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latter part of the comedy, seemed even  
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### "The Rivals" at the Murray Hill.

The stock company at the Murray Hill Theatre opened the week last night with "The Rivals." The spirit with which the errors of Mrs. Malaprop were received indicate that there is still in New York a hearing for something else than the "musical comedy" so much in vogue. What the audience lacked in size it made up in the noise of laughter and applause. George Henry Trader, as Bob Acres; Walter Allen, as Sir Lucius O'Trigger; Henry V. Donnelly, as Sir Anthony Absolute; Frances Starr, as Lydia Languish; Isabel O'Madigan, as Mrs. Malaprop; Sheldon Lewis, as Captain Absolute, and Edward Morrison, as Faulkland, made up a satisfactory cast.

### NEWS OF THE PLAYERS.

The first production of Pain's fireworks spectacle, "Last Days of Pompeii," this season will be given at Manhattan Beach next Saturday evening in honor of the Liederkrantz Society of New York. The members of the organization, numbering more than 2,000, will attend the performance in a body at the close of their convention of that date. The regular opening of Pain's season will take place Wednesday, June 24.

Charles Kent, who is spending the Summer on Prince Edward Island, has been engaged to appear in Mrs. Fiske's company next season.

A shipment of giant crocodiles just received from South America for the Aquarium at Sea Beach Palace is the newest addition to the interests of Bostock's Arena at Coney Island.

A report to the effect that the Thalia Theatre was to be torn down was circulated yesterday, but the owner of the building says there is no truth in it and that it has been leased for another year to the present manager.

Klaw & Erlanger notified Fred Bert, William A. Brady's representative, yesterday that Grace George would have to fill all her road engagements. This will keep Miss George from remaining here through the Winter, as the road tour is to begin Nov. 16 at Philadelphia. She will appear in New York Oct. 5 in "Pretty Peggy."

A dispatch was received from Charles Frohman last night requesting Andrew Mack to sail for England on the first steamer he could catch. Mr. Frohman's cable had its customary business, and Mr. Mack will not be apprised of the full meaning of the summons until he reaches London. He will sail on the New York tomorrow.

A dinner was given last evening in the Blue Room of the Hotel Marie Antoinette by Albert R. Keen to Mrs. Leslie Carter.

qualified to perform their work not only creditably but admirably. The agent, Mr. Morris, produced an excellent impression by his opening address. When it is read by the American public it will be considered a masterpiece, strong, considerate, friendly, and eloquent."

### GERMAN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

#### Carl Schurz Says That He Is Strongly in Favor of Instruction in That Language.

Carl Schurz has sent the following letter to the editor of the Staats-Zeitung:

Sir: I am in receipt of your dispatch, but cannot take part in your controversy with Dr. Maxwell because I have not followed the matter closely enough to be conversant with the details. In regard to the question, whether German should be taught in the public schools, I can say that I have always been strongly in favor of it. I only ask that it is done in a way which will be to the children of real value and arouse in them an interest for the language, but not in a way which tends to make this branch of instruction burdensome and disagreeable to the pupils. Nothing can do more to widen the horizon of a person than the knowledge of more than one language. The knowledge of German in addition to English is in this respect for many reasons by far the most valuable. The objection that the teaching of German together with that of English would unfavorably influence the patriotism of our children is nonsense pure and simple and shocking to every intelligent mind, and it really does not deserve serious consideration.

In conclusion I can only express the hope that the instruction in the German language will be not only retained in the public schools of New York for the sake of appearance, but that it will be so arranged as to be of real benefit.

CARL SCHURZ.

### PEONAGE IN ALABAMA.

#### Judge Jones, in United States Court, Declares the Contract Labor Violates the Federal Constitution.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 15.—Judge Thomas G. Jones, in the United States Court here to-day, delivered a special charge to the Grand Jury investigating the peonage cases. He said these cases were by no means general, but confined to two or three counties, and directed indictments in all cases where the law had been violated.

In response to a request of the jury for a construction of the Alabama statute known as the Seymour contract law, which permits persons to confess judgment for costs against persons convicted of misdemeanors and requires such persons so convicted to work out their fines, the court held the statute to be a violation of the Federal Constitution in that it was a civil contract, and no one could be imprisoned for debt or forced to serve a master to pay such debt.

Judge Jones held that all connected with such conviction and hire of such convict except the committing Magistrate are liable to indictment under the Federal statutes.

#### French Admiral Visits the Mayor.

Admiral Count Rivet, commander of the North Atlantic Squadron of the French Navy, called on Mayor Lov yesterday to pay his respects. He is now in this port with his flagship, the Tage. On his visit

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