

Aquatics.

YACHTING.

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

[By BOBSTAY.]

The 1894-95 yachting season will be formally opened this afternoon by the customary evolutions of the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron on the Port River. The function, though familiar, always proves popular. All yachts are to be under way and cruising above the Steamers' Wharf before 2.0. On the Commodore (Captain Creswell) hoisting the signal "Proceed" from the Magic the yachts will take up positions in pairs and proceed to below the North Arm, where they will be manoeuvred by signal. The club has chartered the tug Yatala, and a start will be made from MacLaren Wharf with patrons at 2.30. The following is a list of yachts which are expected to take part:—Mr. L. W. Bakewell's Pastime, Mr. A. P. Wyll's Alexa, Mr. A. Martin's Miranda, Mr. W. Fisher Beard's Solace, Vice-Commodore Fisher's Maggie, Mr. E. F. Bell's Shona, Mr. A. G. Rymill's Nyrocha, Mr. C. King's Leander, Mr. R. Cruickshank's Satanella, Mr. L. A. Dawkins's Doris, Captain Smith's Katie, Mr. G. Pedler's Waterlily, Mr. T. C. Whinnerah's Niola, Mr. E. Farrow's Niricha, Rear-Commodore Sanderson's Meralte, Mr. H. S. Swan's Macumba, Mr. E. D. Tassie's Dauntless, Captain Tulloch's Nellie, Mr. J. Williams's Niobe, Captain Simmonds's Sternbird, Mr. W. J. Vandenburg's Evander, Mr. P. A. Cheary's Iry.

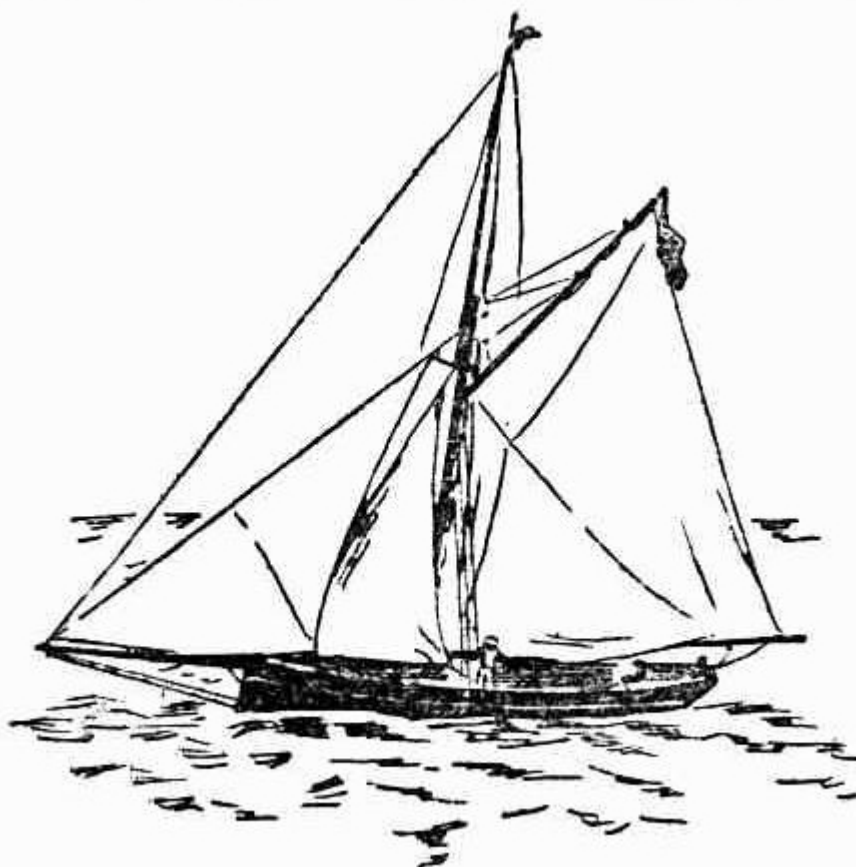
The season promises to be a successful and a pleasant one. Most of the old yachts will be in commission, and there will be at least one new craft. The boatbuilders at Birkenhead have lately been very busy in giving the yachts the usual overhaul preparatory to the opening of the season, but very few crafts have been altered in any way. The Nyrocha, however, has had her internal fittings altered in order to give more sleeping accommodation, while 18 cwt. of lead has been placed on her keel. Mr. McFarlane has built a centreboard sailing-boat for the Magic 15 ft. long and 4 ft. 9 in. beam. Among other boats which have been overhauled is the Leander, which was not out last season, but Mr. King will have her in the procession on Saturday. Rear-Commodore Fisher, though one of the owners of the Magic, has decided to place the Maggie in commission again. She was not out last season, so that the fleet of the squadron will regain two familiar and desirable boats this season. Mr. Burford's fine yacht Empress will be out, looking even better than ever; but owing to the death of the father of the owner she will not take part in to-day's procession. Flags were flying at half-mast on a number of yachts in the Port River on the day following the decease of the late Mr. W. H. Burford. Mr. Luxmoore's Winifreda is expected to be in commission again shortly, but at present she has not left her winter quarters at Port Vincent. The Ada, belonging to Mr. E. Woolnough, but which has been for sale, will not be seen at any rate during the earlier part of the season. Mr. Cruickshank has been very busy again with the Satanella, and after being deprived last season of sailing more than a few times in his newly fitted boat, he will have this season wishes for a double share of enjoyment. Other favourites will be seen this afternoon, though there will be some yachts absent, which, unless it can be avoided, is rather a pity, as the club desires to make a good show on opening day.

A new yacht this season is one turned out for Mr. F. V. Sanderson by Mr. Fraser, and which has been christened "Meralte." A great amount of interest has been evinced in this new craft, seeing that the design is quite new as far as this colony is concerned, although it has become very popular in England. Excellent work has been put into the vessel. It may be mentioned that "Meralte" is the native name for a canoe, which she resembles.

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Mr. Fraser has also been engaged on another boat for Mr. Elkin, of the Semaphore. It is intended to use her for pottering about in the Gulf and for fishing, and she is being built with an eye to comfort. She is 20 ft. over all, 7 ft. 3 in. beam, and 2 ft. 8 in. deep. From the dimensions it will be seen that she is of great beam with a long flat floor to give her stability. She will carry no ballast.

The committee of the squadron has issued its racing programme for the season. This contains six events, including the Kintore Cup. There are only two races over the inside course. In three of the races contested boats will be handicapped by the Commodore and two members selected by the committee. In the remainder there will be racing time allowance. Owing to a desire to provide a clubhouse on the property at Port Adelaide it has been decided to utilize the funds usually given in prizes. The racing is not likely to be affected, however, as about a dozen trophies have been presented.



THE MAGIC.

The Magic, a reproduction of which we give in this issue, is a yacht which was purchased in Sydney by a Syndicate of Port Adelaide yachtsmen, and brought round here last season. She is a twenty-three rater, and was built about twenty years ago in Sydney to the order of Mr Fairfax. Until the advent of the Era she was a crack Sydney yacht. Her dimensions are:—Length over all, 55 ft.; beam, 12 ft.; extreme depth, 9 ft. 3 in. The vessel is fitted with patent gear, and is very comfortably furnished below. Accommodation can be provided for twelve persons. The Magic was raced only once last season. The Commodore of the Yacht Squadron, Captain Creswell, will fly his flag from her this afternoon. The Vice-Commodore, Mr. W. Fisher, is one of the owners of the yacht.