

As he talked with him, he heard a story now told at nearly every temple ; a story of days which have ceased to be ; a narrative of a condition which we hope Christianity will so effectually bar the door against that it shall

**An Appeal  
Which  
Touched the  
Heart of Lao  
Ho Shang**

never return ; a tale of ancient splendor and glory, when officials and some of the learned and wealthy entered the priesthood and elevated the praise of Buddha. It was the pitiable story of the temple's former greatness, and to it was added the tale of its present decay and how that he only was left to administer its languishing affairs. Like any Chinese gentleman would have done, Lao Ho Shang sympathized with the forlorn priest and uttered the polite phrase, "Would that I could stay and help you." His words were taken up literally, and he was exhorted and invited to do so. This, coupled with the strange behaviour of the large dog, appeared to him a call from the gods, and forthwith settling his affairs, he cut off his queue, shaved his head, and joined the priesthood.

Because of his gentlemanly nature, his education and former official rank, he soon became known and admired both by priests and people, so that when the Temple of Ta-O-Si, then a single group of old and rather time-worn buildings, lost its head priest, the brotherhood called him to be its chief for three years ; and, his conduct of its affairs proving very satisfactory, he was afterward elected to that office for life.

Many years before, Lao Ho Shang had seen and gained information about an insect which, living upon a tree not

**The Introduc-  
tion of the  
White Wax  
Industry**

growing in these parts, covered the branches with a peculiar material which, when boiled and freed from the bark, made an excellent hard white wax. With an unusual degree of initiative enterprise for a Chinaman he imported some of these trees, and annually, by forced marches, men bring the larvæ of the insects from their native haunts, so that in the course of a few years the white wax industry has become a source of much wealth, not only to his temple, but to the whole mountain side.