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TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1899.

AT the Court at Windsor, the 7th day of March, 1899.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by section sixteen of "The Pluralities Act 1838" 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, 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 inquiry 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 twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, in the words following, that is to say:—

"We the undersigned Frederick, Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan do hereby certify to Your Majesty in Council:

"That the Right Reverend Edward Lord Bishop of Lincoln as Bishop of the diocese within which are situate the rectory of Creeton and the vicarage of Swinsted otherwise Swinstead both in the county of Lincoln having represented unto us that the said benefices being contiguous to each other and of which the aggregate population does not exceed one thousand five hundred persons and the aggregate yearly value does not exceed five hundred pounds might with advantage to the interests of religion be united into one benefice, we enquired into the circumstances of the case.

"That on such enquiry it appeared to us that such union might be usefully made and would not be of inconvenient extent and that the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain for and on behalf of Your Most Gracious Majesty (being the patron or person entitled to present to the said benefice of Creeton if the same were now vacant and the Right Reverend Gilbert Henry Heathcote Drummond Willoughby Earl of Ancaster being the patron or person entitled to present to the said benefice of Swinsted otherwise Swinstead if the same were now vacant) consent to the proposed union.

"That six weeks and upwards before certifying such enquiry 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 cause has been shown.