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FRIDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1917.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 16th day of November, 1917.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by Section 16 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 1,500 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, 6 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 6 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,