

ETHNOLOGICAL NOTES MADE AT COPMANHURST,
CLARENCE RIVER.

I. AN ABORIGINAL ROCK-SHELTER WITH AN
INSCRIBED ROCKFACE; II. DISARTICU-
LATION OF ONE OF THE LITTLE
FINGER JOINTS.

By R. ETHERIDGE, Junr., Curator.

(Plate xxxiii.).

I.—ABORIGINAL ROCK-SHELTER.

The Rock-shelter partially represented in Pl. xxxiii. was brought to my notice by Mr. George Savidge, of Copmanhurst, a valued correspondent of the Australian Museum. In May last I had the pleasure of accompanying him to make an examination of the interesting petroglyphs scattered over the outer face of the shelter. In these lies the chief interest attached to the latter, from their peculiar and uncommon characters.

The shelter is situated in a low scarp of sandstone of the Clarence Group (Hawkesbury-Wianamatta Series), sixty-four feet long, running E.S.E. and W.N.W., at the head of a small gully, joining Nobby's Creek, a south branch of the Clarence River, immediately opposite Copmanhurst.

The scarp is between eight and ten feet high, overhanging above, and with a vertical face of two feet six inches (in its widest part) below, on which the petroglyphs occur, extending over a length of twenty-four feet. Immediately under this is the shelter, thirty-two feet long, nine feet six inches deep, two feet six inches high at the entrance, and three feet inside. The upper or overhanging part of the scarp is devoid of carvings, these being confined to the narrow vertical face as aforesaid. The floor inside is composed of hearth-refuse material of no great depth, consisting of ashes, charcoal, bone fragments, and pieces of calcined shell of the "fresh-water mussel" (*Unio*); the roof is well blackened by smoke. The whole aspect of the shelter clearly indicates that at one time it was a place of residence, and from its contiguity to the river—where a plentiful supply of shells and fish could be obtained—well adapted for habitation.