

AN EXTRAORDINARY YACHT.

LAUNCHING OF THE ALEXA.

When Mr. A. P. Wyly was in Scotland a short time ago he obtained designs from Mr. Fife, the well-known expert, for a new, and as far as this colony is concerned, a unique yacht. The order for her construction was placed in the hands of Mr. A. McFarlane, of Birkenhead, and on Saturday afternoon the pleasant task of launching the new craft, which has been named Alexa, took place at the yard. Light refreshments were provided by Mr. Hixon, of the Semaphore Hotel, in honour of the occasion, and among those present were the Mayor of the Port (Mr. C. Tucker), Vice-Commodore Delt, Rear-Commodore Fisher, Captain Bickers, Warden Legoe, Dr. Mackintosh, Messrs. W. Russell, A. McFarlane, and R. Woolnough, and a number of other yachtsmen. The new yacht had been run off the stocks, and was moored in front of the shed, where her symmetrical lines were the theme of general admiration. After refreshments had been partaken of the toast-list was opened by Mr. R. WOOLNOUGH submitting "The Builder and Rigger of the Alexa." Whatever he took in hand was performed thoroughly. It was pleasing to see that the Mayor of the Port had become a yachtsman, and that he was part owner of one of the best boats belonging to the Squadron. Mr. Wyly since he took an interest in yachting had also done a great deal to assist the Squadron, and numbers were indebted to him for the enterprise which had induced him to bring out such a very fine vessel. (Hear, hear.) Those who took an interest in yachting closely followed the doings of the old world, and so were able to have a fairly good idea of what a modern rater was, but they had never seen in practical form anything that might be classed as the modern rater of 1892 until Mr. Wyly presented them with the Alexa. There was no doubt that she would be a great lesson to them. He hoped she would prove a successful racer, and any one who had seen the accommodation in the cabins would agree that she would also be a comfortable cruiser. Ever since the keel had been laid Mr. McFarlane had given her the best of his workmanship and professional skill. Although he had to be guided by the plans of one of the most eminent designers, he had to bring a great deal of practical knowledge to bear to produce such a fine craft. Mr. Russell's part in the building of the yacht was only the rigging, but he had assisted in making her a handsome picture. Captain BICKERS responded on behalf of Mr. McFarlane, and said he had been amazed at the symmetry of the vessel. Mr. RUSSELL in acknowledging the toast joined in congratulating the owner upon the enthusiasm he had displayed in obtaining such a handsome design, and having the work executed in Port Adelaide. Mr. F. V. SANDERSON asked the company to drink "Success to the Alexa." He had been a spectator during the process of building, and they had now one of the finest yachts in the colony, combining high work-

manship, and they had now one of the finest yachts in the colony, combining high workmanship and good accommodation as a cruiser. They had to congratulate Mr. Wyly upon being the owner, and also the Squadron on such an acquisition to its fleet. He was sorry there were not others more nearly approaching her. (Hear, hear.) Captain S. OSBORNE spoke in support, and as one who had seen every timber and plank put into the Alexa could testify that she was one of the best-built boats in the colony. Captain BICKERS also stated that he had examined the chainplates, and had found them to be of excellent workmanship. Mr. A. P. WYLY briefly responded, and extended an invitation to members of the club to meet him on board at any time to enjoy a cruise in the new boat. The Mayor submitted "The Host," and remarked that they were indebted to him for being present at the launching of the yacht, an event which might be regarded as a new departure in the yachting world as far as South Australia was concerned. Yachting was a sport that they as Portonians should uphold, and he regretted that there were not more leading men did not take an interest in it. (Hear, hear.) He commended the enterprise shown by Mr. Wyly. The toast was honoured with three cheers, and an additional one for Mrs. Wyly. Mr. Wyly having responded, a vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor for attending. The toast of the "Press" having been drunk the proceedings ended. The Alexa is an entirely new type of yacht in this colony, and her *début* as a racer will therefore be eagerly looked for. Her dimensions are as follows:—31 ft. on the waterline, 45 ft. overall, 8 ft. 7 in. beam, 18 ft. length of keel proper. The framing is of bluegum, with steamed timber between the solid natural frame. The craft is thus a solid frame throughout. The topside planking is of kauri pine, and has been steamed by Reiser's process, which has been found to answer very well for building purposes. The bottom planking up to the bilge is of jarrah. There are 5 tons of lead on the keel, and to take the weight of this the vessel is fitted with seven steel angle floors and five steel stropes. The lead keel was made in one casting, and to facilitate matters this was done between the slip cradle. The casting was very successful, and reflects credit upon Mr. McFarlane. The deck is of kauri, and the skylight and companion, which are combined, of teak. The cockpit has been made watertight, and discharge pipes have been provided in the case of it filling. The blacksmith's portion of the work has been performed by Mr. McLachlan, of the Port, who has made some very successful castings. The inside fittings are of clear pine and cedar. Two berths have been provided in the main cabin, and the same number in the fore-castle. The sailroom is separate, and is approached by a hatchway. The spars are of Oregon, and Newell's patent steel wire has been procured for the rigging. The craft has a large sweep from the gunwale, and an immense overhang fore and aft. She will most

has a large sweep from the keelway, and an immense overhang fore and aft. She will most probably be a five-rater, and forms a most graceful figure in the water. She should prove very easy in a seaway, and will no doubt have plenty of speed.