

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 17th day of *September*, 1914.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by Section 21 of the Pluralities Act, 1838, after reciting that "Whereas from the increase of population, or from other circumstances, it may be expedient that two or more Benefices which have been heretofore united, or which may be hereafter united, under the provisions of this Act, should be disunited," it is, amongst other things, enacted "That when two or more Benefices shall have been united, or may be hereafter united into one Benefice, and, with respect to his own Diocese, it shall appear to the Archbishop of the Province, or the Bishop of any Diocese shall represent to the said Archbishop of the Province, that one or more of the Benefices within his Diocese, of which such United Benefice shall consist, may be separated therefrom with advantage to the interests of religion, the said Archbishop shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and, if on such Inquiry, it shall appear to him that such union may be usefully dissolved, so far as respects such Benefice or Benefices, he shall, six weeks at least before certifying such Inquiry to His Majesty as hereinafter directed, cause, with respect to his own Diocese, a Statement in writing of the facts, and in all 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 the Benefices forming part of the United Benefice, 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 hands to the said Archbishop against any such disunion, and, if no sufficient cause be shown within such time, the Archbishop shall certify the Inquiry and Consent, when the Patron's Consent is necessary, to His Majesty in Council, and thereupon it shall be lawful for His Majesty to issue an Order for separating such last-mentioned Benefice or Benefices from such United Benefice, and for declaring the rights of patronage of the several Patrons, if there be more than one Patron, and such Order shall be registered in the Registry of the Diocese to which such United Benefice shall belong, which Order the Registrar of such Diocese, immediately on the receipt thereof, is hereby required to register accordingly, and thereupon immediately, if such United Benefice shall be then vacant, otherwise on the first avoidance thereof, such Union shall be, *ipso facto*, dissolved, so far only as regards such Benefice or Benefices so proposed to be separated from such United Benefice, but in all other respects shall remain in full force and effect, and thenceforward such last-mentioned Benefice or Benefices shall be, and be deemed and taken to be, a separate and distinct Benefice or Benefices to all intents and purposes whatever as if no such Union had taken place, and the Patron or Patrons thereof shall and may according to the terms of such Order present or nominate thereto respectively, and so, from time to time, upon each and every avoidance of the same: Provided always, that no Benefices which have been united for more than sixty years before the passing of this Act shall be disunited without the Consent in writing of the Patron or Patrons thereof."

And whereas by Section 23 of the said Act it is further enacted that "Whenever two or more Benefices which have at any time been united into one Benefice shall be disunited and become separate Benefices under the provisions of this Act, whether the Order for disunion shall extend to the whole number of Benefices of which such United Benefice consisted, or to one or more of such Benefices only, it shall be lawful for His Majesty in Council, on the recommendation of the Archbishop of the Province, with the consent of the Patron or Patrons of such Benefices respectively (such Consent to be signified in writing under the hands of such Patron or Patrons) to assign and attach such portion of the glebe lands, tithes, moduses, rent-charges or other endowments or emoluments belonging to or arising or accruing within the limits of such United Benefice to each of such Benefices respectively as to His Majesty in Council shall seem fit notwithstanding such proportion of glebe lands, tithes, rent-charges, moduses, or other endowments or emoluments, or any part thereof, may not arise or accrue within the limits of the Benefice to which the same shall be so assigned and attached as aforesaid, or may not have belonged thereto, and also to divide and apportion between such Benefices all such charges and outgoings as before the disunion thereof were imposed upon the whole United Benefice."

And whereas the Right Reverend Bertram, Lord Bishop of Norwich, hath made a Representation in writing, dated the 29th day of September, 1913, to the Right Honourable and Most Reverend Randall Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, as follows:—

"I, Bertram, Lord Bishop of Norwich, do hereby represent to Your Grace that it appears to me that the Disunion of the United Rectories of Litcham with East Lexham, in the County of Norfolk, and my Diocese of Norwich, by the separation of the said Rectory of Litcham from the said Rectory of East Lexham, may be made with advantage to the interests of religion, with a view to two more desirable unions.

"B. NORWIC."

And whereas, on the 7th day of October, 1913, the said Archbishop inquired into the circumstances of the case.

And whereas the said Bishop did, by a further Representation in writing, dated the 19th day of December, 1913, furnish to the said Archbishop a Statement of Circumstances as follows:—

"Whereas Your Grace, having inquired of me, Bertram, Lord Bishop of Norwich, what are the circumstances of the case on which I found my opinion that the disunion of the United Benefice consisting of the Rectory of Litcham and the Rectory of East Lexham, in the County of Norfolk, and my Diocese of Norwich, by the separation of the Rectory of Litcham from the Rectory of East Lexham, may be made with advantage to the interests of religion, I do hereby represent to Your Grace that the circumstances of the case are as follows, that is to say:—

"That the said Rectory of Litcham and the said Rectory of East Lexham were united in the year 1780, and still continue to be one Benefice.

"That the population according to the last census of Litcham with East Lexham is 852.

"That the endowment of the Rectory of Litcham consists of an apportioned Tithes Rent