

ABORIGINAL PETROGLYPHS BETWEEN BEAUMONT AND
HAMLEY TRIGNOMETRICAL STATIONS, KURINGAI.

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(Plates xii. and xiii.)

My attention was recently drawn by Mr. W. S. O'Brien, Electrician to the Railway Commissioners at Hornsby Junction, on the Northern line, to an interesting group of aboriginal rock carvings at Kuringai Staff Station, about four-and-a-half miles north of the Junction. This group is not recorded by Mr. W. D. Campbell in his excellent "Aboriginal Carvings of Port Jackson and Broken Bay."¹ Mr. O'Brien was good enough to guide me to the spot and assist in noting the following particulars:—

The petroglyphs are immediately contiguous to the railway line, on its west side, opposite the Staff Station, and between the railway line and the Peat's Ferry Road. There are three prominent figures, a man, woman, and smaller figure of doubtful sex. They are lying in an east and west direction, side by side; the man's outline in the centre, the woman's on the left or north, and the nondescript's on the right or south. At right angles to this group, extending beyond the female outline, in a general direction of slightly east of north, is a series of huge foot outlines; these we traced for one hundred and seventy-six yards. Above the male outline, inclined in an oblique direction over the head, is a large boomerang, the lower point almost touching the outspread left hand. A few feet above the woman's head, but a little further to the left, are five fish outlines,² four in a line close together, and the fifth slightly removed from the others, all pointing in an easterly direction.

The Man.—This is a huge figure, ten feet two inches in height. The arms are outstretched above the head and the fingers expanded. The legs are normally placed, but with the view of displaying the toes, the dorsal surfaces of the feet are represented "full face," the figure standing on the inner edge of the right foot, and the outer edge of the left foot. The hands and feet are

¹ Mem. Geol. Surv. N.S. Wales, Eth. Series, i, 1899.

² These are not represented in the plate.