

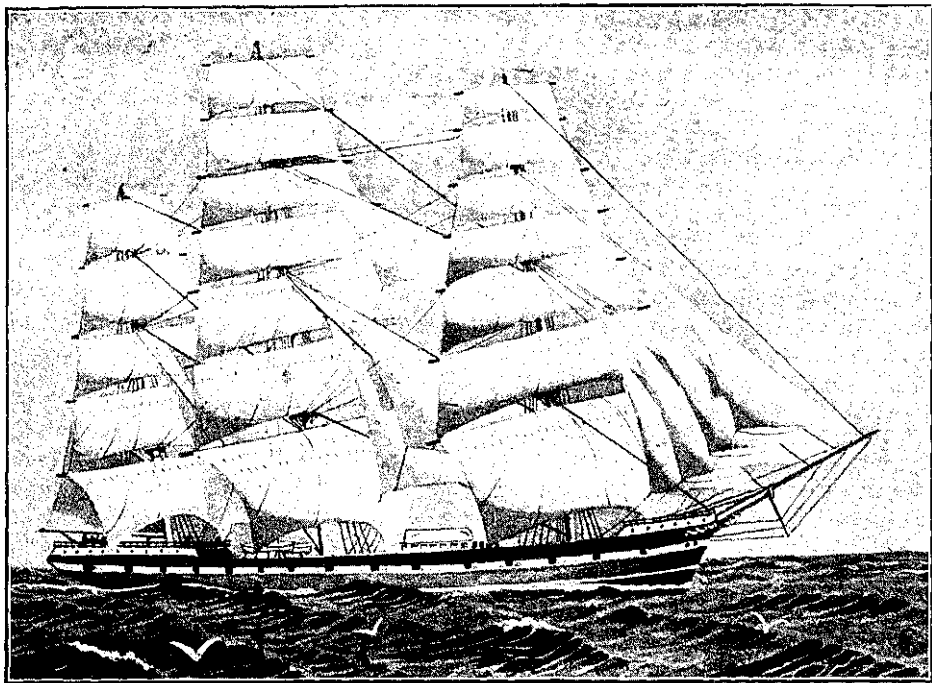
being found in the sailing frigate of the early part of the century, such for instance as the "Saucy Arethusa." Even here Britishers had much to learn from their French and American rivals, the warships of these countries being always considerably in advance in the matter of beauty of modelling.

Before the era of steamers some very fine ships were engaged in the tea trade with China, and here great inducement was offered to build ships for speed. Many were the races Home with the new season's teas, for the first ship in meant a fortune to the lucky owners. The "Lord of the Isles," the "Ariel," the "Sovereign of the Seas" and a host of others were engaged in the trade, and some wonderful passages were

The seamen in those days of keen rivalry must indeed have been kept busy, but then there were always plenty of men shipped to do the work, and there were none of the skeleton crews, which is the rule rather than the exception nowadays.

The wool trade with Australia naturally brought about the advent of some speedy vessels into the waters of the Pacific. Noted among these were the Aberdeen clippers, which carried off most of the honours.

Old Melbourne residents will tell you of the intense excitement which prevailed in 1860 when the good ship "Thermopylæ" was signalled off Port Phillip, sixty days out from the Old Country, for at that time the arrival of a ship from the Old Land was something of an event. People refused to



A WOOL CLIPPER.

made. The skippers of those days were never afraid to "carry on," and the amount of canvas they packed on to their ships was simply prodigious. A picture of the crack tea clipper "Ariel" shows her, not only under all plain sail, but with studding sails, ruffers, skysails, moonrakers, and watersails.

believe it possible that the clipper could have made the voyage in such phenomenal time. When it was seen to be in reality the beautiful green-hulled ship, the utmost enthusiasm was shown, the skipper coming in for the heartiest congratulations. That record established forty years ago stands good