



THE WIDOW WISE

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

- 1—The papers of St. Petersburg contained a line, one day,
That the widely famous Widow Wise was travelling that way.
The Nihilists soon learned the news and whispered it by stealth,
Resolving an attempt to make upon her heart and wealth.
- 2—They met in strictest secrecy and hit upon a plan
To win the Widow's fortune great. They chose a handsome man
To woo her and to win her, using methods quick and bold,
Thus gaining for their bloody cause her heart and, eke, her gold!
- 3—Max Bombski was the man they picked. He looked as mild as milk;
He had blue eyes, poetic ways, a voice as soft as silk.
He moved in good society, where no one ever knew
He was the wildest Nihilist that e'er a bombler threw.
- 4—With skill he plied his eager suit, and wooed her with such vim
That soon her troth the silly one in joy had given him.
And then he thought he'd try her out about "The Cause," to see
How far she'd share its secret schemes and yield her sympathy.



- 5—From what he said the Widow thought "The Cause" was something "cute."
She never guessed it dealt in death, with methods of the brute.
It struck her as a novelty, like Suffrage, just a fad,
So she exclaimed: "To join it, dear, I should be very glad!"
- 6—So, bidding her disguise herself, a veil before her face,
Max took her round next evening to the secret meeting place,
And said: "She comes to join us, and to be our newest star."
"Hurrah!" they cried. "We'll honor her. She can blow up the Tsar!"
- 7—"Blow up the Tsar!" the Widow cried. "Oho! The truth I see.
Come, let me go!" They cried, "No, no! We cannot set you free!
You know too much about us now. You'll have to join our band."
"Won't it!" the Widow cried, and grabbed the first thing in her hand.
- 8—It was a bomb. The bold, brave crowd all fled to dodge their doom.
The Widow stood in blank amazement, sole holder of the room.
Then dropped the bomb and hurried home, to ponder in surprise.
"I SAVED THE TSAR'S LIFE, ANYWAY!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.