any and what improvement could be made in the existing law and practice relating to the incomes of archbishops and bishops, so as to secure to them respectively fixed instead of fluctuating annual incomes, and that it was expedient that until the said Commissioners should have made their report and Parliament should have determined upon some permanent mode of effecting the object last aforesaid, temporary arrangements should be made for that purpose; it was enacted that, notwithstanding the provisions of the therein first-recited Act, and any Order or Orders of Her Majesty in Council founded thereon, relating to or providing for the payment to or by the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England of fixed annual sums, it should be lawful, by the authority and in the manner by and in which the arrangements for carrying into effect the recommendations in the said Act recited might then be made (that is to say, by a scheme of the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, confirmed and ratified by an Order of Her Majesty in Council), so to regulate from time to time the amounts, times, modes, and conditions of payments to be made to or by the said Commissioners, as the case might be, by or to any archbishop or bishop who should have succeeded to a see upon any avoidance thereof happening after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, or any other archbishop or bishop who might signify his willingness to accept such annual income as thereinafter mentioned in lieu of his present income, as to secure to every such archbishop or bishop the annual income named for the archbishop or bishop of his see, in the same or any other Act then in force, or in any Order of Her Majesty in Council duly made and published, and no more:

"And whereas by an Order of Her Majesty in Council, bearing date the twenty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, and duly published in the London Gazette, it was provided that, in order to leave to the Bishop of Peterborough for the time being the average annual income of four thousand five hundred pounds, there should be paid by the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, to the bishop succeeding to such see upon the then next avoidance thereof, and his successors, the fixed annual sum of one thousand one hundred and fifty pounds, by equal half-yearly payments in every year:

"And whereas the said George, Bishop of Peterborough, succeeded to the said see upon such next avoidance, which occurred before the said first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, and now is bishop thereof, and he hath signified his willingness, in accordance with the provisions of the said herein-recited Act, to accept, as of and from the first day of this instant month of July, the said annual income or yearly sum of four thousand five hundred pounds, and no more, in lieu of the present and future income arising from his said see, or receivable by him under the provisions of the said recited Order in Council, or of any other ecclesiastical profits or emoluments of any kind or description whatsoever received or enjoyed by him, and to enter into an agreement with the said Commissioners for regulating the income to be received by him as from the said first day of July, in manner hereinafter mentioned:

"Now it is hereby agreed by and between the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and the said George, Bishop of Peterborough, as follows; that is to say:

"1. That the said Bishop shall, on the twenty-fifth day of March and the twenty-ninth day of September, in the next and every succeeding year, deliver to the said Commissioners, in such form as they shall from time to time direct, a correct account in writing, certified under his hand, of all moneys actually received by him, whether consisting of arrears or otherwise accrued due since the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, in respect of the revenues of his see, or of such other ecclesiastical profits or emoluments as aforesaid, during the half-year ending on the thirty-first day of December, or the thirtieth day of June, as the case may be, then last past, and also of all moneys remaining unpaid in respect of the said see, or of any such other profits or emoluments as aforesaid on account of such arrears as aforesaid, or otherwise, at the date of such account; and in such account to be forthwith delivered, and in every such future half-yearly account, shall be included as money actually received by the said bishop, such a sum as shall from time to time be agreed upon between him and the said Commissioners, or, in case of their disagreement, then as shall be determined by two indifferent persons, one to be chosen by the bishop and the other by the said Commissioners, or, in case of the disagreement of such two persons, then by an umpire to be chosen by them, as a fair and reasonable occupation rent to be charged against the said bishop for such parts of the estates of the said see, other than and except the palace belonging to the said see at Peterborough, with the grounds and premises thereunto belonging, as shall have been in the possession or occupation of the said bishop, or of any person or persons under his authority or permission (other than and except under any lease or agreement for a lease to be granted or entered into after the execution of these presents, with the consent of the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as hereinafter mentioned,) during the preceding half-year, or any part thereof, and according to the term of his, her, or their having been in such possession or occupation; and if it shall appear by any such account that after allowing all such reasonable and customary payments, costs of agency, and deductions as shall be allowed by the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, or their surveyor or receiver, the net amount actually received has exceeded two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, being one-half of the said amount of the annual income so fixed for the said see as aforesaid, the surplus shall at the same time be paid by the said bishop; and he doth hereby agree to pay such surplus to the credit of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, at the Bank of England, and that upon the account so delivered being examined and approved by the treasurers of the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the time being, their receipt for the amount of such surplus shall be given to the said bishop; but if it shall appear, upon due investigation of any such account, that after allowing such payments and deductions as aforesaid, the net amount so received is less than one-half of the said annual income so fixed as aforesaid for the said see, there shall be paid by the said Commissioners, and they do hereby agree to pay to the said bishop, on the first day of May or the first day of November, as the case may be, then next following, such a sum of money as shall make up the deficiency;