

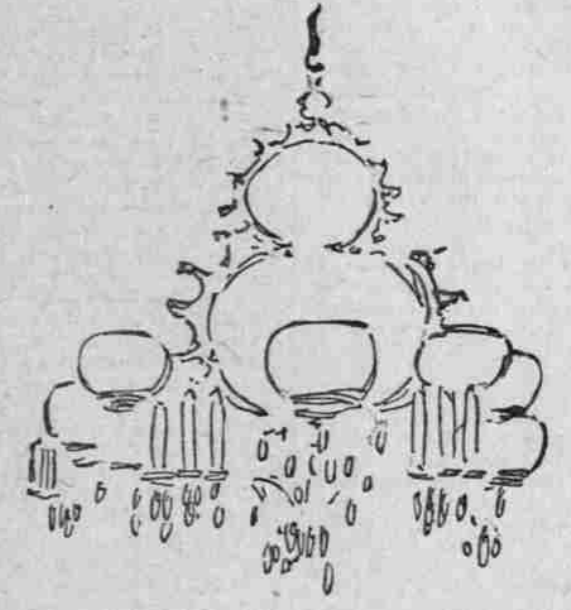


# THE WIDOW WISE

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



- 1—Of all the reckless gamblers ever known beneath the sun,  
It's probable Lord Hazard was the most audacious one.  
He'd gambled several fortunes through, but yet he pleased the eyes  
Of that susceptible personage, the charming Widow Wise.
- 2—They met and wooed in Paris, and by every one 'twas said  
'T would be a very silly thing this profligate to wed.  
The Widow heard these murmurings, but fancied, just the same,  
Her love would cure her Lordling of his fancy for the "game."
- 3—One week the Widow went with friends to Monte Carlo gay  
To see the famous gambling place, but not, of course, to play.  
Lord Hazard followed faithfully, "Aha!" the Widow thought,  
"Amid such lovely scenes as these I think that he'll be caught!"
- 4—She donned her finest gown that night and looked, indeed, divine.  
Lord Hazard's eyes in rapture beamed. Thought he, "She must be mine!"  
He said to her, "Escape your friends; by some ruse get away  
And meet me in the gardens, for there's something I must say!"



5—The Widow left her friends alone and by the ocean strolled.  
The great Casino's lights were gay. She heard the clink of gold.  
She waited for her noble Lord, and thought, "Where can he be!"  
But as the hours dragged slowly on, "He cometh not," said she.

6—At last, enraged, she went inside the grand salon of chance.  
About the crowded tables there she cast a sweeping glance.  
And, seated near a roulette wheel, his bright eyes staring wide,  
Mad with the gambling fever, she her errant Lord espied!

7—She watched him scatter golden coins, and lose and lose once more.  
She saw him bet enormous sums and do it o'er and o'er.  
At last he rose, "Cleaned out!" he moaned. "Another fortune spent!  
Now for the Widow and her gold! She's got to give consent!"

8—He turned. He saw the Widow there, and shuddered at her glance,  
"Oh, no," she cried. "My Lord, for me you haven't got a chance!  
My fortune might have all been yours. You've thrown away a prize.  
YOU'VE LOST, WHILE I—I GUESS I'VE WON!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.