

YACHTING NOTES.

(By "Boreas.")

Although the Christmas and New Year holidays were so arranged this season that ample opportunity was afforded yachtsmen for cruising, it cannot be said that they were eagerly availed of by yachtsmen generally. It is, perhaps, not necessary to seek far for the reason. Delightful as the sea is during a heat wave, and cool as may be the morning hours when old Neptune breathes his atmosphere of refreshing purity, a Christmas cruise in little or no wind, and under the penetrating scrutiny of Old Sol, is not altogether a success. Except in the case of a few enthusiasts, our yachtsmen nowadays appear to reserve all their forces of enjoyment for the lengthened annual cruise, taken at a period of the season most suited to the individual owner. At Christmas time Port Vincent is usually the rendezvous of quite a fleet of vessels, but during the recent holidays one observed only the *Miranda*, *Satanella*, *Utiakah*, *Mona*, *Carriena*, and *Nautilus* on the other side, while the party on the ketch *Adonis* helped to swell the number of cruising yachtsmen. The *Magic*, with Messrs. Horn, Belt, and others on board, was at Port Lincoln at latest advices. It is quite pleasing to find this excellent cutter once more in commission, and it is to be hoped she will not be taken out of work before she has had a flutter in one or two of the principal cup races of the season.

I have been favored with the following account of the cruise of the *Nautilus*, whose crew consisted of Messrs. P. Cruickshank, A. Mellor, Swann, H. Sandison, and A. Cornell:—"The hour of 4.30 on Saturday, December 23, saw the yacht *Nautilus* under weigh for Kangaroo Island. After a short halt at No. 5 beacon the light was left behind, and the yacht reached down to Caracalinga Head, and at sunset prayers were offered for a south-easterner. The crew were rewarded with a breeze off the cliffs, and with a triple reef in the passage was made in pretty good time. Here the wind left us with a heavy roll for company. A roll would have been preferable in the morning. The main and staysails booms were the only things that had a night out with their swell friend. They sang "What ho! she bumps" till daylight, and then a light air sprang up, and carried us over and into American River by 6 o'clock. We then turned in for a few hours. About half-past 12 three of the party went down to the point for a swim, and somehow managed to let the dingey get astray. The two remaining were obliged to carve their way through shoals of imaginary sharks to the shore, fully ten yards distant, to secure a flat iron, and after a pull of about a mile and a half the dear dingey was secured and towed back with the new to the ship. There are several places of interest in this part of the island, the principal being Sapphire Town, situated on the eastern shore of the river. It is a fine healthy spot for invalids, the streets being beautifully pegged out and very open. There is one peg a good deal larger than the others. It is one-cornered. This may be the hotel, but it may be just a peg. We sat down to Christmas dinner at 8 o'clock. It consisted of roast mutton, onions, and potatoes, in plenty, plum pudding, and whisky sauce, and Dragon ale. Everything eatable and drinkable disappeared, and after a few songs and patriotic toasts we turned in. A slight thunderstorm passed over us during the night, bringing rain, but the following day turned out beautifully cool, with a fresh sou'-wester. Apropos the storm, the ketch *Trix* has a lightning conductor leading from the masthead to convey the surplus electricity over the side. In the morning it was found that one of the innocents on board

electricity over the side. In the morning it was found that one of the innocents on board had passed the end of the conducting wire into the cabin. It is not likely the error will be recur. After fetching up under Ballast Head our good ship started for Edithburgh on Thursday, and had a very rough run across the Strait, with the wind westerly. We all got a thorough drenching, and were glad to bring up in smooth water under Sultana House. After a hearty meal went ashore into civilisation. Edithburgh at Christmas is full of life. The Euro and Warrooka brought hundreds of visitors for the day, while the hotels were full of others staying for a longer period. The *Nautilus* moved out from this delightful spot on Friday, at 3 o'clock, but the hearts of the crew were left behind, all having "gone under" to one charming representative of the fair sex, whom we were only allowed to gaze upon for 5 minutes. We sailed a sorrowful sail to Port Vincent, and there met the *Miranda*, *Satanella*, *Carriena*, and *Utiakah*. There is no hostility on the South Australian coast where yachtsmen are made more welcome than at that of Mr. and Mrs. F. Luxmore at Vincent. An ideal host and hostess, a good piano, good beer, and a place where they do not mind "yachting clothes"—what more could be wished for? Messrs. Dowling and Swann, of the *Satanella*, had their banjos, and considerably added to the amusement of a jolly evening spent at Luxmore's. The following day was taken up with impromptu duck hunts and other water sports suitable to the great heat. On New Year's Day a start was made at daybreak for Port Adelaide. What little wind there was at the start seemed to fade almost away after the beacon was passed, and the trip across resolved itself into a drift upon a sea of glass. With the temperature at 110 deg. in the cabin the sea was continually inviting us to drop in, but the presence of innumerable sharks rendered an affirmative R.S.V.P. undesirable. Eventually the river was reached, and in the passage up the river it seemed as if the ketches, tugs, and launches in creation were chasing us. In the light air that prevailed we could get out of nobody's way and nobody appeared to get out of ours. The *Nautilus* was, however, piloted safely to her moorings, and at a late hour on the first day of 1900 our Christmas trip terminated with expressions of mutual goodwill.

This afternoon the first race of the season at Holdfast Bay will be sailed over a course of six miles. The C class yachts will be engaged.