

YACHT RACES—THE BANSHEE AND JANE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—As the race between the Banshee and Jane has not yet been settled in consequence of certain objections made by the owner or crew of the former, and as the arrangements made previous to the starting have not yet been made known, will you allow me to make a few remarks in the way of explanation.

Captain Quin was originally appointed Judge, Starter, and Stakeholder, and the time of starting was fixed for 2 p.m.; but it was afterwards arranged on behalf of both boats that the race should take place at 1 o'clock. As Captain Quin was not present at the last-mentioned hour, one of the owners of the Banshee, when going down the river in the steam-launch Margaret, authorized both crews to arrange among themselves, the result of which was that Mr. William Tait was mutually appointed Starter and Judge. Moreover, while the boats were on the way back, in Light's Passage, both crews agreed that it should be a race, however long it should take to finish. At this time the Banshee was ahead of the Jane. Had the Jane come in last there would have been no dispute; and any unprejudiced person may now see the unreasonableness of the objections adduced, viz.:—1st. That the Jane paddled with a paint tin. 2nd. That Captain Quin did not start the boats. 3rd. That the race was finished after sunset. The challenge was given and accepted on condition that the Banshee should have 10 days to put her in trim. After the expiration thereof, I wrote that I was ready to race according to agreement; but time was asked on the ground that the Banshee had met with an accident, and would not be ready for some days. After the expiration of the 10 days a lead keel was put on the Banshee, which was neither mentioned in the agreement nor correspondence; and as she had no lead keel previously, such an addition could not be required in consequence of an accident. I notice this to show that I made no objection to the new keel being put on contrary to the terms of race, and which, to say the least, would have given me the power of cancelling the agreement. Mr. W. Tait gave an order on Captain Quin, dated August 28, to pay the stakes to the Jane, as he had decided the race to be won by that boat. This order, when presented, was torn in pieces by Captain Quin, for what reason I am unable to say. As it happens, I copied the

I am unable to say. As it happens, I copied the said order in a letter-book, which can be produced if required. I am induced to write this letter in consequence of the report of the race, as well as the locals, which appeared in your paper; and I again beg to state that Captain Quin has never given me notice that the race was to be sailed over again.

I am, Sir, &c.,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

On behalf of Owner and Crew of the Jane.

[The above letter, like several others, has been in type for three or four days, but the larger demands upon our space have crowded it out.—
Ed.]

PIGS AND THISTLES.—With reference to his pigs and their willingness to eat thistles and their roots, as already referred to in our columns, Mr. James Barnes, of Willunga Hills, assures us that the animals were in excellent condition, and some of them so fat that they could hardly walk, yet they preferred thistles to boiled wheat and pollard. They ate them green, and almost entirely cleared his place, which six months ago was crowded with them.