

which the population amounted to 1,000 persons and upwards. These returns were laid before the House of Lords in 1811 and 1812, by command of the Prince Regent, in consequence of an address from that house. Upon investigation, these returns proving imperfect, the archbishops and bishops, in pursuance of a minute of council, bearing date the 13th of December, 1814, sent out a list of queries to every parish in their respective dioceses, for the purpose of ascertaining the capacity of the churches and chapels, and the number and condition of the glebe-houses, and the value of livings not exceeding 150*l.* per annum.—Answers to these queries were received in 1815 and 1816, and in consequence of an address to his royal highness the Prince Regent, extracts from them were laid before the House of Lords in 1816, as far as related to the capacity of churches and chapels in parishes containing more than a certain population. Further inquiries being found necessary, in order to approach more nearly to accuracy, the returns at large could not be laid before parliament in the session of 1817. But since then they have, as far as practicable, been completed, by supplying their deficiencies from such materials as were in the possession of the privy council, or of the bounty board, or from the population returns; and by the command of the Prince Regent, they have now been presented to both houses of parliament.—From the abstract of these returns, which extend to 214 large folio pages, we find the following to be the total results. We are compelled to take them for the whole kingdom, instead of the metropolis alone:—

Number of benefices	10,421
Population	9,940,391
Churches of the establishment	10,192
Chapels.....	1,551—11,743
Number of persons they can contain	4,770,975
Glebe-houses fit for residence.....	5,417
Benefices which have no glebe-houses	2,626
Glebe-houses not fit for residence	2,183