

"in some instances with advantage be annexed to parishes or districts to which they are contiguous, or be constituted separate parishes for ecclesiastical purposes," it is, amongst other things, enacted "That when, with respect to his own diocese, it shall appear to the Archbishop of the Province, or when the Bishop of any diocese shall represent to the said Archbishop that any such tithing, hamlet, chapelry, place or district within the diocese of such Archbishop, or the diocese of such Bishop, as the case may be, may be advantageously separated from any parish or mother church, and either be constituted a separate benefice by itself or be united to any other parish to which it may be more conveniently annexed, or to any other adjoining tithing, hamlet, chapelry, place, or district, parochial or extra-parochial, so as to form a separate parish or benefice, or that any extra-parochial place may with advantage be annexed to any parish to which it is contiguous, or be constituted a separate parish for ecclesiastical purposes; and the said Archbishop or Bishop shall draw up a scheme in writing (the scheme of such Bishop to be transmitted to the said Archbishop for his consideration), describing the mode in which it appears to him that the alteration may best be effected, and how the changes consequent on such alteration in respect to ecclesiastical jurisdiction, glebe lands, tithes, rent-charges, and other ecclesiastical dues, rates, and payments, and in respect to patronage and rights to pews, may be made with justice to all parties interested; and if the patron or patrons of the benefice or benefices to be affected by such alteration shall consent in writing under his or their hands to such scheme, or to such modification thereof as the said Archbishop may approve, and the said Archbishop shall, on full consideration and inquiry, be satisfied with any such scheme, or modification thereof, and shall certify the same and such consent as aforesaid, by his report to Her Majesty in Council, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council to make an Order for carrying such scheme, or modification thereof, as the case may be, into effect."

And whereas by another Act of Parliament, passed in the second and third years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to make better provision for the assignment of ecclesiastical districts to churches or chapels augmented by the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne, and for other purposes," it is, amongst other things, further enacted "That when, by any Order of Her Majesty in Council as aforesaid, a separate parish for ecclesiastical purposes is constituted, the same shall, on registration thereof, and with the consent in writing of the incumbent or incumbents of the benefice or benefices to be thereby affected, become a perpetual curacy and benefice, and the minister thereof, duly nominated and licensed thereto, and his successors, shall be a body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession, and may receive and take to himself and his successors all such lands, tenements, tithes, rent-charges, and hereditaments as shall be granted unto him or them, and such perpetual curate shall thenceforth have, within the limits of the district parish formed under the Church Building Acts, for the church of such perpetual curacy, sole and exclusive cure of souls, and shall not in anywise be subject to the control or interference of the incumbent or incumbents of the benefice or benefices to be affected by such Order, if he or they shall have consented to such Order as

"aforesaid; but if such incumbent or incumbents shall not have so consented thereto, this last-mentioned provision shall not come into operation until the next avoidance of the benefice by the incumbent objecting thereto, or by the surviving incumbent objecting, if more than one shall object thereto, and in such case the last-mentioned provision shall forthwith after such avoidance come into operation, and shall be binding on all persons whatsoever."

And whereas the Lord Bishop of Sarum hath made a representation in writing to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

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

"We the Right Reverend George Lord Bishop of Sarum do hereby represent to your Grace that to the vicarage and parish church of Melksham in the county of Wilts and our diocese of Sarum belongs the ancient parochial chapelry of Erlestoke, the limits and boundaries whereof are well known and defined.

"That according to the last census the population of the said parish of Melksham is three thousand six hundred and eighty-three and of the chapelry of Erlestoke three hundred and forty-three.

"That there is situated in the said chapelry of Erlestoke, at a distance of ten miles or thereabouts from the parish church of Melksham aforesaid a chapel which affords accommodation for about one hundred and eighty persons, in which Divine service has hitherto been performed by the incumbent of the said vicarage or his stipendiary curate; but the said building is in a ruinous and unsafe condition and requires to be taken down and rebuilt.

"That the said parochial chapelry of Erlestoke is treated as a distinct parish for all civil purposes; and baptisms, marriages, churchings and burials have heretofore been and now are solemnized and performed in the said chapel and in the burial-ground thereto belonging.

"That the charges and expenses of repairing and maintaining the church of Melksham aforesaid are defrayed by the inhabitants of that parish exclusively; and that the parishioners or inhabitants of the said chapelry of Erlestoke have from time immemorial resorted to their chapel aforesaid and repaired and maintained the same exclusively, and have elected from amongst themselves chapel-wardens as if the chapelry was a distinct and separate parish.

"That it does not appear that any of the inhabitants or landowners of the said chapelry of Erlestoke possess any legal right by faculty or otherwise to the exclusive use of any pews or sittings in the said church of Melksham; or that any of the inhabitants or landowners of the said parish of Melksham possess any such legal right by faculty or otherwise to the exclusive use of any pews or sittings in the said chapel of Erlestoke.

"That the gross annual value of the said vicarage of Melksham with Erlestoke (exclusive of the annual value of the vicarage-house and appurtenances) amounts to the sum of nine hundred and eighty-four pounds or thereabouts arising from nine hundred and ten pounds rent-charges in lieu or commutation of vicarial tithes and from forty acres (or thereabouts) of glebe land, and surplice fees.

"That if the said chapelry of Erlestoke is separated from the mother church of Melksham aforesaid and constituted a separate benefice and