

AT the Court at *Windsor*, the 2nd day of *May*, 1881.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS 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 hereinafter 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 March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one in the words and figures 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 having represented unto us that the rectory of Somerford Keynes and the rectory of Sharncoote both in the county of Wilts and diocese of Gloucester and Bristol being contiguous to each other and of which the aggregate population does not exceed one thousand five hundred persons 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 Right Honourable Roundell Baron Selborne Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain the patron or person entitled on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen to present to the said rectory of Sharncoote the same being now vacant and Christopher John Foyle Fawcett of 8 King's Bench-walk, Temple, in the county of Middlesex Esquire the patron or the person entitled to present to the said rectory of Somerford Keynes if the same were now vacant have signified their consent in writing to the union of the said benefices into one benefice with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes.

"That six weeks and upwards before certifying such inquiry and consent to your Majesty in Council we caused a copy in writing of the aforesaid representation of the said Lord Bishop to be affixed on the principal outer door of the parish church of each of the said benefices with notice to any person or persons interested that he she or they might within such six weeks show cause in writing under his her or their hand or hands to us the said Archbishop against such union and no such cause has been shown.

"The representation of the said Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol our inquiry into the circumstances of the case the statement of circumstances in reply thereto the consents in writing of the several patrons and the copies of the representation and notice before-mentioned are hereunto annexed.

"And we do hereby certify the inquiry and consent aforesaid to your Majesty in Council to the intent that your Majesty in Council may in case your Majesty in Council shall think fit so to do make and issue an Order for uniting the said benefices into one benefice with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only. And for declaring that the right to present to such united benefice from time to time as the same shall become vacant shall belong to the Lord High Chancellor for the time being and the said Christopher John Foyle Fawcett his heirs and assigns alternately the Lord High Chancellor being entitled to the first turn or right of presentation.

"As witness our hand this twenty-eighth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

"A. C. Cantuar."

Now therefore Her Majesty in Council by and with the advice of Her said Council is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that the rectory of Somerford Keynes situate in the county of Wilts and diocese of Gloucester and the rectory of Sharncoote situate in the same county and diocese shall be united into one benefice with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only.

And Her Majesty in Council by and with the advice of Her said Council is pleased to direct that the right to present to such united benefice from time to time as the same shall become vacant