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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1885.

AT the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*,
the 12th day of *August*, 1885.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the first session of Parliament holden in the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to abridge the holding of benefices in plurality, and to make better provision for the residence of the clergy," 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, and the aggregate yearly value shall not exceed five hundred pounds 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 Her 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 Her Majesty in Council, and thereupon it shall be lawful for Her 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 whereas by an Act passed in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the law relating to the holding of benefices in plurality," it is, amongst other things, enacted that the aforesaid Act should extend and be applicable to the union of two or more benefices, notwithstanding the aggregate yearly value shall exceed five hundred pounds.

And whereas the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury pursuant to the provisions of the said Act, hath duly prepared and laid before Her Majesty in Council a certificate in writing, bearing date the twenty-fourth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, in the words following, that is to say:—

"To the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

"We the undersigned Edward White Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury Primate of all England and Metropolitan do hereby certify to Your Majesty in Council.

"That the Right Reverend George, late Lord Bishop of Salisbury, as Bishop of the diocese within which are situate the benefice (being a rectory) of Stockwood in the county of Dorset and diocese of Salisbury and the benefice consisting of the rectory of Melbury Osmond with Melbury Sampford (except a portion of the parish of Melbury Sampford, which for ecclesiastical purposes has been annexed to the parish or chapelry of Evershot) in the same county and diocese having represented unto us that the said benefices being contiguous to each other and of which the aggregate population does not exceed five hundred and twenty-nine persons might with advantage to the interests of religion be united into one benefice we enquired into the circumstances of the case.

"That on such enquiry it appeared to us that such union might be usefully made and would not be of inconvenient extent and that the Right Honourable Henry Edward Earl of Ilchester is the patron or person entitled to present to each of the said benefices the same respectively being now vacant and that he consents to the proposed union.

"That six weeks and upwards before certifying such enquiry and consent to Your Majesty in