

**HISTORY OF LOGIE-
COLDSTONE AND
BRAES OF CROMAR**

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History of Logie-Coldstone and Braes of Cromar by John G. Michie

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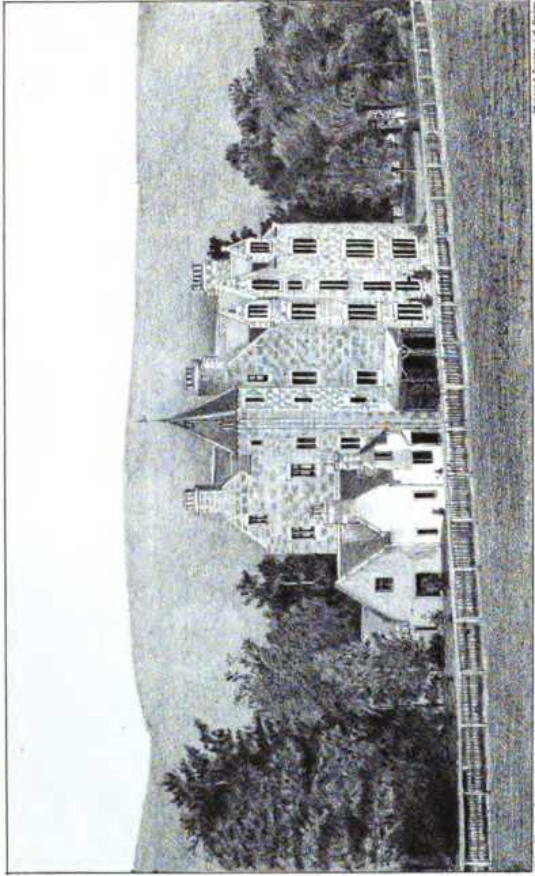
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JOHN G. MICHIE

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BLELACK HOUSE

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To Robert Profeit Esq.
With the Author's best wishes.

HISTORY
2440 or
LOGIE-COLDSTONE
AND
BRAES OF CROMAR

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PREFACE.

When requested to undertake the compilation of a book for the benefit of a Bazaar to be held at Blelack in August of this year to provide funds for the erection of a Public Hall for the Parish of Logie-Coldstone and Braes of Cromar—a district in which, ever since I became Schoolmaster there (now nearly forty years ago), I have had the warmest interest—although I could not refuse, I felt the time at my disposal too limited to enable me to produce such a volume as I should have desired. I had therefore to content myself with such a work as is now presented, the materials for which were already to hand, or not far to seek. Nevertheless, I must have failed to have had it ready in time but for the kind and efficient assistance received from Mr. James M'Pherson Wattie, B.A., Lecturer, E.C. Training College, Aberdeen, in seeing the work through the press; and the obliging and prompt attention bestowed on its preparation by the Messrs. Wyllie & Son, and Mr. Thomson of the University Press.

J. G. M.

*Manse of Dinnet,
August, 1896.*

INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

THE district, a short account of the early history of which it is proposed to give in the following pages, is situated within the vale of CROMAR, locally bounded by its four hills—Morven on the west, Press n' dye on the north, Ledilick on the east, and Mulloch on the south. By these and their connecting ridges the vale is so isolated from the surrounding straths and valleys that at an early period it was recognised as possessing a community of interests peculiar to itself; and in some respects it continues to be so regarded to the present day. In these circumstances, although minor details have been generally confined to the parish of Logie-Coldstone and the district of the Braes, the more important events occurring anywhere within the said four hills could not be excluded from notice, and have received some attention.

NAMES.

The name of a district is obviously its earliest definition; and, though subject to many variations and corruptions arising from change of language and other causes, it is always of interest, if ancient, as showing some striking feature in its topography, or commemorating some event in its history. In the district under consideration we have the names of two ancient parishes—Logie and Coldstone. In regard to the meaning of the former there is no difficulty.

LOGIE is a derivative of an old Gaelic word, *Lagan*, and means a stretch of low-lying land, generally beside a stream, having high ground on both sides—just such a strath as lies between Culblean and Knockargety, locally known as the Burnside of Logie. At first the name was applied only to this little district; but after a long time the district became a parish which embraced a much larger area. Of this we shall have to speak afterwards. Meantime we observe that the name would be descriptive of a great many localities in Scotland. Accordingly we find no fewer than ten parishes called Logie, besides a great number of gentlemen's residences scattered over both Highlands and Lowlands. In order to prevent our Logie from being mistaken for any of the others, it came to be distinguished as Logie-in-Mar, shortened into Logie-Mar, just as Logie-in-Buchan

got shortened into Logie-Buchan. So much for the etymology of Logie.

COLDSTONE, though seemingly so plain, is much more difficult of explanation. Certainly it has nothing to do with a *cold stone*. It has been corrupted into its present spelling through several forms. Although Logy or Logie has always retained the same form, Coldstone has at different times been spelt in no fewer than five different ways—Collesseu, Colcoyn, Codilstan, Colquholdstane, and the present. The reader will see that there is a great difference between the first and the last, more, we think, than between the old Gaelic name and the present form. An eminent antiquary, the late Mr. Jervise, states it thus: "The first of these spellings appears in the *Old Taccatio* of 1275 A.D., in which the kirk is rated at twelve merks; and the last of the old forms is in the *Register of Ministers*, etc., for 1574 A.D., when the Kirks of Coldstone, Coull, Kincardine O'Neil, and Banchory-Ternan were all under the superintendence of one minister. In 1402, when Isabella, Countess of Mar and the Garioch, gave the patronage and advocation of the Kirk of Coldstone to the Monastery of Lindores, it is described as 'Codilstane in Cra Mar'; and, when it was added to the Chanonry of Old Machar in 1424, it is called 'Coldstane'. Coldstone and Coull may be said to form respectively the west and east corners of Cromar; and, as water is