



Our Coloured Supplement.

THE FIRST INTERCOLONIAL YACHT RACE.

FROM the old aquatic days—when such boats as the *Xarifa* and *Australian* were thought the *ne plus ultra* of the yacht-builder's craft—down to the present period, when the pastime of yachting (helped by the fostering care of such enthusiasts as Sir W. J. Clarke, Mr. Fairfax, Mr. Milson, Dr. MacKellar, and others) has become truly a national sport, no event has excited more general interest than the Intercolonial Yacht Race, which was so successfully sailed on the 15th January. For a very long time the inauguration of such a race was planned out, but until the proposal took definite shape and substance by Sir W. J. Clarke's initiative, the matter never went outside the region of mere talk. However, Sir William of that ilk, whose yachting proclivities are well known, offered a cup to be competed for by the yachtsmen of the various colonies; and, after the usual amount of paper preliminaries, it was arranged a yearly contest should take place; and that the first race should be in New South Wales. The dates fixed for the heats were, the 15th, 22nd, and 29th January; two events to be over a sea course, and one inside the harbour. The *Janet* (33 tons), did battle for Victoria, and the *Waitangi* (21 tons), and the *Magic* (25 tons), for New South Wales. Unfortunately, the other colonies (owing to a variety of circumstances) were unrepresented. Too much, however, could not be expected from an initial effort, and when the morning of the start arrived it was found that a large amount of public interest had been aroused in the event. The course was one that admitted of no objection or demur, being from Farm Cove, round a boat off the North Head of Botany Bay, and back to Fort Macquarie—a distance something under thirty miles. Fine weather and a fair breeze favored the contestants; and, at noon, when the steamer, *Inflexible*, fairly filled with interested spectators, arrived, the yachts were at the rendezvous ready to commence. The *Janet* started from "scratch," while the time allowances for the *Magic* and *Waitangi* were 4min. 13sec., and 6min. 59sec., respectively. From the start it was manifest that the *Waitangi* was in the hands of a skipper who knew how to feel the boat's pulse, and use her capabilities, and she was handled throughout in an almost faultless manner by Mr. Milson. The South Reef was cleared thus (the *Magic*, by the way, being very poorly handled here): *Waitangi*, 12h., 41min., 30sec.; *Magic*, 12h., 43min., 30sec.; and *Janet*, 12h., 44m. When Bondi Head was reached, the positions were unaltered; and the boat at Botany told no different tale. During the homeward run the wind, which had been blowing stiffly from the north-east, slackened, but after a time a strong southerly sprang up, and made merry work. But the relative positions of the yachts were still unaltered, for South Reef was reached by the *Waitangi* at 7h., 23m.; by the *Magic*, 7h., 25min.; and by the *Janet*, 8h., 5min. The *Waitangi* reached Fort Macquarie at 9h., 15min.

Magic, 7h., 25min. ; and by the *Janet*, 8h., 5min. The *Waitangi* reached Fort Macquarie about a minute and a half in advance of the *Magic* ; the *Janet* did not finish. The *Waitangi* therefore won, irrespective of her time allowance ; a result due hardly more to her superior flying capacity than to the masterly manner in which she was manipulated by her owner—Mr. A. G. Milson. The winner is a New Zealand boat, having been built by Niccol. She arrived here about 1878. Her present speed, however, is due to the fact that she has lately been extensively altered, from designs by Mr. Walter Reeks, of Pitt Street. Her dimensions are—Length, 49ft. 7in. ; beam, 10ft. 1in. ; and depth, 8ft. 6in. She has contested in more than 20 races, and won seven ; but, judging by her most recent achievements, she has many a victory in store. The sailing of the *Magic* was marked by several mistakes, and the *Janet* was remarkably unfortunate in breakages. Altogether, the race was a singularly interesting one, and has already borne excellent fruit. It is hardly likely that the fascinations of yachting will ever pall upon a community who have more or less of the old Viking tendencies engrained in them, especially when all facilities for the full indulgence of the delightful amusement are so accessible.



WAITANGI (20 1887)

JANET (20 1887)

MAGIC (20 1887)

RACE, JANUARY 15, 1887

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