

YACHTING NOTES.

Yachtsmen will hear with regret that Mr. H. J. D. Munton (Commodore of the Holdfast Bay Yacht Club), the enthusiastic yachtowner who has carried off so many cups and trophies, is giving up racing, and means to turn the *Alfreda*, his latest sailing craft, into a cruiser. Mr. Munton's yachting experiences in South Australia date back sixteen or eighteen years, during which period he has been an active member of the South Australian Yacht Club. He first bought the famous flyer the *Xanthe*. The *Xanthe* was built by the late Mr. Taylor, and her performances made her a perfect wonder—for some years she was almost without a rival. In 1859 she won a cup at the Semaphore, in 1860 another at Port Adelaide, and a third at Glenelg. In 1861, 1864, 1866, 1869, 1872, 1875, and 1876 she took cups at Port Adelaide. In 1874 she won Mr. W. H. Bunday's cup, in 1877 gained it a second time, and in 1882 she took a trophy at Glenelg. Some years ago she was nearly wrecked, and Mr. Munton bought her because of her wonderful reputation. She broke away from her moorings at Glenelg during a great gale several years ago, and was stranded on the beach near Brighton almost a hopeless wreck, her bottom being stove in and her timbers badly broken; but Mr. Munton would not abandon his beloved craft, and very soon she was afloat again as saucy and swift as ever. The *Xanthe*, though not in her old owner's hands, is still afloat, and a smart taunt craft. Mr. Munton had the handsome yacht *Alfreda* built in 1885 by Chant, the well-known boatbuilder at Port Adelaide, and her sails were made by Mr. Russell, who has a high reputation for his "cut." The *Alfreda* made her first cruise to Port Lincoln in 1886, and her prime weather qualities were substantially proved by her behaviour in a terrific gale which she encountered off the Althorpes. She proved herself to be a splendid sea boat. She is a fast craft too. In 1888 she won the Port Lincoln Cup; in the same year she took Lord Brassey's Cup in the races at Largs Bay. In 1889 she won another cup at Port Lincoln, and the Brassey Cup the same year at Largs Bay. In 1889 also she won a Cup at Holdfast Bay, and this year she carried off Lord Brassey's Cup at Largs Bay the third and last time. Mr. Munton has always been recognised as a spirited and liberal yachtsman, and it is gratifying to know that he is not relinquishing the sport altogether. He has had the *Alfreda* on the slip, taken 6 tons of lead off her keel, and had it put inside for ballast; this will make her all the better cruiser. Mr. Munton quaintly admits that if he kept the lead on her keel he could not resist the temptation to race her. He has had the copper stripped off her bottom, and it was found to be as sound as it was the day she was launched.