LEGENDS OF THE BRAES O' MAR

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Legends of the Braes O' Mar by John Grant

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JOHN GRANT, GLENGAIRN.

"Tales of the Times of Old—of the Peeds of the Pays of other Pears."—Ossian.

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

torical Notes are here given. The authorities are set down from which the notes were gleaned, that the reader may judge for himself how far they are to be depended upon. In the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen," we find, that—

"Mar is so named from Martach, one of Pargus the First's Captains, to whom that prince gave it for a possession. (A.G. 800).
"It is recknosed the chief district in all Aberdeanshire, both as it is the largest, as it contains the cest of the coolectactic and civil judge, and as the people in it are reakoned the most ingunicae, excelling both in arts and arms. Hence it is said by one of our poets (John Barclay).

Marvis sie amata Musis ; Mar by all the Muses loved ;

and again in a common rhyme,

"The brave bowmen of Mar."

"And on these accounts it is, that even the whole thire is sometimes called the shire of Mar.

The next notice of Mar seems to be that in the Tables of "Skene's Highlanders of Scotland." †

"(A.C. 121.) The Caledonians consisted of 18 tribes according to Ptolemy. The tenth tribe, the Vaccanson, inhabited the County of Right, Strathappy, Strathavon, Braemar, and Strathardia. The Taxalol, the twelfth tribe, inhabited Buchan and Banfishire."

In this, mention is only made of the inhabitants of Braemar and Buchan. The Braes of Mar, properly speaking, consist of the five parishes, Braemar and Crathie united, and Glenmuick, Glengairn, and Tullich, these three also united. What tribe, or tribes, then, peopled the remainder of Aberdeenshire! It is impossible to say: but in the "View of the Diocese" we learn, that "It was of old the farthest country of the Scots towards the south, on the east coast; for Dee divided them from the Picts."

The next mention of the Brace of Mar we find in Richard of Cirencester, I who records the march of Guenus Tabellus, General of the Emperor Domitian, anno 89, from the South of Scotland to the Moray Firth, to subdue the North of Scotland and the Orkneys. One of the Legions' stages was at Tamea, which is taken to be what is now called Braemar. The Romans were routed, and Tabellus

* Spalding Club Publications. † 2 Yels., 1 See Laing's Caledonian Itinorary. † 2 Yols , London, 1887.