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FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 1917.

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

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.