

when the Arab merchants, the Sinbads of history, became Moslems, it was only natural that they carried their religion with them on their long voyages for silk, spices, and gold. We read that Mohammed utilized these early trade-routes by sending his maternal uncle with a letter and suitable presents to the Emperor of China, asking him to accept the new religion. Arriving at Canton the next year, he went to the capital and preached Islam for two years. His preaching, which is mentioned in an inscription on the mosque at Canton, produced considerable and permanent results, for there are over eight hundred Moslem families in Canton to-day.

**Early Moslem
Settlers and
Present
Numbers**

The first body of Arab settlers in China was a contingent of four thousand soldiers dispatched by the Caliph Abu Jaafer, about 755, to assist the Chinese Emperor. These soldiers, in reward for their services and bravery, were allowed to settle in China, where, by intermarriage and preaching, they won over many to the faith. Regarding the present growth of Islam in China and the total number of Moslems in the empire, there is great disagreement. The *Statesman's Year-Book*, one of the best authorities on statistics, says that China has thirty million Mohammedans, while an Indian writer estimates it at fifty millions; and a prominent