

## PREFACE.

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C HINA has three great religions : Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Buddhism, from India, was admitted the first century of the Christian era.

The three religions are often professed by the same individual. Religious toleration is universal, and little bitterness is manifested among the rival devotees of the three Churches. This is not owing to liberality, but want of earnestness and conscientious convictions.

Kung-Foo-Tsz, Latinized Confucius, is pre-eminently the philosopher, teacher, and leader of China. He is not only the patron saint, but the deified hero of all the people. His descendants are a distinct and honored class. The most famous temple of China is built over his grave.

This man, who has swayed the thought of a nation for eighty generations, was born five hundred and fifty-one years before Christ, during the time of Lao-Tsz and Buddha. He lost his father at the tender age of three ; but his mother trained him with great care, and he is