

**WAH SING, OUR
LITTLE
CHINESE COUSIN**

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Wah Sing, Our Little Chinese Cousin by Helen L. Campbell

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LITTLE
CHINESE COUSIN**

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LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

Young Folk's Library of Choice Literature

Wah Sing
Our Little Chinese Cousin

BY
HELEN L. CAMPBELL

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WAH SING AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS.

OUR LITTLE CHINESE COUSIN

Wah Sing is such a queer little fellow. But then he lives in one of the queerest countries of the world. He is our Chinese cousin.

If you could dig a hole down deep enough through the earth you would come out on the other side and find yourself in China, Wah Sing's home. He is a funny looking boy. He has black eyes shaped like almonds. They are not made on a straight line, but they slant down towards each other. He has a little flat nose, which looks as if some one had given it a big punch to keep it from growing. He has high bones in his cheeks. His skin is yellow. The top of his head is bald, like your grandpa's, and has been shaved perfectly smooth.

The hair on the back of his head is pulled back and braided into what we call a little queue. Wah Sing is very proud of his queue. It would be to him a most terrible punishment to have it cut off. He is only eight years old, but he looks like a little old man.

He does not make a noise when he walks, for he has thick felt soles on his shoes. They are made of silk and embroidered with pretty flowers. He wears big trousers which come down to his ankles. He has on a tunic of blue silk with big sleeves, like a loose sack. He often uses these sleeves for pockets. He can put many playthings in them. When he goes out doors he wears a silk cap on his head. He can have these lovely things to wear, for his papa is a rich man.

Oh, dear, what a fuss there was when Wah Sing was born! How proud his father was

because he was a boy! A very important thing must be done at once. He must be protected from the evil spirits that frighten the babies. That is what the Chinese think; for they have very odd notions about such things. So papa and his friends have a very solemn ceremony. They take a piece of red paper, on which they write two words. Inside the paper, they fold up two kinds of fruit that are used in making soap. This will make Wah Sing very neat and tidy all his life.

Besides these, they put in an onion so that the boy shall grow to be wise; for the Chinese think knowledge is the best thing in the world. Two pieces of charcoal are added to make the baby strong. They must not forget to put in a lock of hair from a cat and one from a dog. These will keep Wah Sing from being frightened by the noises of animals. All these