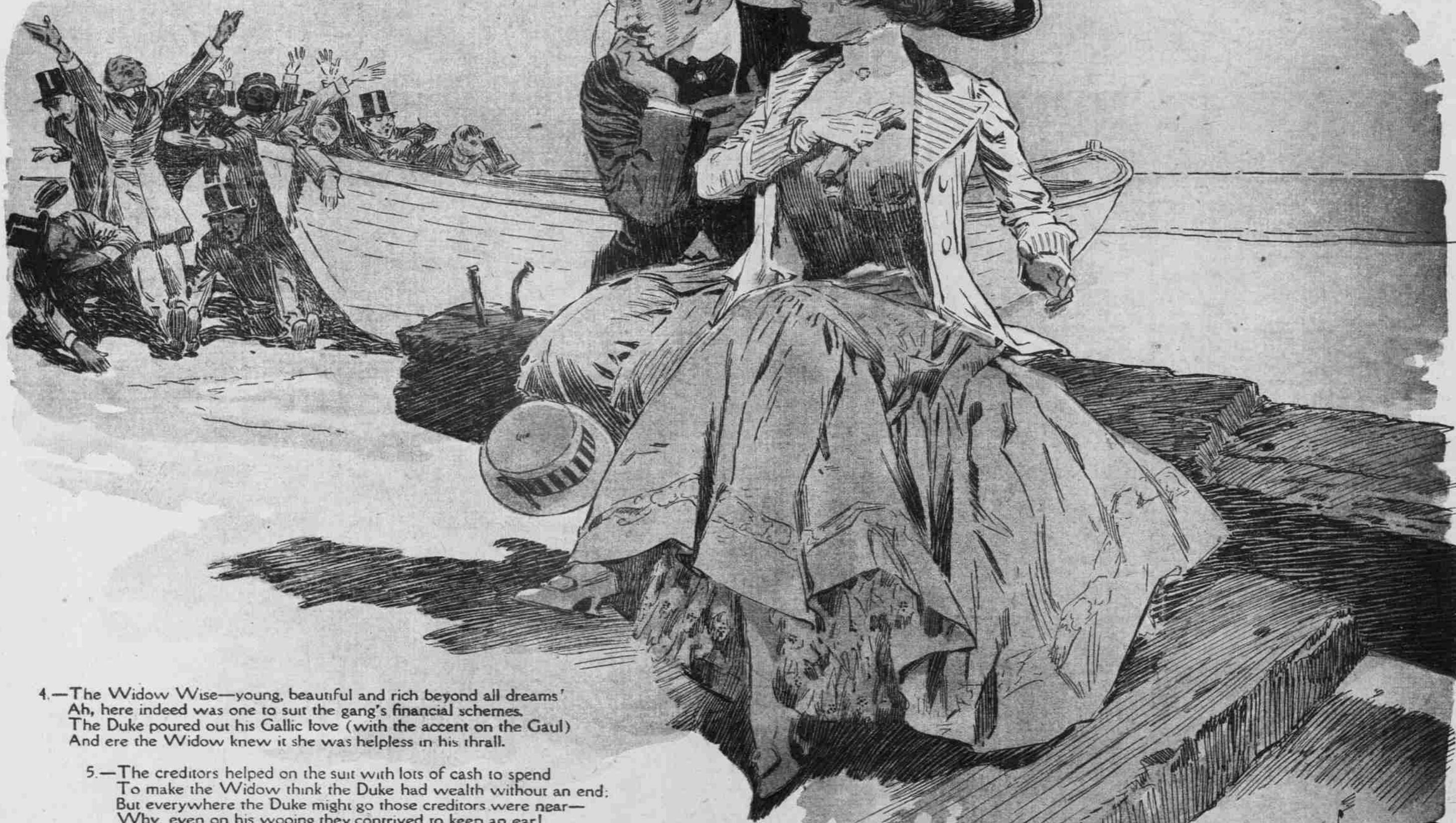


# THE WIDOW WISE

Verses by  
Paul West

Drawings by W. H. Loomis.

- 1.—In sunny France there lived a man of noble blood and blue,  
The Duke De Roquefort Pomme-de-Terre de Bon-Bon Pas-de-Tout;  
His title was an ancient one, his name was great, and yet  
The Duke was most unhappy, for the Duke was deep in debt
- 2.—At last his hungry creditors, who feared he'd never pay,  
Called on the harassed Duke en masse to say they'd found a way  
To clear the skies for him and them. Their plan was this, they said:—  
To take him to America, an heiress there to wed
- 3.—And so across the ocean sped the Duke De Pas-de-Tout,  
And on the ship that carried him his creditors went too.  
They trailed him when he landed, and they scarcely closed their eyes  
Until the day, the lucky day, he met the Widow Wise.



- 4.—The Widow Wise—young, beautiful and rich beyond all dreams  
Ah, here indeed was one to suit the gang's financial schemes.  
The Duke poured out his Gallic love (with the accent on the Gaul)  
And ere the Widow knew it she was helpless in his thrall.
- 5.—The creditors helped on the suit with lots of cash to spend  
To make the Widow think the Duke had wealth without an end;  
But everywhere the Duke might go those creditors were near—  
Why, even on his wooing they contrived to keep an ear!
- 6.—At last one night in balmy June, beneath the star-lit skies,  
There strolled upon the wave-kissed sand the Duke and Widow Wise.  
He rhapsodized of his estates—"All yours when we are wed!"  
And at his words a strange idea popped in the Widow's head.
- 7.—Said she, "Dear Duke, your wealth is vast and my poor horde so small,  
That we, of course, shall never need my 'Widow's Mite' at all;  
So I've resolved to take my gold and give it all away  
To found a home for widows lone upon our wedding day!"

- 8.—She heard a scream: she looked around, and on the beach espied  
The noble Duke's poor creditors, who'd fainted side by side,  
As for the Duke—the Duke had fled! She gasped in blank surprise.  
"I must be Mrs. Easy Mark!" exclaimed the Widow-Wise.