

'shall from time to time, of their own accord, or upon being required by the visitors of the said churches respectively, propose to such visitors such alterations in the existing statutes and rules as shall provide for the disposal of the benefices in their patronage, so as to meet the just claims of the minor canons of such churches, and as shall make them consistent with the constitution and duties of the chapters respectively, as altered under the authority of this Act; and all such alterations, if approved, may be confirmed by the authority of such visitor, and that in any case, in which such alterations shall not be approved, or in which such requisition shall not be complied with within twelve calendar months after the making thereof, the visitor shall be at liberty of himself to make the necessary alterations; and all such statutes and rules when so altered shall be submitted to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, and may be confirmed by the authority hereinafter provided; and that as to any alteration made by a visitor alone, the said Commissioners shall communicate a draft thereof to the chapter to be affected thereby, and shall, together with any scheme to be prepared by them under the authority hereinafter contained, lay before Her Majesty in Council such remarks as may within three months have been made thereon by such chapter; and that out of the proceeds of the suspended canonries in any chapter provision may from time to time be made by the authority hereinafter provided, for relieving the present canons of such chapter from the performance of any additional duty by reason of such suspension, by the employment of substitutes to be approved by the respective bishops: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any existing right of chapters with their visitors to make statutes.'

"That by a certain other Act of Parliament, 4 and 5 Victoria, chapter 39, section 15, it is enacted as follows:

"And be it declared and enacted that, notwithstanding anything in the secondly recited Act contained [3 and 4 Vic., c. 113], any minor canon in any cathedral or collegiate church may take and hold, together with his minor canonry, any benefice which is within the distance prescribed by the said Act."

"Now we, the said dean and chapter, in obedience to the said requisition made to us by your Lordship, and according to the directions of the first-mentioned Act of Parliament, do hereby respectfully propose to your Lordship the following plan of alterations in our existing statutes and rules, being such as in our judgment, formed upon a full consideration of the subject, will provide for the disposal of the benefices in our patronage, so as to meet the just claims of the minor canons of the cathedral, and as will make them consistent with the constitution and duties of the chapter, as altered under the authority of the said Act; and we solicit your Lordship's approval and confirmation of the same by your visitatorial authority.

#### *"Proposed Plan.*

"1. That the dean and chapter shall, in the first place, if they think fit, from time to time, when

and as often as any one of the benefices in their patronage shall become vacant, present or nominate thereto either the dean or one of the canons, if qualified to hold the same.

"2. That subject to the foregoing regulation, the dean and chapter from time to time, when and as often as any one of the seventeen benefices\* named in the schedule hereunder written (being all the benefices in the city of London in their patronage, except the vicarage of Saint Giles, Cripplegate) shall become vacant, shall by writing under the hand of the dean, or of the registrar or deputy registrar for the time being of the said dean and chapter, make the offer of presentation or nomination thereto, to any one of the minor canons of the said cathedral church whom they may think proper to select, he being duly qualified according to the provisions of the said Act; and in case of his refusal, then they shall in the same manner make the like offer to any other of the minor canons who shall be so qualified, and so on, in case of refusal, until such offer shall be accepted by one, or shall have been refused by all of them, and on acceptance by a minor canon of such offer, the dean and chapter shall forthwith present or nominate him to the said benefice; but in the event of refusal of such offer by all the said minor canons to whom the same shall have been so made, the dean and chapter shall be at liberty to present or nominate to the said benefice, any one of the other persons described in the forty-fourth section of the before-mentioned Act of Parliament: provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the dean and chapter from nominating or presenting a minor canon to any benefice in their patronage which he may be qualified to hold, although the same may not be one of the benefices named in the said schedule: provided, also, that it shall not be obligatory on the dean and chapter to present or nominate to any benefice named in the schedule, a minor canon who, at the time of the vacancy thereof, shall be already in possession of a benefice with the cure of souls, whether the same be in the patronage of the said dean and chapter or not, but in every such case they shall use their own discretion with respect thereto.

"3. That every minor canon to whom the dean and chapter shall make an offer of presentation or nomination to a benefice, shall signify by writing under his hand, his refusal or acceptance thereof to the dean or to the canon in residence, within ten days after such offer shall be made to him, and in default of so doing he shall be considered to have refused such offer.

"4. That the presentation or nomination of minor canons by the dean and chapter to the benefices named in the schedule as hereby proposed, shall be subject to such alterations as may from time to time be made by the proper authorities in that behalf by reason of any future Act of the Legislature, or under special circumstances requiring such alterations.

"5. That in all cases not provided for by and subject to the preceding regulations, the dean and chapter shall, upon the vacancy of any benefice in their patronage, present or nominate thereto one of the archdeacons of the diocese or a non-residentary prebendary of the said cathedral church, or one of the other spiritual persons described in the forty-fourth section of the before-mentioned Act of Parliament.

\* As to these seventeen benefices, five of them are in the sole patronage of the dean and chapter; to one they present twice in three times, and the remaining eleven are in their alternate patronage.