

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 30th day of *July*, 1923.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Act, 1919, and of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1921, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in Council, a Scheme, bearing date the 31st day of May, 1923, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

"We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Act, 1919, and of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1921, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for effecting the union of two neighbouring Benefices, that is to say, the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Sparkford and the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Weston Bampfylde, both of which Benefices are situate in the County of Somerset and in the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

"Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend St. John Basil Wynne, Bishop of Bath and Wells, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Act, 1919, to inquire into and report upon the union of the said two Benefices of Sparkford and Weston Bampfylde duly made their report to the said Bishop of Bath and Wells and therein recommended the union of the said two Benefices and the terms for effecting the union, and the said Bishop of Bath and Wells signified in writing his approval of the said Report:

"And whereas we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, have prepared this Scheme for the union of the said two Benefices based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

"And whereas both of the said Benefices of Sparkford and Weston Bampfylde are now full, the Reverend Trevor Griffiths being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Sparkford; and the Reverend Martin Fawcener Harper being the present Incumbent of Weston Bampfylde:

"Now, therefore, with the consent of the said St. John Basil Wynne, Bishop of Bath and Wells (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme), we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

"1. That the said Benefice of Sparkford and the said Benefice of Weston Bampfylde shall be permanently united together and form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of 'The United Benefice of Sparkford with Weston Bampfylde,' but the Parishes of the said Benefices shall continue distinct in all respects.

"2. That if upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme shall be published in the London Gazette both of the said two Benefices shall be vacant, the union of the same two Benefices shall take effect forthwith; and if one only of the said two Benefices shall be then vacant the said union shall also take effect forthwith if the Incumbent of the other of the said two

Benefices shall consent to become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice, but, if he shall not so consent then the said union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of his Benefice and the then Incumbent (if any) of the other of the said two Benefices shall be the first Incumbent of the United Benefice; and if neither of the said two Benefices be then vacant then the said union shall take effect on the next avoidance of either of the said two Benefices if the Incumbent at that time of the other of the said two Benefices shall consent to become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice, but if he shall not so consent then the said union shall take effect immediately upon the next vacancy of his Benefice and the then Incumbent (if any) of the other of the said two Benefices shall become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice.

"3. That upon the said union taking effect the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Sparkford shall become and be the house of residence for the Incumbent of the United Benefice and so soon as conveniently may be the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Weston Bampfylde and the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds heretofore usually occupied and enjoyed therewith shall be sold and disposed of by us the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners at such time or times and in such manner in all respects as to us shall seem expedient and that the net proceeds of such sale shall constitute and form part of the fund created by the 13th Section of the said Union of Benefices Act, 1919.

"4. That after the said union has taken effect the course and succession in which the respective Patrons shall present or nominate to the United Benefice from time to time as the same shall become vacant shall be as follows, that is to say, the right of presentation shall be exercised by the Patrons of the said two Benefices alternately and the first turn of presentation or nomination shall belong to the Patron of that one of the said two Benefices the Incumbent of which does not become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice under any of the provisions of Clause 2 of this Scheme.

"Provided always 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."

And whereas drafts of the said Scheme have been published locally in the manner prescribed in the Statutory Rules made under the said Act and also transmitted in the manner so prescribed to the Patrons affected, together with a Notice in each case requiring any objections to such draft Scheme to be stated or transmitted in writing to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the same Rules:

And whereas certain objections have been so stated or transmitted to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the same Rules:

And whereas the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, after giving full consideration to such objections, have deemed right to make certain alterations in such draft Scheme: