

the more equal distribution of episcopal duties, and the prevention of the necessity of attaching, by commendam, 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 especial 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 said late 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, the following, amongst other 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 Oxford should be increased by the county of Buckingham, now in the diocese of Lincoln, and by the county of Berks, now in the diocese of Salisbury; 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 bishoprics, such fixed annual sums should 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, out of the fund thus accruing, fixed annual payments be made by the Commissioners, in such instances and such amounts as should be in like manner determined on, so that the average annual incomes of the other bishops respectively be not less than four thousand pounds, nor more than five thousand pounds; 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 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 should 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, Knight, should, for the purposes of this 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 Commissioners should, from time to time, prepare and lay before His Majesty in Council such schemes as should appear to the said Commissioners to be best