



THE WIDOW WISE

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



1.—When any one to Cairo goes he must, if he's the time,
Go out to see the Pyramids and up their sides must climb;
So, lab'ring up the jagged heights where Cheops cleaves the skies,
One warm Egyptian afternoon we see the Widow Wise.

2.—Her guide's no desert Arab, but a Yankee like herself—
J. Bacon Rinds, of Cincinnati, a self-made man of pelf—
Who'd rather charmed her lovelorn heart and made her think, "Well, he,
Though somewhat rough, as husbands go a first rate catch would be!"

3.—They climbed the mighty Pyramid by dint of labors great,
And when the summit they had reached the afternoon was late.
"Let's linger here till sunset comes," she said, and thought, "Who knows
But, moved by these historic scenes, J. Bacon will propose!"

4.—So there she stood and looked around on that great, silent plain,
And to her mind the years rolled back—the world was young again.
She seemed to see the Kings whose tombs lay underneath the pile
And Cleopatra in her barge slow drifting down the Nile;

5.—She pondered on the wondrous scene. She pondered on the past.
"How marvellous!" she murmured. "How magnificent! How vast!"
She quite forgot J. Bacon Rinds, and jumped to hear him say:—
"Why, we've got buildings twice as high, home in the U. S. A!"



6.—Shocked from her dreams, the Widow turned, her angry eyes aglow.
"Go, base, material, sordid wretch!" she told J. Bacon, "Go!"
And, overawed, he turned and flew down the long flights of stone
And left the Widow standing there, high on the peak—alone!

7.—Not till the moon was in the sky did she exclaim:—"Well, how
Am I to clamber down from here? I'm in a fine fix now!"
And it was midnight ere the guides, sent out by friends in town,
Climbed up to where she, shivering, sat, and helped the poor thing down.

8.—Next day she sought the silent Sphinx. "Ah, tell me, Sphinx," she cried,
"Where can romantic love be found in all this world so wide?"
The Sphinx spoke not, but seemed to blink her staring, stony eyes.
"I GUESS SHE MEANS THERE'S NO SUCH THING!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.

