

powerful preacher was the ancestor of the oldest family on record. Through a long line of generations has his fame been perpetuated, and his views been adopted as the true religion, by his fellow-countrymen. His whole life was spent in the glorious work of elevating his fellow-men, and in implanting the purest and noblest principles of religion and morals into the hearts of his wayward people. In these desires he was successful. His influence to this day is felt and his name still remains a tower of strength. The year 551, B. C., heralded his birth, and in that year also Cyrus mounted the throne of Persia and grasped the sceptre of authority with a hand of iron. Confucius had barely reached the age of three years when his father, a brave soldier and a high officer of the Crown, died. A remarkable youth, the boy became a notable man. At fifteen he had mastered the five sacred books called Kings, and in his nineteenth year he had taken unto himself a wife. By this marriage a son was born to him, who died before Confucius, leaving, however, a grand-child. This child afterwards became almost as famous as his grand-father, and was the teacher of Mencius.

The philosophy of Confucius may be appropriately summed up in these words, firstly, example is omnipotent; secondly, the happiness of the people must be secured before the empire is safe; thirdly, a knowledge of the essence of things can only be attained by persistent thought, and lastly, the object of every government is to make the people virtuous, happy and contented.

Confucius taught, as part and parcel of the doctrine which he gave to the swarming hosts of China, that there was a God, a mighty Jehovah, in whose name he erected an altar and to whom he humbly prayed for having had life and health to complete his great undertaking. He believed a greater one than himself would come to reign after he had passed to the other vale. He was the Star in the East and his light it was which led the millions of his race to acknowledge the Redeemer. Among other sayings which are attributed to him was this one, so full of deep significance: "In the West the true Saint must be looked for and found."

Confucius's system and that of christianity differs in many important and essential particulars. The Christian religion, as we are taught to believe it, is more complete, more perfect. It recognizes other beliefs besides its own especial one. Its belief and faith in God are more full, more lasting. Confucius counsels the preservation of peace, order, virtue and morality; all this is to be found in the faith of the true Christian or follower of Jesus of Nazareth, with this differ-