

Of the 461 families in this parish, 205 are employed chiefly in agriculture, and 146 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft; the remaining 110 are either engaged in professional pursuits or unemployed.

Staindrop is a place of considerable antiquity, being of great importance in the time of Canute, who, in veneration of St. Cuthbert, gave his mansion-house, in this town, with its appendages, as an offering at the holy shrine; *Symeon*, and other authors, who notice this transaction, say the appendages consisted of *Cnapton*, (supposed to be Snotterton,) Shotton, Raby, Walkerfield, Evenwood, Aycliff, Lutrington, Eldon, Ingleton, Thickley, and Middleton or Middleston. But, as several of these places lie at a considerable distance, it is doubtful whether they were ever appendages to Staindrop, though they were the property of Canute.

Bishop Flambard looked upon the extensive territory which the convent of Durham held by the royal gift, with eyes of jealousy, and seized the dominion of Staindropshire, but, on the approach of his dissolution, he restored it to the monastery, and it was shortly afterwards, in 1131, granted by the prior to Dolphin, a descendant of Uchtred, to be holden of him *in capite*, reserving the yearly rent of £4.* In the year 1343, Ralph de Nevill obtained a licence from prior John Fossour and the convent, to found three chantries in the church of Staindrop, so that it appears that the convent had reserved the church in their grant to Dolphin; and, according to Dugdale's *Baronage*, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, under some exchange, by grant, dated the 25th of June, 1372, had the advowsons of Staindrop and Brancepeth churches, but the advowson of the former shortly afterwards reverted again to the Nevill family. Bishop Hatfield, by his license, dated the 24th of January, 1378, empowered Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmoreland, to erect and found a college in Staindrop, for the perpetual maintenance of which, the earl gave and assigned two messuages and twelve acres of land, with their appurtenances, at Staindrop, for the habitation of the master, clerks, and poor persons, together with the advowson of the church of Latham, in Lancashire, which was a cell to Durham, and Brigham church, in Cumberland, was also appropriated to this college, to augment its revenue. According to the bishop's register, it appears, that the foundation was much more liberal than is stated in *Tanner's Notitia*, page 116, being, as is therein asserted, instituted for the perpetual support of a custos, eight chaplains, four secular clerks, six esquires, six gentlemen, and six other persons; but the license does not restrain the founder to numbers, or their quality, and it is probable that the earl intended this house for the reception of his military retainers, or those servants more immediately about his person, *sex valectorum*, who should be reduced by misfortunes, or otherwise disabled. Leland, in his *Itinerary*, vol. I, pages 72-3, in allusion to the Nevills and this college, says, "Johan (Ralph's second wife) erected the very house itself of the college of Staindrop; it is set on the north side of the collegiate church, and it is strongly buildid al of stone." At the Dissolution, it was found to be endowed with £170 4s. 6d. per annum, in the *whole*, and £126 5s. 10d. *clear*.

The Church, which, as has just been seen, was once collegiate, is a stately edifice, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and contains many ancient tombs, on one of which, at the west end, are three marble effigies, adjacent to which are three other recumbent figures, in wood, each repre-

* Testib. Rob. Archid. and Ranulf Arch. 1 Cart. fo. 186.—*D. and Ch. Lib.*