

**EXCAVATIONS AT THE
KESSLERLOCH NEAR
THAYNGEN,
SWITZERLAND**

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Excavations at the Kesslerloch near Thayngen, Switzerland by Conrad Merk

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CONRAD MERK

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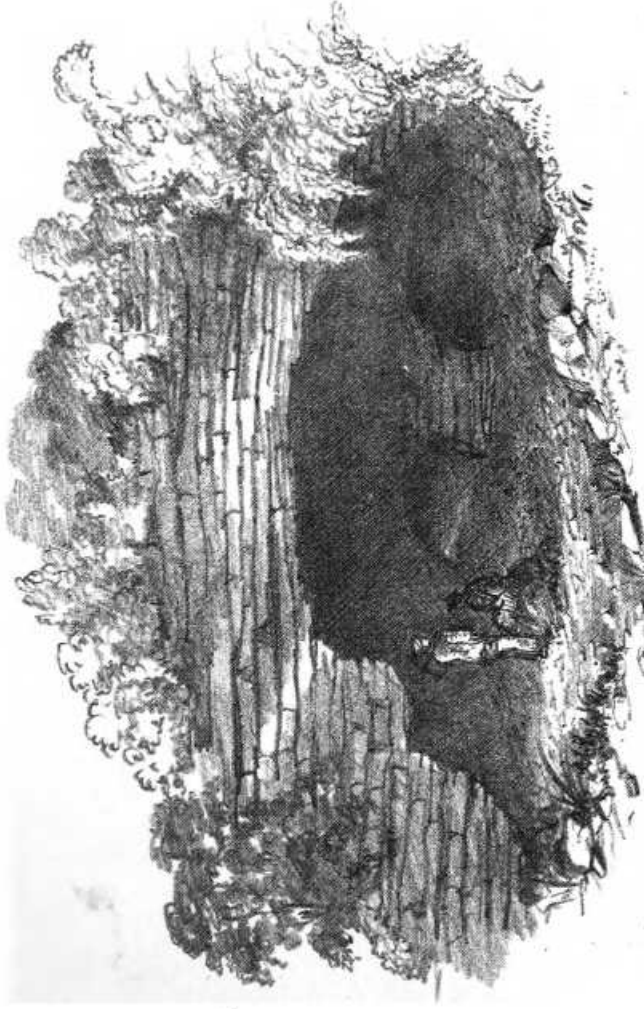
EXCAVATIONS
AT THE
KESSLERLOCH NEAR THAYNGEN
SWITZERLAND

W^m Cla Gray
with M^r Kees Compl. —

To Mrs. M^r. M^r. M^r. M^r.

N.S.

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AND PARLIAMENT STREET



CAVE called *the KESSLERLOCH at THAYNGEN.*

Frontispiece.

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EXCAVATIONS

AT THE

KESSLERLOCH NEAR THAYNGEN

SWITZERLAND

A CAVE OF THE REINDEER PERIOD

BY

CONRAD MERK

TRANSLATED BY

JOHN EDWARD LEE, F.S.A., F.G.S.

AUTHOR OF 'ISCA SILURUM' ETC.

TRANSLATOR OF KELLER'S 'LAKE DWELLINGS'

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1876

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2: of Dr. Asa Gray

Rec. Oct. 10, 1881

PREFACE

SOME LITTLE TIME AGO my kind friend Dr. Ferdinand Keller, the President of the Society of Antiquaries at Zürich, who frequently keeps me informed of what is going on in the archaeology of his district, sent to me the first part of the Proceedings of his Society for the present year. It contained an account of the Excavation at the Kesslerloch, a cave of the Reindeer period near Schaffhausen. The moment I saw it it struck me that it was of very great interest; and it occurred to me very forcibly that it ought to be translated into English. This idea was communicated to Dr. Keller, and he at once assented, and very kindly allowed me to have lithographic transfers from the Society's plates; so that the drawings now before the reader are the actual original sketches.

Such is the origin of the present little volume. I cannot think that I am wrong in considering the excavation in this cave as one of the most interesting which has been made for years; and though it must be confessed that the following report is by no means perfect—that it is defective in some parts and redundant in others—yet it is a wonderful production for a young author, for such in fact is the excavator of the Kesslerloch.

In certain cases where it appears to me that the author is not quite correct I have ventured on adding notes stating

my opinion ; and I have also gone so far as to alter in a very small degree the style where it appeared to me to be inappropriate. Otherwise the whole report is left precisely in the words of the author, although to regular antiquaries it may appear that it might have been shortened with advantage.

It would be hardly correct if in a preface to this most interesting account I omitted to state the astonishment which these prehistoric drawings have caused in certain quarters, almost amounting to scepticism as to their genuineness. But, on the other hand, it may perhaps be allowable to state a few facts which somewhat bear upon this point. In the course of the past summer, finding myself in Germany, it seemed very desirable to see with my own eyes the objects which had been found at the Kesslerloch, and also to visit the place itself. When at Zürich I had the good fortune to meet with Mr. Franks, who, it is well known, has paid very great attention to prehistoric matters—in fact he had been attracted to Switzerland by these very discoveries. With great kindness he allowed me to accompany him to Schaffhausen, where a large portion of these relics are deposited in the Museum there, and also to the cave itself. Dr. Von Mandach, the President of the Schaffhausen Natural History Society, accompanied us. The sketch forming the frontispiece was taken during this hasty visit, and was afterwards corrected by a second glance.

It will, I hope, not be a breach of confidence if I mention the facts as to the excavation which came to my knowledge. Thayngen is reached by the railway from Schaffhausen in little more than a quarter of an hour. Mr. Merk, the author of the present report, was for some time the Government 'teacher of practical science' there ; and when he had discovered the cave, it was arranged with the Schaffhausen Society, of which the active and intelligent Dr. Von Mandach,