

YACHTING.

THE SEASON OF 1899.

Its Early Opening and Prospective Brilliance.

The Clubs of New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken and Staten Island.

OFFICERS AND REGULATIONS.

Reader, hast ever gone down to the sea in ships? Hath thy spirit ever stirred within thee at the recital of deeds of daring on the waste of waters, or in justice to the memory of the late Richard Swiveler, on the "briny" hath the important and yet undecided question regarding "inflating" and "bearing-away," which many a time agitates yachting circles to their centres, any charms for thee? Both the flapping of canvas in the breeze awaken, so say I, a responsive flapping within thy breast! To sum up, hast ever sailed in a race? Hast ever arrayed thy many form in any of the striking but pleasing variety of costumes which crews of yachting vessels are accustomed to affect? Many of the HERALD readers to these interrogatories must certainly reply in the negative; but on the other hand there are many others to whom they will cause visions to arise in their "mind's eye" of numerous stately yachts, in which they had borne themselves well; of many prizes snatched from an adversary's grasp by sheer pluck and daring; of many a sailing master glancing back over his shoulder and pouring forth the words of his own imprecations, whispered, indeed, but not on that account less appalling, on the head of his dearest friend, the commander of the next yacht, which had been slowly creeping up on his weather quarter; of many an anxious five minutes, when, their vessels having rounded the flagpole, they have stood, with hand, as yet uncertain if the race be won, or whether, even at the last second they may not be deprived of expected laurels; with one eye fixed on a dreaded adversary, which seems to move very much faster than before, the other on the dial plate of the timepiece, execrating the hour of seconds; and then, in fine, of many a ringing cheer in triumphant response to the guns announcing their hard earned success. Then, to these, the right hand of fellowship is extended, and it is more than appropriate a pipe should be smoked in spirit together as the jottings of yachting therewith are kindly skimmed over at this, the commencement of the season of 1899.

Spring is here at last. True, there has been but little thus far to assure one of the fact save the cutting of the season. Winter, not satisfied with ending more harsh and disagreeable than for many years in its latter days, seemed inclined to be unreasonably persistent, evincing an uncalled for lingering desire, like the old Man of the Mountain, to take up a tantalizing position on the back of spring which he would not vacate. It did not matter much that spring struggled for relief, as she was borne down by the heavy load. Yet with all his persistence, all his sullen moods and wild storms, winter is now granting a long respite from his voracious gulf, yielding to green fields and a velvety turf that will spread itself carpet-wise over the unbroken ground. There are certain manifest indications to establish this, and, moreover, others, to wit, that the days of balmy sunshine and pleasant wafting breezes are ahead, by the activity displayed in and around the metropolises in yachting circles. Whatever may have been the success of former seasons, the brilliancy of this year, in this exhilarating pastime; whatever have been the scenes of interest incident to exciting regattas, lengthened cruises along the coast, or maid races on the watery arena of the harbor, of the several sister clubs, from the parent yachting association to the smallest, these now appear to be in the vanguard of the season, marking their progress in every respect, but it may be a new era in yachting, and, perhaps, establish a fact that American yachts are masters of the sea, and that they will be so who are at home in the water, and who are ready to try their craft with the crack boats of foreign ports as to contend with and tried friends.

The most pains will be taken to make everything pleasant for the members at their regattas, as the delectable food and the excellent accommodations will be ample in size and accommodations to make hundred of guests comfortable. Music will be furnished, and, if desirable that they should be made earlier, that errors of omission should not become a reproach to the season. The utmost pains will be taken to make everything pleasant for the members at their regattas, as the delectable food and the excellent accommodations will be ample in size and accommodations to make hundred of guests comfortable. Music will be furnished, and, if desirable that they should be made earlier, that errors of omission should not become a reproach to the season. The utmost pains will be taken to make everything pleasant for the members at their regattas, as the delectable food and the excellent accommodations will be ample in size and accommodations to make hundred of guests comfortable. Music will be furnished, and, if desirable that they should be made earlier, that errors of omission should not become a reproach to the season.

The increased accommodations provided by the clubs for the season of 1899 are of a character which the clubs' rapid and continual progression demanded, are now commensurate with its position, and it is a spot where the surroundings are such that the members may enjoy the most comfortable and enjoyable of all the pleasures of the sea. The officers of the club for the ensuing year are: Commodore—Henry G. Stebbins, Jr. Vice Commodore—James T. Bennett, Jr. Secretary—Hamilton Root. Treasurer—Robert S. Hunt. The Commodore Club of this association, pretty located on a fine anchorage ground at the head of Governors Bay, Brooklyn, will be ready to receive the most pleasant and comfortable of all the pleasures of the sea. The officers of the club for the ensuing year are: Commodore—Henry G. Stebbins, Jr. Vice Commodore—James T. Bennett, Jr. Secretary—Hamilton Root. Treasurer—Robert S. Hunt.

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The New York Yacht Club. The organization of this association in the year 1844, having for its grand object the systematic fostering of the noble art of yachting, and the development of that usefulness which it is in many ways susceptible, caused the recreation to receive an impetus that has never deserted it. Yachting then suddenly became a popular amusement, the feet-winged craft of all manner of designs springing into existence, the offspring of much thought and reflection almost simultaneously in nearly every section of the Union where water privileges are enjoyed. Since that period the onward career of the club has been wonderful, marked as it is with increased and diverse greatness in number and character of boats, number of members and character of surroundings. Improvements in the size and model of vessels have been made without number, and what was simply insignificant in its commencement is now simply glorious in all its greatness and success. The old regatta course has long since been abandoned, and instead of skimming over the placid waters of the North river and about the harbor, the regatta course is now a few miles from the city, and the regatta course is now a few miles from the city, and the regatta course is now a few miles from the city.

The Hoboken Yacht Club. This club was organized in September, 1856, and next to the oldest organization of the kind in the country. It has always maintained a leading position as an aquatic association, and its members individually have been noted for the zeal and spirit with which they have entered into all the sports and pastimes of yachting. The headquarters of the club are located at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, where its neat and substantial club house is situated. The growth of the club has been very much impeded for the last few years by the increasing demands of commerce, which has been gradually destroying its anchorage grounds, which are situated directly in front of the club house.

The Jersey City Yacht Club. With the many large clubs devoted to aquatic pleasures in the Hudson river metropolis, and the natural inclination for its votaries to seek the more extensive and prosperous, it can be held that this lively association has been very successful. Its members love the regal amusement of yachting, and in their many annual regattas, cruises, and maid races since their organization in the year 1858, they have evinced the courage that makes the true sailor when he braves the teeth of a storm, and the confidence that has made them equally (or nearly so) famous with their older salt water brethren. The members this year have agreed to make it a season of prominence in their favorite pastime, and already preparations are in progress that denote activity and pleasant success. The club have experienced one drawback—that they have been unable to remove their house from outside of the Central Railroad bridge, because the many improvements there were of a nature to limit the club's natural inclination for a more extensive and prosperous, it can be held that this lively association has been very successful.

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