



THE WIDOW WISE

Verses by Paul West • Drawings by W. H. Loomis

- 1.—Said Sally Brown to Widow Wise, "Dear girl, it's just a crime
You haven't picked a husband yet. You're wasting precious time!"
"Alas! my dear," the Widow sighed, "there isn't one who'll do!"
"You're wrong," cried Sally, "and I know the very one for you!"
- 2.—"Young Richley Welloff Gold—a swell—fine fam'ly—and I hear
They'll have the cottage next to ours at Sunnyview this year.
Come down; I'll have you meet him, and I'm sure you'll be impressed."
"All right," the Widow said, "but oh! he'll be just like the rest."
- 3.—The Browns had quite a pretty place, a lawn clear to the tide,
Their ground shut off from neighbors' by a hedge at either side,
And one day as the Widow Wise strolled in the summer glow,
Above one hedge a face appeared, and gayly said, "Hello!"



- 4.—It was a handsome, bright young face—a youth with big, black eyes.
"Hello," said he; "I'm looking for the charming Widow Wise."
"I'm she," the Widow answered, with a smile her pleasure told,
"And you, I rather fancy, are our neighbor, Mr. Gold!"

- 5.—They chatted o'er the garden hedge, and in an hour or so
The Widow's heart once more was warmed with that peculiar glow.
They met again and yet again—ecstatic Widow Wise!
Thought she, "When I tell Sally Brown, imagine her surprise!"

- 6.—At last, one gorgeous moonlight night, young Richley leaped the hedge,
And told his love to Widow Wise, down by the sad sea's edge.
"I know your wealth all goes to him who marries you," he said.
"I'll give it back, and millions more, the moment we are wed!"

- 7.—True love at last! the Widow sighed. "Oh happiness, untold!"
When two men darted through the hedge and grabbed young Richley Gold!
"Help! Help!" he cried. The Widow screamed. The two men cried "Tut, tut!
That's just his fool delusion, ma'am; his right name's Bill the Nut!"
- 8.—"But Mr. Gold lives over there?" "No, ma'am," the men replied.
"That's the asylum hedge: the Golds' is on the other side."
The Widow peered above the hedge, deep meaning in her eyes.
"I'D BETTER GIVE MYSELF UP, TOO!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.

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