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**A**T the Court at *Windsor*, the 28th day of *November*, 1874.

PRESENT.

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

**W**HEREAS by an Act passed in the first session of 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," it is, amongst other things, enacted, "That whenever it shall appear to the Archbishop of the Province, with respect to his own diocese, and whenever it shall be represented to him by the bishop of any diocese, or by the bishops of any two dioceses, that two or more benefices, or that one or more benefice or benefices, and one or more spiritual sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages, in his or their diocese or dioceses, being either in the same parish or contiguous to each other, and of which the aggregate population shall not exceed one thousand five hundred persons, and the aggregate yearly value shall not exceed five hundred pounds, may, with advantage to the interests of religion, be united into one benefice, the said Archbishop of the Province shall inquire into the circumstances of the case; and if on such enquiry it shall appear to him that such union may be usefully made, and will not be of inconvenient extent, and that the patron or patrons of the said benefices, sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages respectively, is or are consenting thereto, such consent being signified in writing under the hands of such patron or patrons, the said Archbishop shall, six weeks before certifying such inquiry and consent to Her Majesty, as herein-after directed, cause, with respect to his own diocese, a statement in writing of the facts, and in 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 such benefices, sinecure rectories or vicarages, 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 hand or hands, to the said Archbishop, against such union; and if no sufficient cause be shown within such time, the said Archbishop shall certify the inquiry and consent aforesaid to Her Majesty in Council, and thereupon it

"shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council to make and issue an Order or Orders for uniting such benefices, sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages, into one benefice, with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only; and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council to give directions for regulating the course and succession in which the patrons, if there be more than one patron, shall present or nominate to such united benefice, from time to time, as the same shall become vacant."

And whereas the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, pursuant to the provisions of the said Act, hath duly prepared and laid before Her Majesty in Council a certificate, in writing, bearing date the twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, in the words following; that is to say:—

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

"We, the undersigned, Archibald Campbell, Lord Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan, do hereby certify to your Majesty in Council, that the Right Reverend Charles John, Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol (as Bishop of the diocese within which are situate the perpetual curacy or vicarage of Ampney Saint Peter, in the county of Gloucester, and the perpetual curacy or vicarage of Ampney Saint Mary, in the same county), having represented unto us that the said benefices, being contiguous to each other, and of which the aggregate population does not exceed two hundred and eighty-four persons, and the aggregate yearly value of which does not exceed one hundred and forty pounds, might with advantage to the interests of religion be united into one benefice, we inquired into the circumstances of the case; that on such inquiry it appeared to us that such union might be usefully made, and would not be of inconvenient extent, and that the said Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, being the patron or person entitled in right of his see to nominate or present to the said perpetual curacy or vicarage of Ampney Saint Peter (if the same were now vacant), and Sir Michael Edward Hicks Beach, Baronet, being the patron or person entitled to present to the said perpetual curacy or vicarage of Ampney Saint Mary (if the same were now vacant), have signified their consent, in writing, to the union of the