

tablet. These little boards, containing the legend of the two ancestors, of which there are perhaps seventy millions in the Empire, are "more potent for evil than all the idols in the land."

Confucianism contains many beautiful sentiments, as: "Overflow with love to all;" "Do not do unto others what you would not have others do unto you;" "I love life and I love righteousness, but I love righteousness more than life;" it is a splendid system of ethics, but it contains no hope for ordinary mortals either in life or in death. It has been a conserving intellectual force, it has inculcated and enforced filial piety, it has kept alive a belief in the future life, it has exerted an immense influence for good, yet after forty centuries of trial it has failed to elevate the nation morally and spiritually.

(2) **Buddhism.**—Buddhism was introduced from India about the year A.D. 67. According to the Chinese historians the Emperor Ming Ti, in consequence of a dream in which he beheld "an image of gigantic proportions, resplendent as gold," sent an embassy to the West which returned with teachers of the Indian faith. The remarkable saying of Confucius, "The people of the West have sages (or a sage)," doubtless influenced the emperor's vision; and it would be interesting to know just how far it was excited by tidings of the advent and death of Jesus Christ.

No religion could have been propagated in any country under more favorable circumstances than the new faith in China. Introduced under imperial patronage, supplying a felt want upon the part of the people in its tenets respecting a future state and the nature of the gods, it gradually worked its way into popular favor. Emperors became the patrons of the new faith, and more than one occupant of the Dragon Throne entered the monastic order. One emperor gave nearly 4000 ounces of gold to have the sacred books transcribed in characters of that precious metal; another contributed 300 tons of copper to be cast into images, and only 200 years ago the renowned Kang-hsi gave the yellow porcelain tiles which cover the temples on the sacred island of Pootoo. And yet after more than 1800 years of trial, under circumstances most favorable, Buddhism has failed to elevate the Chinese to a higher life and nobler purpose.

(3) **Taoism.**—Taoism, or the sect of the Rationalists, is a native faith dating back to the sixth century before the Christian era. It is not a religion. The philosopher Laotsz had no intention of founding a religion. It is a school of philosophy, an abstruse system of metaphysics, but it has few, if any, of the essential elements of a religious faith. The ancient Taoists were alchemists. They "sought to transmute the baser metals into gold," and professed to have discovered the philosopher's stone. They discourse wisely upon the "Pill of Immortality"—a "golden elixir" which confers immortality and insures a place among the genii. The priests of to-day pander to and traffic in the superstitions of the people. They live upon the credulity of their fellow-men. A large part of their business is to manufacture and sell charms to ward off all sorts of maladies