

God were sympathetic to Eastern minds, and for a time the Nestorian Church flourished. A chain of bishops and churches spread from Jerusalem to Peking. But the Nestorian Church, separated from the rest of Christendom and subject to the constant changes which resulted from the rise of one great conquering power after another in Asia, had not been able to maintain itself. Later teachers, however, found Nestorian Christians, cherishing a mutilated faith, still surviving in China. Kublai Khan, the famous Mongol ruler, was anxious to enter into relations with the great powers of Europe. When the Polos, two Italian travellers, the father and uncle of the famous Marco Polo, visited his court, he sent by them a letter to the Pope, asking him to send to China a hundred Christians, who should be able to prove by argument to the idolaters that the law of Christ was the best. He seems to have believed that Christian teaching would help to civilise and soften the untamed peoples over whom he ruled. But Christendom was not ready to answer his appeal, and so probably a great opportunity was lost. All that the Pope could do was to