

THE SINCLAIRS OF ROSLIN, CAITHNESS, AND GOSHEN.

CHAPTER I.

The Lords of Roslin.

THE Northmen, or Normans, were originally Scandinavians from Normandy. They settled among the Keltic inhabitants of Gaul in 912 A. D. They conquered England in 1066, and introduced feudalism into the country. The Normans who settled in England were not Scandinavians. They were rather Skando-Kelts, or a mixed race formed from the intermingling of Scandinavians and Kelts.

The Saint-Clairs were Normans, and came over to England with William the Conqueror. Richard of Saint-Clair and Brittel of Saint-Clair are both mentioned in Domesday Book. William of Saint-Clair witnessed a charter granted by King Stephen in 1135.

Saint-Clair was originally the name of a place. The proprietor of it and the members of his family designated themselves as being de Sancto-Claro, or of Saint-Clair. In course of time the *de*, or *of*, was dropped, and Sanctus-Clarus, or Saint-Clair, adopted as a surname. Through the wear and tear of language Saintclair has, as a general rule, been changed to Sinclair.

About the year 1160 Henry of Saint-Clair obtained a charter of the lands of Herdmanston in Haddingtonshire. Henry is the first Sinclair with whom we meet in Scotland.