

AT the Court at *Windsor*, the 5th day of *May*, 1873.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the first session of the Parliament holden in the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to abridge the holding of benefices in plurality, and to make better provision for the residence of the clergy," after reciting that, "Whereas from the increase of population, or from other circumstances, it may be expedient that two or more benefices which have been heretofore united or which may be hereafter united under the provisions of this Act should be disunited," it is amongst other things, enacted, "That when two or more benefices shall have been united, or may be hereafter united into one benefice, and with respect to his own diocese it shall appear to the Archbishop of the Province, or the bishop of any diocese shall represent to the said Archbishop of the Province, that one or more of the benefices within his diocese, of which such united benefice shall consist, may be separated therefrom with advantage to the interests of religion, the said Archbishop shall enquire into the circumstances of the case; and if on such enquiry it shall appear to him that such union may be usefully dissolved, so far as respects such benefice or benefices, he shall six weeks at least before certifying such inquiry to Her Majesty as hereinafter directed, cause, with respect to his own diocese, a statement, in writing, of the facts, and in all other cases a copy, in writing, of the aforesaid representation to be affixed on or near the principal outer door of the church or in some public and conspicuous place in each of the benefices forming part of the united benefice, with notice to any person or persons interested that he, she, or they may within such six weeks show cause, in writing, under his, her, or their hands to the said Archbishop against any such disunion; and if no sufficient cause be shown within such time, the Archbishop shall certify the inquiry and consent, when the patron's consent is necessary, to Her Majesty in Council, and thereupon it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to issue an Order for separating such last-mentioned benefice or benefices from such united benefice, and for declaring the rights of patronage of the several patrons, if there be more than one patron, and such Order shall be registered in the registry of the diocese to which such united benefice shall belong, which Order the Registrar of such diocese, immediately, on the receipt thereof, is hereby required to register accordingly, and thereupon immediately if such united benefice shall be then vacant, otherwise on the first avoidance thereof, such union shall be ipso facto dissolved, so far only as regards such benefice or benefices so proposed to be separated from such united benefice, but in all other respects shall remain in full force and effect, and thenceforward such last-mentioned benefice or benefices shall be and be deemed and taken to be a separate and distinct benefice or benefices to all intents and purposes whatever as if no such union had taken place, and the patron or patrons thereof shall and may according to the term of such Order present or nominate thereto respectively, and so from time to time upon each and every avoidance of the same: Provided always, that no benefices which have been united for more than sixty years before the passing of this Act shall be disunited without

"the consent, in writing, of the patron or patrons thereof."

And whereas the Right Reverend Christopher, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, hath represented to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, by a representation, in writing, bearing date the twenty-third day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, in the words following:—

"To the Most Reverend Archibald Campbell, Lord Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury.

"I, Christopher, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, do hereby represent to your Grace, that it appears to me that the disunion of the united parishes of Messingham with Bottesford, in the county and diocese of Lincoln, by the separation of the vicarage of Bottesford from the vicarage of Messingham, may be made with advantage to the interests of religion.

"Witness my hand, the twenty-third day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.

"C. Lincoln."

And whereas his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, hath, pursuant to the provisions of the said Act, by a certificate, in writing, bearing date the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, certified to Her Majesty such enquiry as aforesaid, which certificate is in the words following:—

"To the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

"We, the undersigned, Archibald Campbell, Lord Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury, do hereby certify to your Majesty in Council:

"That the Right Reverend Christopher, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, as Bishop of the diocese within which is situate the united benefice, consisting of the vicarage of Messingham with the vicarage of Bottesford, in the county of Lincoln, having represented to us that the disunion of the said united benefice by the separation of the said vicarage of Bottesford from the said vicarage of Messingham, might be made with advantage to the interests of religion, we enquired into the circumstances of the case, and upon such enquiry it appeared to us that such disunion might be usefully made; that the said Lord Bishop and the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, as the alternate patrons of the said united benefice, which is now vacant, consent to the disunion thereof, and that after such disunion the patronage of the said vicarage of Messingham shall belong to the said Christopher, Bishop of Lincoln, and his successors, and that the patronage of the said vicarage of Bottesford shall belong to the said Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, and their successors; that the said united benefice being charged with a certain mortgage debt to the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne, it is proposed, and we recommend, with the consents of the said Governors and of the patrons of the said united benefice (which consents have been duly signified in writing, under the common seal of the said Governors and of the Dean and Chapter, and under the hand of the said Lord Bishop), that when the two benefices now forming the said united benefice shall be disunited and shall become separate benefices, the aforesaid mortgage debt shall be divided and apportioned between such two benefices in the manner following, that is to say: that the said vicarage of Messingham shall be subject to the whole of the said mortgage debt now outstanding, except the sum of one shil-