



THE WIDOW WISE

Verses by Paul West Drawings by W. H. Loomis

1.—Old Heidelberg was all aroused. Through each historic street
The students rushed and stopped to say to every one they'd meet:
"On to the Schloss Hotel, old chap, to welcome with surprise
That famous, fair American, the charming Widow Wise!"

2.—They'd heard of her arrival in the town that very day
And planned to make her welcome in their own peculiar way;
So, when she started out to drive to get a breath of air,
Two thousand students danced around and cheered the stranger fair.

3.—She smiled. And, ah! that smile of hers! In every student breast
It set love's spark at once aflame, although she never guessed.
And soon, instead of cheers and shouts, she heard but long drawn sighs.
"Good gracious! Cupid's 'round again!" bemoaned the Widow Wise.

4.—Where'er she went some callow youth upon his knee would fall
And vow his love. "My soul!" she cried. "But I can't marry all!
If there were only one or two to choose from—well, you know!—"
"Aha!" they yelled. "We understand! Just wait! It shall be so!"



5.—The crowd all fled, but reappeared, clad in that stange array
The students wear at Heidelberg upon a duelling day;
And, pairing off, they raised their swords to battle for the prize,
To fight till only one was left to woo the Widow Wise!

6.—Crash! went the swords! The Widow saw and quite enraptured cried:
"Oh, this is great! How fine they look! I'll be a hero's bride!"
But soon it grew too fierce to watch. She fled in wild despair,
And back to her hotel she rushed to seek seclusion there.

7.—An hour had passed, when to her room a student's card was brought.
Thought she, "I ought to see him, since for me, poor chap, he's fought."
She fluffed her hair, arranged her gown, put powder on her nose,
And went to greet the hero who had vanquished all his foes.

8.—The student turned his face around, all cut and scarréd and slashed.
"What! That?" the Widow cried and fled and left the youth abashed.
"My husband's face must be intact—chin, mouth, and nose and eyes!
I'LL BE NO PICTURE PUZZLE'S BRIDE!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.

