

Council, a Scheme, bearing date the 25th day of January, 1923, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

“ We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Act, 1919, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for effecting the union of two neighbouring Benefices, that is to say, the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Offwell and the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Widworthy both of which Benefices are situate in the County of Devon and in the Diocese of Exeter:

“ Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend William, Bishop of Exeter, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Act, 1919, to inquire into and report upon the union of the said two Benefices of Offwell and Widworthy duly made their Report to the said Bishop of Exeter and therein recommended the union of the said two Benefices and the terms for effecting the union, and the said Bishop of Exeter signified in writing his approval of the said Report:

“ And whereas we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, have prepared this Scheme for the union of the said two Benefices based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

“ And whereas both of the said Benefices of Offwell and Widworthy are now full, the Reverend John Henry Herbert Copleston being the present Incumbent thereof:

“ And whereas the said John Henry Herbert Copleston has consented to become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice, if and when the union which is hereinafter recommended and proposed shall take effect:

“ Now, therefore, we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with the consent of the said William, Bishop of Exeter (in testimony whereof he has hereunto set his hand), do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

“ 1. That the said Benefice of Offwell and the said Benefice of Widworthy shall be permanently united together and form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of ‘ The United Benefice of Offwell with Widworthy,’ but the Parishes of the said Benefices shall continue distinct in all respects.

“ 2. That upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme shall be published in the London Gazette the union shall forthwith take effect, and the said John Henry Herbert Copleston if he is then Incumbent of the said Benefices of Offwell and Widworthy shall be the first Incumbent of the United Benefice.

“ 3. That upon the said union taking effect the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Widworthy shall become and be the house of residence for the Incumbent of the United Benefice and so soon as conveniently may be the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Offwell and the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds heretofore usually occupied and enjoyed therewith shall be sold and disposed of by us the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners at such time or times and in such manner in all respects as to us shall seem expedient and that the net proceeds of such sale shall constitute and form part of the fund created by the 13th Section of the said Union of Benefices Act, 1919.

“ 4. That after the said union has taken effect the course and succession in which the respective Patrons shall present or nominate to the United Benefice from time to time as the same shall become vacant shall be as follows, that is to say, the right of presentation shall be exercised by the Patrons of the said two Benefices alternately, the Patrons of the said Benefice of Offwell having the right upon the first presentation to the United Benefice to be made after the union and every alternate right of presentation and the Patron of the said Benefice of Widworthy having the right of presentation upon the second presentation to the United Benefice to be made after the union and every alternate turn thereafter.

“ Provided always that nothing herein contained shall prevent us from recommending and proposing any other measures relating to the matters aforesaid, or any of them, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, or of any other Act of Parliament.”

And whereas drafts of the said Scheme have been published locally in the manner prescribed in the Statutory Rules made under the said Act and also transmitted in the manner so prescribed to the Patrons affected, together with a Notice in each case requiring any objections to such draft Scheme to be stated or transmitted in writing to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the same Rules:

And whereas certain objections have been so stated or transmitted to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the same Rules:

And whereas the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners after giving full consideration to such objections have deemed right to make no alterations in such draft Scheme:

And whereas public notice of the certification to His Majesty in Council of the said Scheme and the consent thereto in writing of the Bishop of Exeter has been duly given in the manner and within the time prescribed in the Statutory Rules aforesaid:

And whereas no appeal has been made to His Majesty in Council within the period of one month after the date of the said public notice in accordance with the provisions of the said Act against the said Scheme or any part thereof by any person who has made objection as aforesaid to the said draft Scheme:

And whereas neither of the two Benefices affected by the said Scheme is situate in a City or Municipal Borough:

And whereas the said Scheme has been approved by His Majesty in Council:

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His said Council, is pleased hereby to affirm the said Scheme and to order that the two Benefices therein recommended to be united shall be united to the extent and for the purposes recommended in the said Scheme, and further to order and direct that the said Scheme and every part thereof shall be effectual in law immediately from and after the time when this Order shall have been duly published in the London Gazette pursuant to the said Act.

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 Exeter.

*Almeric FitzRoy.*