

THE WIDOW WISE

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

1.—Of all the choice ambitions of young William Wilkins' life,
The greatest was to find some day a lovely, wealthy wife;
And when he met that creature sweet, the charming Widow Wise,
Thought he, "Well, here's a chance to win a great and glorious prize!"

2.—Now, Willie was the colonel of a dandy regiment,
So when the State militia into camp that summer went
He gave a swagger luncheon for this little lady fair,
And thought, "I shall impress her with my military air!"

3.—Though Willie in civilian clothes had scarcely made a hit,
The Widow thought, "He's handsome as a soldier, I'll admit!"
And when at regimental drill she saw him at his best
Her silly little heart began to flutter in her breast.

4.—"He seems a strong, commanding man—the kind who rules," thought she;
"The very sort of husband for a clinging vine like me."
And when he left his other guests and asked her for a stroll,
The jealous looks that followed them were honey to her soul.

5.—Down a fair path called "Lovers' Lane," from prying eyes concealed,
They walked until they came upon a daisy-flowered field,
And there, beside a rustic stile, 'neath azure skies above,
The Colonel, on his bended knee, poured out his tale of love.

6.—"Ah, Widow fair," he murmured, "do not doubt my love for you.
I'd dare the world in battle, fight a thousand lions, too!
My military heart's aflame—with ardor 'tis so full"—
A mighty bellow rent the air, and on them charged a bull!



7.—The Widow never stirred. Thought she, "He'll prove his valor great."
Alas! The Colonel yelled, "Oh, help!" and scuttled o'er a gate.
"The coward!" cried the Widow. Then she also turned to flee,
And, just in time to save herself, climbed deftly up a tree.

8.—At last they came and rescued her, but while she waited there
She'd lots of time to think about the laughable affair.
"Ah, uniforms are pretty things, but"—tears shone in her eyes—
"BRASS BUTTONS DON'T MAKE HEROES!" said the lovely Widow Wise.