

## WOULD PUT STOP TO "VOCAL PIRACY"

### Percy Rector Stephens Protests Against Unjust Claims of Some Teachers

"VOCAL piracy" is the term applied by Percy Rector Stephens, the New York teacher of singing, to the practice of some instructors who claim as products of their studios singers who obtained their best training from other teachers.

To a representative of MUSICAL AMERICA Mr. Stephens expressed himself on this subject the other day.

"I have hesitated about rushing into print in this connection," he declared, "but now I feel that it is not only a duty which I owe to myself but to other teachers placed under similar circumstances. The particular case I have in mind is that of Enrico Aresoni, the tenor, who has been engaged to sing with the Chicago Opera Company next season. In MUSICAL AMERICA, last week another teacher takes credit for his instruction. The history of Mr. Aresoni's vocal studies makes this claim so unjust that I feel obliged to protest.

"Mr. Aresoni left the Boston Opera Company during the season 1912-13 owing to the condition of his voice due to the overwork to which he was subjected. He studied with me from January 20, 1913, until the Summer, when he was in condition to take an engagement for the Summer months. On his return he had a lesson with me every day until he went West on a concert tour. He has not been in New York since, as several letters which I have here will show.



Percy Rector Stephens (center) with Enrico Aresoni (left) and Oreste Veselsa at Atlantic City

"I have also in my possession letters from Mr. Aresoni to prove that had it not been for the help he received vocally while studying with me, he could not have accepted the many concert engagements he has sung in the last season and consequently the Chicago Opera Company engagement would not have been offered him."