

AT the Court at *St. James's*, the 19th day of *April* 1837.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the last session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for carrying into effect the reports of the Commissioners appointed to consider the state of the Established Church in England and Wales, with reference to ecclesiastical duties and revenues, so far as they relate to episcopal dioceses, revenues, and patronage," reciting, amongst other things, that His Majesty was pleased, on the fourth day of February, and on the sixth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, to issue two several commissions to certain persons therein respectively named, directing them to consider the state of the several dioceses in England and Wales, with reference to the amount of their revenues, and the more equal distribution of episcopal duties, and the prevention of the necessity of attaching, by commendau, to bishoprics, benefices with cure of souls; and to consider also the state of the several cathedral and collegiate churches in England and Wales, with a view to the suggestion of such measures as might render them conducive to the efficiency of the Established Church, and to devise the best mode of providing for the cure of souls, with special reference to the residence of the clergy on their respective benefices; and reciting, that the said Commissioners had, in pursuance of such directions, made four several reports to His Majesty, bearing date respectively the seventeenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and the fourth day of March, the twentieth day of May, and the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six; and reciting, that the said Commissioners had in their said reports, amongst other things, recommended that commissioners should be appointed by Parliament for the purpose of preparing and laying before His Majesty in Council such schemes as should appear to them to be best adapted for carrying into effect, amongst other things, the following recommendations; and that His Majesty in Council should be empowered to make Orders ratifying such schemes, and having the full force of law; and that the diocese of Ely should be increased by the counties of Huntingdon and Bedford, then in the diocese of Lincoln, by the deaneries of Lynn and Fincham, in the county of Norfolk and diocese of Norwich, and by the archdeaconry of Sudbury, in the county of Suffolk and diocese of Norwich, with the exception of the deaneries of Sudbury, Stow, and Hartismere, and by that part of the county of Cambridge which was then in the diocese of Norwich; and that the diocese of Norwich should consist of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, except those parts which it was proposed to transfer to the diocese of Ely; and that all parishes which are locally situate in one diocese, but under the jurisdiction of the bishop of another diocese, should be made subject to the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese within which they are locally situate; and that such

variations should be made in the proposed boundaries of the different dioceses as might appear advisable, after more precise information respecting the circumstances of particular parishes or districts; and that in order to provide for the augmentation of the incomes of the smaller bishopricks, such fixed annual sums be paid to the Commissioners out of the revenues of the larger sees respectively as should, upon due inquiry and consideration, be determined on, so as to leave, as an average annual income, to the Archbishop of Canterbury fifteen thousand pounds, to the Archbishop of York ten thousand pounds, to the Bishop of London ten thousand pounds, to the Bishop of Durham eight thousand pounds, to the Bishop of Winchester seven thousand pounds, to the Bishop of Ely five thousand five hundred pounds, to the Bishop of Saint Asaph and Bangor five thousand two hundred pounds, and to the Bishops of Worcester, and Bath and Wells respectively five thousand pounds; and that the bishops who should, on the then existing vacancies, succeed to the sees of Durham and Ely, should be relieved from the excess beyond their due proportion payable for first fruits, and that the residue of the sums due should be paid by the Commissioners out of the surplus funds arising from those sees; and that none of the proposed alterations affecting the boundaries or jurisdiction of any diocese, or the patronage of benefices with cure of souls, or the revenues belonging to any see, the bishop of which was in possession on the fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, should take effect until the next avoidance of the see, without the consent of such bishop; and that the limits of the other existing deaneries and archdeaconries should be newly arranged, so that every parish and extra parochial place be within a rural deanry, and every deanry within an archdeaconry, and that no archdeaconry extend beyond the limits of one diocese; and that all the archdeaconries of England and Wales should be in the gift of the bishops of the respective dioceses in which they are situate:

It is enacted, amongst other things that the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being, the Lord Archbishop of York, and the Lord Bishop of London for the time being, John Lord Bishop of Lincoln, James Henry Lord Bishop of Gloucester, the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord High Treasurer or the First Lord of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being, respectively, and such one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State as shall be for that purpose nominated by His Majesty, under His royal sign manual (such Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord High Treasurer or First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State being respectively members of the United Church of Great Britain and Ireland), the Right Honourable Dudley Earl of Harrowby, the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse, and the Right Honourable Sir Herbert Jenner, Knt. should, for the purposes of the said Act, be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, and by that name should have perpetual succession and a common seal:

And it is further enacted, that the said Commis-