

" We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, in pursuance of an Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the fifth and sixth years of your Majesty's reign, intituled " An Act " to alter and amend the law relating to " ecclesiastical houses of residence," and of the Act therein first recited, have prepared, and now humbly lay before your Majesty in Council, the following scheme, for improving the demesnes adjoining to the episcopal house of residence of the see of Rochester.

" Whereas by an Order of your Majesty in Council, bearing date the eighth day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, duly made and gazetted, under the said Acts, and ratifying a scheme prepared by us, it was, amongst other things, provided, that the Bishop of Rochester, or his successors, might be authorized and empowered, with our consent, to sell and dispose of certain manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments therein mentioned, and that the proceeds of such sale should be applied by us towards the purchase of a suitable house of residence for the said bishop, and towards putting such house into tenantable condition; and that the balance, if any, should be vested in and applied by us for the purposes of the said Acts :

" And whereas it is by the said herein recited Act enacted, that it may be lawful, by the authority therein provided, and with the consent, under the hand and episcopal seal of the bishop, to make such arrangement as may by such authority be deemed most expedient for improving the demesnes adjoining to any episcopal house of residence by the purchase of any land, tenement or hereditament in the immediate neighbourhood or within view thereof :

" And whereas certain of the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments mentioned in the said scheme have since been sold, and an episcopal house of residence has been purchased and completed for the bishops of Rochester, out of the monies arising from the sales thereof, and there is now at our disposal a balance of such monies more than sufficient for the purpose herein-after mentioned, which balance is likely to be encreased by further like sales :

" And whereas the piece or parcel of land, particularly mentioned and described in the schedule hereunto annexed, is in the immediate

neighbourhood of the said episcopal house of residence, and it has been proposed to us by the Right Reverend George Bishop of Rochester, and it appears to us to be most expedient for the purpose of improving the demesnes adjoining the said episcopal house of residence, that the said piece or parcel of land should be forthwith purchased and annexed thereto, and that authority should be given for the purchase, in like manner, of such other lands, tenements and hereditaments as may appear to be expedient for the like purpose :

" We, therefore, humbly recommend and propose, with the consent of the said George Bishop of Rochester, testified by his having hereunto set his hand and episcopal seal, that he, the said George Bishop of Rochester, or his successors bishops of Rochester, may be authorized and empowered to purchase and take a conveyance to him, and his successors bishops of Rochester forever, of the piece or parcel of land so particularly mentioned and described in the schedule hereunto annexed; and also, from time to time hereafter, if there be sufficient monies applicable to such purpose, according to the terms of the said Order in Council, and with our consent, in writing, testified under our common seal, to purchase and take a like conveyance of such other lands, tenements or hereditaments in the immediate neighbourhood or within view of the said episcopal house of residence as aforesaid, as may appear to us to be expedient, for the like or any other purpose or purposes of the said Acts, and at and for such price or prices as shall be deemed by us to be reasonable and proper; and that we shall and may be authorized and empowered to apply, from time to time, the balance of monies so now or hereafter at our disposal as aforesaid, or such part or parts thereof as shall appear to us to be expedient, towards the purchase of the said piece or parcel of land, and of such other lands, tenements or hereditaments as aforesaid, and also towards the costs, charges and expenses of and attending any and each such purchase.

" And we further recommend and propose, 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 Act, or of any other Act of Parliament.