

YACHTING.

THE CRUISE OF THE EMPRESS.

Recently Mr. William Burford introduced to South Australian waters the yacht *Empress*, one of Sydney's finest specimens of marine architecture. Her movements since her arrival at Glenelg have been keenly watched by all South Australian yachtsmen with a view of getting an idea of her racing qualities, for the advent of such a large vessel into the cup-racing arena was most welcome. For the present year, however, Mr. Burford has decided to keep the *Empress* in cruising trim only, for it was found that to get her into racing form for the cups of this season would involve a great waste of time. Accordingly preparations were made for extensive cruising. During the Christmas holidays short runs across the gulf were indulged in, but on Monday, January 7, a party consisting of Messrs. William and Benjamin Burford, William H. Burford, Jun., F. R. Burford, Horace Burford, L. Hill, Captain Mountfield, and three hands, boarded the *Empress* at Glenelg for an extended trip. At ten minutes past 10 on Monday morning the yacht slipped her moorings and shaped a course for Kangaroo Island. With the aid of a fresh south-easterly wind the *Empress* found herself well inside the American River of hours after leaving Glenelg. Once inside this haven the yachtsmen always find sufficient sport to keep them going for at least a fortnight, but on Thursday morning at 3 o'clock the *Empress's* crew bade farewell to the schnapper that inhabit these waters and ran on to Queenscliff. There a day and a night were spent, and Hog Bay was made the next port of call. After many pleasant diversions Hog Bay was left behind early on Saturday morning. With a strong westerly breeze the journey to Port Victor was made in quick time, that harbor being reached at 10 o'clock a.m. In this run the afterdeck of the mainsail sustained some damage owing to the roping carrying away. The yacht was delayed an hour and a half while repairs were being effected. The *Empress* remained at anchor in Victor Harbor until Tuesday, when after taking on board Mr. Jas. Burford she proceeded to Eastern Cove and Wilson's Beach. The number on board being exactly 11 a challenge went forth on Wednesday to the residents of Wilson's Beach to play a cricket match. At the conclusion of this the yachtsmen decided that the runs to be got at a game of cricket were of a totally different species to those which occasionally make the pastime of yachting so pleasant. The time between the cricket match and Saturday morning was pleasantly occupied in fishing and boating excursions, and at 5.30 a.m. on Saturday with a strong south-easterly wind the *Empress* picked up her anchor and started for home. The fresh breeze lasted for an hour and three-quarters, but then dropped, and the yacht's journey to Glenelg was the essence of unavoidable laziness. At a quarter to 5 in the evening Holdfast Bay was entered, and a large number of spectators assembled on the jetty and to witness the craft pick up her moorings, all on board having spent a most enjoyable time. Mr. Burford will take a trip to Ports Lincoln, Germein, Pirie, and Augusta this week.