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THE second eight oar race between crews representing Australian Universities was rowed on Saturday on the Port River over a course of two and a half miles. From a variety of causes Sydney was not represented, and the issue was left to the Universities of Adelaide and Melbourne. The first race was rowed last year on the Yarra, and it is understood that an agreement was then arrived at that the next contest would be on the Parramatta, and the third on the Port River. In default of a Sydney crew nothing was to be gained by the home crew and that of our immediate neighbors travelling to New South Wales, and accordingly the venue was changed to South Australian waters. The Inter-University boat race may now be regarded as one of the regular annual fixtures of the aquatic calendar, and it is to be hoped that it may before long become the principal boat race of the year. The Port River is a fine broad sheet of water for an eight-oar race, affording unlimited room, with no great difficulties in the way of steering, and every advantage for following and witnessing a race. The drawback is that in the summer season, which owing to the length of the days is the most convenient for training, high winds prevail and often raise a sea which militates against rowing. We believe that, as a matter of fact, the water is in the best condition from an oarsman's point of view in winter and early spring, but at that period of the year the days are too short to allow time for rowing by daylight after ordinary working hours.

On the occasion of the three previous eight-oar races both wind and water were the reverse of favorable, and a good deal of anxiety was felt lest Saturday's race should be marred by high wind and lumpy water. The wind was blowing down

stream, but it was nothing more than moderate, while it was ascertained that the tide would not begin to ebb before half-past 5 o'clock. It is a pretty well recognised rule that important races should be rowed with the tide, or at least at slack water, and not against a tide which has begun to ebb before the boats have started. It was expected that the two eights could be got to the starting post and dispatched on their journey by a quarter to 5 o'clock, in which case the race would be over and the boats back in their boathouse before the tide began to ebb. Under a misapprehension that the tide would be running down before the boats started a suggestion was made on the part of the gentleman in charge of the Melbourne eight that the race should be rowed downstream. Rowing men are agreed that it is far more difficult to row against an ebb than on a tide, as form is influenced quite as much as labor is increased. But enough has been said to show that in this instance the crews had no interest in reversing the course, while to have done so within an hour of the race, and with no possibility of making public such a departure from the advertised arrangement, would have caused universal dissatisfaction. One effect would have been that the crowds of people assembled on the wharfs and shores of the river to see the finish where it was advertised to take place would have seen nothing but the start. However, as it turned out, with the exception of a nasty squall of rain just before the race, matters were by no means bad. The crews were dispatched to a capital start in smooth water, and on no part of the journey up encountered anything like the weather their predecessors in the three preceding years met with, and whatever else may

have influenced the issue of the race wind and tide had no part or lot in it. As everybody knows the Adelaide University boat won. Fortunately there was no occasion for the intervention of the umpire, though at one period of the race a determined spurt on the part of the Melbourne crew, had it been accompanied simultaneously by any contretemps in the leading boat, might have resulted in a foul which would have ended the race then and there, and given it to the visitors. But, presumably, so old a general as the stroke of the home crew knew what he could risk, and he undoubtedly gained a half length by taking their water at that critical time. The race it seems was never in doubt from the first stroke, and the best crew undoubtedly won. The form of the Adelaide crew, to use an expression of which we hear so much from rowing men, was superior to that of the losers in all those essentials requisite to get pace out of a racing boat. For this they must be in the main indebted to the captain of their club, whose qualifications as a rowing mentor are second to none. That they have nothing further to learn in the art of rowing, however, is an idea which it may be taken for granted neither he nor his eight would cherish.

The visitors had the advantage of being coached by a gentleman whose antecedents as an oarsman and as a rowing authority in Victoria must have inspired them with the most perfect confidence in his judgment and capacity. If they did not exhibit that correct rowing which we have been accustomed to associate with first-class Victorian crews, they won general respect for keeping up a gallant fight to the last under circumstances which tend so often to make crews go to pieces: It is claimed for rowing that above all other athletic sports it exacts and calls into play and strengthens the highest qualities of character, and those which best stand the test of the battle of life. The discipline which teaches a man or boy to hold his tongue, to obey without questioning, to keep his eyes in the boat, to stick to his oar without flinching or shirking, to pull through the strife, working on manfully to the last, till he hears the cry "Easy all," for a goal he cannot see, is one which must stamp the pursuit that demands it as above all others. The great race which stands at the head of all contests in the world has on its roll of fame names identified with a life of labor, of self-sacrifice, of self-denial in the mission field, the fever hospital, the beleaguered fort, the haunts of misery and poverty. And one and all, whether a Selwyn, a Jacobson, or a Polehampton, point to their University eight as the school where they learned to deny themselves. The best thing that can be wished for those who represent their universities in this intercolonial boat race is that they may not only reproduce on the river the form of the great masters of the art of the older foundations, but that they may emulate their deeds in the more important battle of life.
