

ing. He was challenged by Pearce, a professional waterman, to row over the Championship course on the Parana River, at Sydney, for £100 a side. The innovation consisted in the stipulation that the race should be contested in ordinary waterman's skiffs. In the clumsy craft he found his skill at fault, and after rowing a plucky race under adverse circumstances he had to submit to defeat. This encounter took place in March, and Laycock only fulfilled one other professional engagement prior to his present visit to the old country. The date of this event was May 20, and the scene Melbourne. The race was the inauguration of a Sculling Championship of Victoria, and was got up by the Victoria Rowing Association. The prize was a £50 challenge cup and a sum of money. The trophy had to be won thrice in succession, being held for two years against all comers. Six of the best scullers in the colony entered for the event, and Laycock's opponents were S. Edwards, W. Greenland; J. Miller, C. Messenger, and R. Edwards. Great interest was taken in this contest, and every yard of vantage ground was occupied by ardent spectators. The struggle, nevertheless, was considered such a certainty for the Sydney representative (Laycock), that odds of 3 to 1 offered on him went almost begging. A number of steamers followed the race, which was started by Mr. A. D. Michie. The men were sent off to a capital even beginning, S. Edwards at once cutting out the work, Messenger going on second. Half a mile from the outset R. Edwards had taken the front place, then came S. Edwards, and Messenger and Laycock next, about five lengths behind the leader. The last named began to draw up rapidly. S. Edwards, keeping in Laycock's water, tried to shut the latter out, and a bad foul occurred, which nearly settled Laycock's chance. He got away at length, having lost fifty yards. Once more the Sydney sculler began to close up the gap, and rounding the long bend he passed Messenger and quickly collared R. Edwards. A good race ensued for some distance, followed by a series of fouls, after which Laycock headed R. Edwards, and passed the judge a winner by a length. Messenger did not finish, and none of the others were placed.

Soon after Laycock sailed for England, and lost no time in arranging several races over the Thames Championship Course, from Putney to Mortlake. October 5, he easily beat T. Blackman; November 2, he conquered G. H. Hosmer with equal ease; November 6, he fairly romped away from J. H. Riley, and November 13 he received forfeit from J. Hawdon, with whom he had arranged his fourth match on English waters.

Laycock is a more compactly-built man than Trickett. He has a fine, fair-bearded Saxon face, bearing on it the stamp of courage and determination. When in his ordinary attire he has by no means so neat an appearance as his rival. He is careless of his looks, and is so deliberate in his movements that one on cursorily meeting him would not be inclined to credit him with the vigor and energy he undeniably possesses. It is only when seen in his jersey, ready for a row, that his splendid proportions become strikingly apparent. In the words of one of his most intimate friends, he "only wakes up when he gets into his boat."