

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 27th day of *March*, 1923.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Act, 1919, of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1921, and of the Act of the 37th and 38th years of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, Chapter 63, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in Council, a Scheme, bearing date the 8th day of February, 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, of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1921, and of the Act of the 37th and 38th years of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, Chapter 63, 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 Vicarage) of Paston and the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Knapton, both of which Benefices are situate in the County of Norfolk and in the Diocese of Norwich:

"Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend Bertram, Bishop of Norwich, 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 Paston and Knapton duly made their Report to the said Bishop of Norwich and therein recommended the union of the said two Benefices and the terms for effecting the union, and the said Bishop of Norwich 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 Paston and Knapton are now full, the Reverend Edward Guy Betton Bright-Betton being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Paston, and the Reverend Richard Edgar Vipian Prichard being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Knapton:

"And whereas only one Parsonage House will be left standing or remaining within or belonging to the United Benefice when the union which is hereinafter recommended and proposed shall take effect, namely the Parsonage House belonging to the said Benefice of Paston, and such house will accordingly become the Parsonage House of the United Benefice:

"Now, therefore, we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with the consent of the said Bertram, Bishop of Norwich (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme and sealed the same with his Episcopal Seal), do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

"1. That the said Benefice of Paston and the said Benefice of Knapton shall be permanently united together and form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of 'The United Benefice of Paston with Knapton' and that such United Benefice shall be included in and form part of the Rural Deanery of Tunstead, but that the Parishes of the said

Benefices shall continue distinct in all respects.

"2. That if upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme shall be published in the London Gazette both of the said two Benefices shall be vacant, the union of the same two Benefices shall take effect forthwith, and if one only of the said two Benefices shall be then vacant the said union shall also take effect forthwith if the Incumbent of the other of the said two Benefices shall consent to become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice, but, if he shall not so consent then the said union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of his Benefice and the then Incumbent (if any) of the other of the said two Benefices shall be the first Incumbent of the United Benefice; and if neither of the said two Benefices be then vacant then the said union shall take effect on the next avoidance of either of the said two Benefices if the Incumbent at that time of the other of the said two Benefices shall consent to become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice, but if he shall not so consent then the said union shall take effect immediately upon the next vacancy of his Benefice and the then Incumbent (if any) of the other of the said two Benefices shall become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice.

"3. 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, that in every series of three successive turns of presentation or nomination to the United Benefice after the union the Patrons of the said Benefice of Knapton shall have two turns and the Patron of the said Benefice of Paston shall have one turn and the Patrons of the said Benefice of Knapton shall have the right of presentation in the order of turns in which they are now respectively entitled to exercise the right of presentation to the said Benefice of Knapton, and if both of the said two Benefices are vacant at the date when the union takes effect or if under any of the provisions of Clause 2 of this Scheme an Incumbent of the said Benefice of Paston becomes the first Incumbent of the United Benefice then the Patrons of the said Benefice of Knapton shall have the first and second turns and the Patron of the said Benefice of Paston the third turn but otherwise the Patron of the said Benefice of Paston shall have the first turn and the Patrons of the said Benefice of Knapton shall have the second and third turns.

"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 Acts, 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 Union of Benefices 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 Eccle-