

YACHTING.

By F. W. COOMBS (The Reefer).

WHETHER or not the old Phœnicians, wonderful mariners that they were, ever indulged in the pastime of yachting is not recorded, although it is extremely probable that this was the case with these lovers of the sea. Nor can there be much doubt but that the Greeks also

picturesque craft turned out by the Venetians and Genoese, and on his return to England is recorded to have built the first yacht. This progenitor of the present enormous fleet of pleasure craft was christened the *Disdain*, and is described as a handsome little vessel, although her measurements, viz., twenty-eight



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HOME BAY—A FAVOURITE RENDEZVOUS.

Photo.

gave considerable time to the sport, judging by the spirited accounts which have reached us from those distant centuries of the great trireme races. Long years after, when an Englishman, named Pett, visited the Mediterranean, the scene of these old time encounters, he paid great attention to the

feet long by twelve feet beam, strike us moderns as rather odd.

Probably the first yacht race in England, certainly the first of which we have any record, was on October 1st, 1661, when Charles II. sailed off a match against his brother, the Duke of York. This was over