

particular groups and one of them, a few years before the birth of Mohammed actually marched into the city of Mecca, the city in which Mohammed was later born and the people of Mecca drove back these groups of so-called Christians from Southern Arabia away from their city and naturally looked on Christians as enemies of theirs. Now Mohammed was a young man born in 570 in Arabia, in Mecca, central Arabia and this city of Mecca was a city of great religious standing throughout Arabia. They had in it a black stone which they called the Kaba, probably a meteorite and this black stone was regarded as something which had come down from Heaven and people used to come there and worship at it and there was a great income for Mecca there connected with their healing worship and their idols of worship there, and the worship particularly of this black stone and Mohammed, the young man belonging to the aristocrats of Mecca, the people who had charge of this stone, in charge of this service in Mecca. Now Mohammed is a character that is hard to evaluate. It is difficult to evaluate. Carlisle in his book of lectures, Heroes and Hero worship, one day made Mohammed one of his heroes and described his great good qualities and praised him and the next day in speaking of another man he turned on Mohammed's bad qualities by way of contrast and spoke very strongly against him. As you read the two it is hard to realize that Carlisle gave the two lectures on succeeding days in his series. Because Mohammed had a character in which there was much that was evil, much that was very bad which showed up particularly in the latter part of his life and much that was very good and was highly commendable, and when he got an idea, he was ready to give his life for that idea and he risked his life repeatedly for his belief in one God. He came to this belief and decided that idolatry and heathenism of Mecca was wrong and he preached for many years before he had any converts to speak of, hardly any converts, he came into persecution and he came into opposition, the early part of his life, there is much that seems extremely praiseworthy and then he completely changed his methods and he added a great deal to his previous teaching and it is very different, the latter part of his life than to the early part of his life. But