

AQUATICS.

"Our Yachts."

HAIDEE, 14 TONS, MR WILSHIRE, OWNER.

In continuing "our yachts," a more appropriate selection could not be found after the Nereid than the Haidee, as both yachts were launched about the same time, and were regarded as the two best second-class yachts in the harbour. For a long time it was a much debated question which of the twin was the better, but the Nereid has put her claims to that distinction beyond cavil, and no one can now be found daring enough to say there is a shadow of a doubt on that point. It cannot be denied that the Haidee has had great difficulties to contend with in the shape of bad management, and under more favorable auspices she might have beaten Mr Fairfax's pet. As far as the yachting public of Sydney are concerned, they have, in all likelihood, seen the last of the Haidee, as Mr Wilshire, some time back, sold her to Mr Heath, of Geelong, for the sum of £300—at which price she was dirt cheap—and a crew of four men were specially sent up from Geelong to take her down, for which latter place she sailed a few days ago. The crew must have had no rosy billet of it, for, shortly after their departure, the weather became very boisterous and rough, and I hope they will arrive at their destination all right. The Haidee was built to the order of Mr Wilshire by Mr Lomax, of Balmain, and was launched in the early part of October, 1866. I have not been able to obtain her dimensions, so that I am unable to publish them. Her first appearance was an unsuccessful one, but she was defeated through an accident that she met with. On St. Andrew's Day, the usual Balmain Regatta came off; and in the second-class yacht race the Vivienne, Ella, and Haidee started. This was a complete gift to the first-named, who won by any distance. Great attention was paid to the next race she took part in, as all the new yachts started, and every one was on the *qui vive* as to how they would "shape." This was on Boxing Day. At Woolloomooloo Bay Regatta the Nereid, Haidee, Ella, and Vivienne started for the second-class yacht race, and the Haidee came in second to Nereid, beating Ella by 3 minutes, and Vivienne by about 3 minutes 50 seconds. In her next effort she was also unsuccessful, having been beaten easily by Ella and Nereid on the 19th January, in the second-class race of the R.S.Y.S. It was said at the time that if the Haidee had any chance of winning the race, she lost it through having an amateur crew. The tide of affairs now began to turn in her favor, and she made her first win on Anniversary Day in the second-class race. The course was from their own moorings in Farm Cove, round flag-boat off Goat Island, then round a boat moored off Manly Beach, back round flagship, then round Shark Island and back to the flagship. The Haidee, Ella, Nereid, and Australian started, and the former beat Ella by 3 or 4 minutes; Australian was third, the Nereid having carried away her topmast. On St. Patrick's Day, in the second-class yacht race, she was again "all there," and won the race with any amount of time to spare. Course: From their moorings in Farm Cove, round boat off Goat Island, then round a buoy off Manly Beach, back round flagship, thence round Shark Island and back to the flagship. The Haidee, Vivienne, Nereid, Australian and Ella started, and Mr Wilshire's boat came in 11min ahead of the Vivienne, who was $\frac{1}{2}$ min in advance of Nereid. At the Balmain Regatt, Ella, Haidee, Nereid, and Vivienne started in the second-class yacht race, and the Ella beat Haidee by 3min, Haidee beating Nereid by $\frac{1}{2}$ min. In the second-class yacht race at the Double Bay Regatta, the Nereid, Haidee, Ella, Vivienne and Pert started. Haidee was beaten by 10 min by Nereid. Haidee beating Ella by $\frac{1}{2}$ min. On Anniversary Day, for the handicap yacht race, £100 prize, she received 17 min start from the Xarifa, 7min from Vivid, and she

for the handicap yacht race, £100 prize, she received 17 min start from the Xarifa, 7min from Vivid, and she beat the pair by about 5 and 3min, taking second prize; Nereid, 16min start, first prize; Ella, 21min start, third prize. In her next appearance, on the 3rd February, she performed a great feat in the R.S.Y.S. second-class yacht race. Haidee, Nereid, Ella, Pert and Vivienne started. Haidee went away at the start, and won by over 10min; Ella beat Pert by 6min, who beat Vivienne by $\frac{1}{2}$ min. Nereid carried away. On the 9th May, a handicap race came off for the Silver Cup presented by Mr Dangar, which was won by Xarifa (scratch) by about $\frac{1}{2}$ min; Nereid (15min) second; and Ione (20min), third; Haidee received 13min start, and was nowhere. Eleven yachts started. On the 9th November the Balmain Regatta came off, and the Vivandiere, 19min, Mischief, 13min, Ella, 2min, Nereid scratch, and Haidee, scratch, started for the handicap yacht race. Vivandiere won by 2min 55sec, and Mischief took second prize, beating Nereid and Haidee by 3 and 5min. On the 14th November, the race for a Silver Cup, presented by Mr Parbury, came off, in which the Mistral made her first appearance. Haidee received 19min start, but got so far behind during the race that she retired from the contest, and did not go over the course. On the 9th January the second-class yacht race of the R.S.Y.S. came off, and the Nereid, Peri, Haidee, Pert, and Ella started. In this event Haidee cut up very badly, having been beaten by 15min or so by Nereid. This was the last appearance of the Haidee; since when, as stated above, she has been sold. As will be seen, the Haidee has been a very fair performer, and perhaps in other hands she may be more fortunate than she has been whilst in the possession of Mr Wilshire.