

## YACHTING NOT UNMIXED PLEASURE.

Experiences Possess None of the Charms So Often Painted.

One commonly thinks of yachting as the most delightful of summer pastimes, and the very word calls up visions of a "wet deck," and a flowing sea, and a wind that blows fast, and whistlings through the rigging, blue sky, white caps, driving clouds and all that sort of thing, to say nothing of the possibilities of delightful companionship and the delicious unconventionalality of meeting one's fellow men and women with all the formality and restraints of on shore life thrown off; no making talk or anything of that kind, but knocking about carelessly and easily in channel suits and having "a real good time." Again, racing, with its excitements, and cruising, with all the possibilities of adventure. Such is the popular and accepted view of yachting, but there is another and gloomy side to the picture which the writer, who is sometimes inclined to growl, can set forth clearly in three distinct statements, with an open challenge to contradiction—first, that to "go and take a sail" in a small boat belonging to some one else and to sail aimlessly about on the open lake is "an awful bore"; secondly, that to go as "amateur crew" on a rowing yacht is not only a bore, but a hardship, and lastly, that cruising is a lottery absolutely dependent on the weather. Fogs, calms, storms and head winds are quite as usual as free winds and sunshine.

Observe that nothing has been said about seasickness, which makes yachting impossible to so many.

There is no place on earth where the sun can strike down out of the sky and bleach and blister and sizzle as it can upon a yacht's deck. There is no place that can be hotter or more stuffy or more uncomfortable than a yacht's cabin on a hot day, when there is no wind or when the wind is dead aft, and when it is rough, and the water is diving across the yacht's deck in a sheet of white foam, and the crew are all huddled behind the shrouds, into which old oilskins have been stuffed to make a screen, and the man at the wheel has lifelines running from the main sheet to the main shrouds on either side of him to keep him from being washed overboard, and the fire is out in the galley, and the cook has been scalded by the soup stock jumping out of the boiler, and the barometer is dropping like mad, and the skylight leaks so that every wave which comes aboard sends bucketfuls of swash down into the cabin, and when every now and then a wave comes aboard and pounds down on her deck like a load of pig iron, and those below are shaken about like corn in a popper, and those on deck simply hold on and duck their heads—when such is the condition of affairs, yachting would not be considered a pastime.

The delights of being "amateur crew" can be briefly summed up. They consist in lying flat on your face either in a hot sun or a pouring rain, and if you turn over having the owner shout at you: "Keep still! Do you think that you're a wild elephant? You jarred her all over that time." Furthermore, all yachts are not rigged alike, and if the amateur crew is told at a critical point in the race—say just before rounding the leeward mark—to let go the spinnaker halyards and let the balloon jib halyards go instead, so that the whole sail goes over to leeward, the remarks which will be made to him will be "unfit for publication."

## An Image of Gold.

Two miles out from Kamakura and about twenty miles from Yokohama, Japan, on a terrace, near the temple of Kamakura, sits

the most gigantic idol, or heathen god, now known to exist. This immense brazen image of a deity was built or made during the reign of Shomu, who was forty sixth in the present line of Emperors, and died in the year 748 A.D. This idol, which has been prayed to daily for more than 1,200 years by the crowd of devotees that hourly cluster about it, is still in perfect repair, and justly reckoned as one of the greatest wonders in the Orient. Frank Dobbins, who visited Dia-Butsu the same summer that the writer worshipped (?) at the shrine, and has given the best description of the god that has yet been written, says:

"The dimensions of the god are truly colossal. His height from the base of the lotus flower, upon which he sits, to the top of his head is 83½ feet; and above this rises an aureole 14 feet wide, and above which again rises for several feet the flame-like glory which encloses or arches in the whole figure. The face proper is 15 feet long; its width 9½ feet. The eyes are 3 feet 9 inches long from corner to corner; the eyebrows 5½ feet, and the ears 8½ feet. The chest is 20 feet in depth, and the middle finger is exactly 5 feet long. Around the sides, shoulders and head of the god, in front of the aureole, are 16 figures, each in a sitting posture, and each 8 feet in height. The leaves of the immense lotus, upon which the god sits, are each 10 feet long and 6 feet wide, there being 56 of them in the cluster. The casting must have been wonderfully well executed, although the fineness of the leaf edges and other parts which I was able to examine, and the elaborate engravings which can still be traced upon the lotus flower itself in the uninjured parts, leave no doubt that the founder's art was supplemented here and there by artists with file and graver. The right hand is open and raised upward; the left rests upon the lap."

The image weighs about 450 tons, and is made of a combination of gold, tin, copper and mercury in these proportions:

	Pounds.
Gold.....	500
Tin.....	16,837
Mercury.....	1,954
Copper.....	986,080

Total.....1,005,361

All other existing colossal images are pigmies compared with Dia-Butsu, whose hard visaged face has looked down on the meaningless rites of heathen idolaters for more than 1,200 years.

## WM. NEAL,

## Chimney Sweeping.

Grates Set and Defective Flues Fixed, Etc.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

Address: 33 QUADRA ST.

## J. MANTON,

Boots and Shoes Repaired on the shortest notice.

97 YATES STREET.

W. G. FURNIVAL,  
UPHOLSTERER.

Carpets cleaned, altered and relaid.

Lace Curtains and Blankets a specialty.

DUCK BUILDING, 68 BROAD ST., TEL. 440.

## Beautiful Flowers.

MAILED FREE

For only \$1.00.

10,000 Choice Flower Seeds in 25 separate varieties, including Pansies, Asters, Sweet Peas, Mignonette, Stocks, Candytuft, Phlox Drummondii, Lobelia, etc.

4,000, in 12 choice varieties, 50cts.

A large assortment of choice vegetable seeds always in stock by

G. A. McTavish,

NURSEYMAN AND SEEDSMAN.

Branch Store: 51 Gov't St. 9 Park Road, Telephone 578. Victoria.

## MISS COFFEY,

Dress and Mantle Maker

15 BROAD ST.

Late Miss Hinde.



## JAMES MORRISON,

Ship-Smith,

Engine-Smith, Lock-Smith.

14 YATES ST., VICTORIA, B. C.

Scales repaired and adjusted, bought and sold. Weights supplied. Clothes Wringers repaired with new rollers, also bought and sold. Lawn Mowers and jobbing work of every description. Orders Promptly Attended To.

## A GRAND

## Masquerade Ball

Will be given at the

Assembly Rooms, Fort Street,

By the

MYOSOTIS CLUB,

On

Tuesday, March 27th,

DANCERS AND SPECTATORS:

Gentlemen, \$1.00. Ladies, 50cts. (including supper.)

Masks and Fancy Dress not compulsory.

Prof. Haynes' Orchestra.

J. Davidson, Floor Manager. The ladies of the club provide the supper.

Grand March, 9 p.m. Prizes will be given to the Best Dressed lady and gentleman and the two best comic characters.

Prizes on exhibition at T. N. Hibben & Co's.

Imperial Midgets,  
Imperial Dots,  
Imperial Crayons,

See specimens at THE  
IMPERIAL STUDIO.  
76 Yates Street.

E. J. EYRES, Prop.