



THE WIDOW WISE

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



- 1 The Opera House was crowded. 'Twas a gay and gorgeous sight,
Because the great Falsetti made his grand debut that night;
And, in a box, in gems arrayed as brilliant as her eyes,
Applauding to the echo, sat the charming Widow Wise.
- 2.—The great Falsetti's triumph came. He blushed and smiled and bowed.
And, as he glanced with beaming face about that splendid crowd,
His eyes fell on the Widow fair. A flush suffused her face—
Love's message flashed between them—and it was another "case"!
- 3.—Of course this wondrous singer soon became the season's fad,
And invitations by the score from every source he had.
He spurned them all; but when he got a little card one night
For a dinner at the Widow's, he accepted with delight.
- 4.—It was the season's one event. The finest folk were there;
The Widow never looked so sweet, so radiant and so fair.
The great Falsetti's eyes grew dim, his head felt very light,
As in his tenor voice he cried, "I'll speak my love to-night!"
- 5.—He sang. It was a song of love, of flowers, and moon, and birds,
And toward the pretty Widow he inclined his tones and words.
That golden voice! Its every sound breathed love for her divine.
"Ah," thought the Widow, "I am his, and he—oh, joy!—is mine!"



- 6.—Then dinner came. He took her in, and in a whisper cried,
"Ah, lady mine, I cannot eat when you are at my side."
"Oh, isn't he a living god!" the silly Widow thought;
But when the servants brought the food a horrid change was wrought!
- 7.—The great Falsetti swiftly stuck his napkin 'neath his chin.
He grabbed the bread up to his mouth and madly stuffed it in.
He gobbled soup, he smacked aloud, and with his knife he ate,
And with a piece of crust he wiped the gravy from his plate!
- 8.—And then he turned his eyes on her and tried to look intense
The charm was gone. To smile at him she couldn't make pretence.
She saw him go, with fond regret reflected in her eyes,
"HE COULDN'T STAND THE TABLE TEST!" exclaimed the Widow Wise