

said Acts; and His Majesty, by and with the like advice, is pleased hereby to direct that this Order be forthwith registered by the Registrar of the said diocese of Manchester.

*Almeric FitzRoy.*

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 10th day of *January*, 1910.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by section sixteen of the Pluralities Act, 1838, as amended by the Pluralities Act, 1850, 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 His 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 His Majesty in Council, and thereupon it shall be lawful for His 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 His 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 for determining, if such united benefice shall be in two dioceses, to which of such dioceses such benefice shall belong."

And whereas the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, pursuant to the provisions of the said Act, hath duly prepared and laid before His Majesty in Council a certificate in writing, bearing date the fourth day of December, one thousand nine

hundred and nine, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

"We the undersigned Randall Thomas, Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan, do hereby certify to Your Majesty in Council:—

"That the Right Reverend Edgar Charles Sumner, Lord Bishop of Gloucester, as Bishop of the diocese within which is situate the benefice of Didmarton with Oldbury-on-the-Hill, in the county of Gloucester, and the Right Reverend George Forrest, Lord Bishop of Bristol, as Bishop of the diocese within which is situate the benefice of Sopworth, in the county of Wilts, having jointly represented unto us that the said benefices being contiguous to each other and of which the aggregate population does not exceed 1,500 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 Most Noble Henry Adelbert Wellington Fitzroy, ninth Duke of Beaufort, being the Patron or person entitled to collate, present, or nominate to the rectory of Didmarton with Oldbury-on-the-Hill (in case the same were now vacant), and also to the rectory of Sopworth (the same being now vacant), has consented to the proposed union.

"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 to 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 but no sufficient cause has been shown.

"The joint representation of the said Lord Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, our inquiry into the circumstances of the case, the statement of circumstances in reply thereto, the consent in writing of the said Most Noble Henry Adelbert Wellington Fitzroy, ninth Duke of Beaufort, as Patron of both the said benefices and the copies of the joint representation and notices 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, and we further hereby declare that the said benefices when they shall be united into one benefice shall be included in and belong to the diocese of Gloucester and be under the full authority and jurisdiction of the Bishop of such diocese of Gloucester.

*"Randall Cantuar."*

Now, therefore, His Majesty in Council, by and with the advice of His said Council, is pleased to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the rectory of Didmarton with Oldbury-on-the-Hill, situate in the county and diocese of Gloucester, and the rectory of Sopworth, situate in the county of Wilts and diocese of Bristol, shall be united into one benefice with cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only.

And His Majesty in Council, by and with the advice aforesaid, is further pleased to order and determine that such united benefice shall belong to the diocese of Gloucester.

*Almeric FitzRoy.*