

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, is pleased to declare, and it is hereby declared, that the said bishopric of Bristol is vacant, and His Majesty, by and with the like advice, is pleased to direct, and it is hereby directed, that this Order be forthwith registered by the Registrar of the Diocese of Bristol.

*Almeric FitzRoy.*

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 14th day of *May*, 1914.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by section 16 of the Pluralities Act, 1838, as amended by the Pluralities Act, 1850, it is, amongst other things, enacted, "that whenever it shall appear to the Archbishop of the province, with respect to his own diocese, and whenever it shall be represented to him by the Bishop of any diocese, or by the bishops of any two dioceses, that two or more benefices, or that one or more benefice or benefices, and one or more spiritual sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages, in his or their diocese or dioceses, being either in the same parish or contiguous to each other, and of which the aggregate population shall not exceed one thousand five hundred persons, may, with advantage to the interests of religion, be united into one benefice, the said Archbishop of the province shall inquire into the circumstances of the case; and if on such inquiry it shall appear to him that such union may be usefully made, and will not be of inconvenient extent, and that the patron or patrons of the said benefices, sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages respectively, is or are consenting thereto, such consent being signified in writing under the hands of such patron or patrons, the said Archbishop shall, six weeks before certifying such inquiry and consent to His Majesty as herein-after directed, cause, with respect to his own diocese, a statement in writing of the facts, and in 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 such benefices, sinecure rectories, or vicarages, 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 hand or hands, to the said Archbishop against such union; and if no sufficient cause be shown within such time, the said Archbishop shall certify the inquiry and consent aforesaid to His Majesty in Council; and thereupon it shall be lawful for His Majesty in Council to make and issue an Order or Orders for uniting such benefices, sinecure rectory or rectories, vicarage or vicarages, into one benefice, with cure of souls, for ecclesiastical purposes only; and it shall be lawful for His Majesty in Council to give directions for regulating the course and succession in which the patrons, if there be more than one patron, shall present or nominate to such united benefice, from time to time, as the same shall become vacant."

And whereas the Right Honourable and Most Reverend Randall Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, pursuant to the provisions of the said Act, hath duly prepared and laid before His Majesty in Council a certificate in writing bearing date the 20th day of June, 1913, in the words and figures following:—

"We, Randall Thomas, Archbishop of the Province of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, do hereby certify to Your Majesty in Council—

"That the Right Reverend George Wyndham, Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, as Bishop of the Diocese within which are situate the Rectory of Holford and the Rectory of Dodington, both in the county of Somerset, having represented unto us that the said benefices being contiguous to each other, and of which the aggregate population does not exceed fifteen hundred persons, might with advantage to the interests of religion be united into one benefice we inquired into the circumstances of the case.

"That on such inquiry it appeared to us that such union might be usefully made and would not be of inconvenient extent, and that the Provost of the College Royal of the Blessed Mary of Eton, near unto Windsor, in the county of Bucks, and the same College being the patrons or persons entitled to present to the Rectory of Holford if the same were now vacant, and the Right Honourable Alexander Baron St. Audries being the patron or person entitled to present to the Rectory of Dodington if the same were now vacant, have consented to the proposed union.

"That six weeks and upwards before certifying such inquiry and consents to Your Majesty in Council we caused a copy in writing of the aforesaid Representation of the said Lord Bishop to be affixed to the principal outer door of the Parish Church of each of the said benefices with Notice to any person or persons interested that he, she or they might within such six weeks show cause in writing under his, her or their hand or hands to us the said Archbishop, and no such cause has been shown.

"The Representation of the said Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, our inquiry into the circumstances of the case, the statement of circumstances in reply thereto, the consents in writing of the said patrons and the copies of the Representation and Notices before mentioned are hereunto annexed.

"And we do hereby certify the inquiry and consents aforesaid to Your Majesty in Council to the intent that Your Majesty in Council may in case Your Majesty in Council shall think fit so to do make and issue an Order for uniting the said benefices into one benefice for cure of souls for ecclesiastical purposes only, and we further recommend that the patronage of the said united benefice shall be vested in the said Provost of the College Royal of the Blessed Mary of Eton, near unto Windsor, in the county of Bucks, and the same College, and the said Right Honourable Alexander Baron St. Audries alternately, and that the first right of presentation after the said benefices shall come to be holden by the same Incumbent shall belong to and be exercised by the patron or patrons for the time being of the said Rectory of Holford.

"RANDALL CANTUAR."

Now, therefore, His Majesty in Council, by and with the advice of His said Council, is