

With the increase of wealth came the desire, or rather the possibility, of the fulfilment of a long-cherished desire of making Ta-O-Si resplendent in Chinese eyes. A new court was formed and another temple of much grander proportions was erected higher up the slope. And if you look for a motive, what more natural than that an old man in China, who had had three wives and still without a son, should erect as his largest and most glorious idol, P'u Shan, the goddess whose favor it is to grant children unto faithful devotees ; for does not Buddha teach that this present existence is only one of many lives, and perhaps P'u Shan in the

**The Idol the  
Priest Built—  
Its Worshipers**

next or maybe in the following life will consider his devotion and be gracious unto him. And so, seated upon a lotus flower which rests upon a high rock, in shape like an elephant's back, we have a twenty-foot gilded image of P'u Shan, holding in her palm a little child. Before her many times a day and at frequent intervals during the night Lao Ho Shang and his assistants chant the Buddhist prayers, beat their gongs and bells—for bells are beaten in China—and offer up incense. At her footstool annually thousands, yea, tens of thousands, of pilgrims court fortune for children, success in business, the cure of sickness, or the satisfaction of the soul hunger within them.

In later years, beginning with Dr. V. C. Hart, the missionaries here come to spend the summer away from the heat of the plain and the accompanying fever-bearing mosquitoes ; come into the courts of her temple, where they even sell and give away many copies of the Scriptures and of tracts showing the folly of her worship. The

**We Sell Scrip-  
tures and  
Tracts in this  
Temple**

silver contributed as rental for the rooms which they occupy has been consecrated to the enlargement and improvement of her buildings, while the old priest, Lao Ho Shang, now long past the allotted span of life, happy when he can squeeze a few extra pieces of silver from his foreign guests, looks with satisfaction upon a prosperous temple, with visions of yet greater magnificence before it, and as he