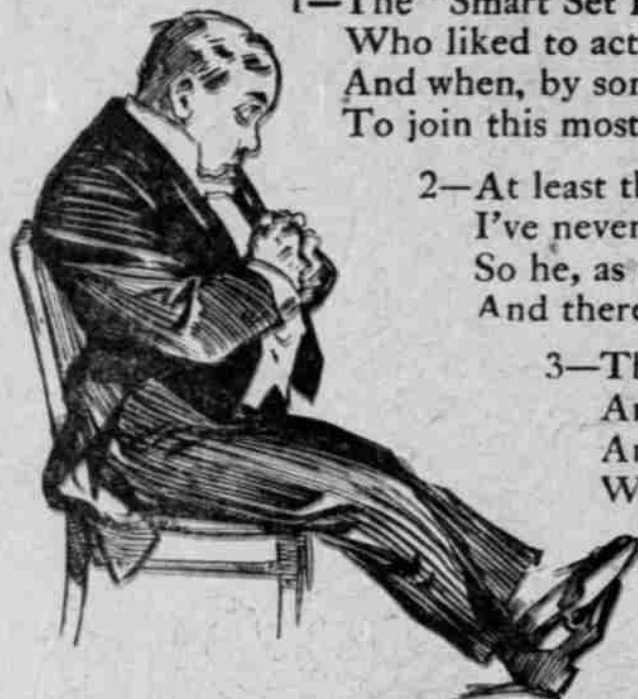


THE JUMP-UPS

Verses by PAUL WEST
Drawings by WM. H. LOOMIS

1—The "Smart Set Players" they were called—some of the younger crowd
Who liked to act for "Charity," as well as plaudits loud;
And when, by some kind freak of chance, the Jump-Ups were invited
To join this most exclusive club, of course they were delighted.



2—At least that's true of Genevieve. Jim said—"Not me, old gal!
I've never acted on no stage, and gosh! I never shall!"
So he, as usual, stayed at home, while Wednesday nights she went,
And there, in real Society, such heavenly hours she spent!

3—Then still more joy! The time approached to give another play,
And "Romeo and Juliet" they chose without delay,
And Genevieve, to her amaze, was cast for Juliet,
While Romeo was young De Scadds, the year's cotillon pet!



4—Rehearsals now took up her time. She scarcely saw poor Jim,
And thought it useless, when she did, to tell the news to him
Until the night the play came off. Then, "Jim, dear, you must go!"
And Jim said—"Well, if you insist, but gee! I dread it, though!"

5—The Swelldorf's ballroom was the place, and in the throng were seen
The Fuller-Coynes, the Gobbs A. Golds, the Pluneks and A. Long-Green,
While diamonds flashed, and wealth seemed piled in one gigantic heap
And Jim, who got a third row seat, yawned once and fell asleep!



6—He slumbered, though the play went on and Genevieve was great.
Still slumbered he, until, alas! the irony of Fate!
The love scene in the balcony! And then, with wild alarms,
He woke to see his Genevieve clasped in another's arms!

7—He cleared the footlights at a bound. He rushed upon the stage.
He aimed a blow at Romeo; then with a burst of rage
He cried to weeping Genevieve: "Now you come home with me!
This may be acting. All the same, it ain't no place to be!"

8—The curtain fell, and Genevieve, shame's crimson on her face,
Conducting Jim, still half asleep, fled quickly from the place.
"You wretch!" she cried. "That was real Art! Yes, Art—which you don't know!"
"Perhaps I don't," said luckless Jim, "but I know huggin', though!"