

THE WIDOW WISE

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

1- Bowowski! Ah, you thrill to hear the mention of this name!
The wondrous violinist, who last year from Russia came.
And a note of introduction, with requests that she advise,
He brought from Countess Dinski to her friend, the Widow Wise.

2- He went to see the Widow, and she found in him, straightway,
A genius of the highest rank when he began to play,
And as his bow swept o'er the strings, the tears came to her eyes,
Impressionistic, soulful, weak, responsive Widow Wise!

3- He was a sweet and soulful youth, and he, upon his part,
The more he met the Widow, felt the love-glow in his heart;
And finally he dropped his bow and on his knees he fell,
His love in broken English to the lady fair to tell.



4- "But ah, I'm so poor!" he cried. "Just wait, my dear," said she,
"I'll make you rich and famous, too, if you'll rely on me."
So she hurried to the Waldorf, and engaged the rooms straightway,
For the debut of Bowowski, whom she called her protegee!

5- Society turned out in force. The Widow was so proud
To feel that he had eyes for her in all that lovely crowd!
He waited for her signal, and she told him to begin,
And then began the music that she knew his fame would win!

6- She heard the sobs about her, but she saw Bowowski's eyes
Were fixed on her the livelong time. Oh, happy Widow Wise!
He stopped! And with her heart aglow with doting love and pride
She hurried up to be the first to reach the player's side.

7- Alas! The others were too quick! She stopped in wild alarms,
To see Bowowski caught and clasped in fifty other arms.
She saw them kiss and fondle him, and kneel about his feet,
And swallowing her deep chagrin she quickly made retreat.

8- Next day she sent a note to him. "Go, make your fame," wrote she;
"A genius is a lovely thing, but not for one like me."
You need the world, the world needs you—I do not criticise,
But a PHONOGRAPH'LL DO FOR ME!" exclaimed the Widow Wise!