

that form the make-up of a good farm, well protected by trees which sheltered the spot when the winter's wind sped over the moor, and protected the dwelling from the hot heat of July and August days : for even so far north there are warm days.

The Sinclairs of my family were originally from Caithness, and many of them settled in Invernesshire and Nairnshire about the time that a Miss Sinclair, a daughter of Sir John Sinclair, married into the family of Rose of Kilvarock, and settled in Nairnshire with her husband's people.

The Sinclairs were in Kinray in the parish of Croy, in Nairnshire, from about 1650. In 1763 Robert Sinclair of Kinray, had a son Hector, my grandfather, and he occupied the Goathill Farm from



THE FARM HOUSE OF GOATHILL, NEAR STORNOWAY

1798 until 1822. He married in 1797 Ann McNishie, a daughter of Mr. John McNishie, who was the tenant of the farm of Connege in Petty, in Nairnshire, by whom he had nine children, all of whom with one exception were born in the farmhouse at Goathill.

My grandfather, while he farmed the land at Goathill, was also a road builder. He not only acted as road overseer, but also constructed for the authorities some of the principal roads, and as his personal friend, the late Dr. McCrae said to me some years ago : "Whatever your grandfather did, was well done."

On the 2nd of August, 1798, this ancestor of mine was initiated into Freemasonry in Fortrose Lodge No. 108, A.F. & A.M., warranted in 1767 by the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Scotland. The minute reads :—