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CONTENTS.

The Bible in 1890.....	379	Manitoba Items.....	325
Westminster Abbey.....	310	Obituary Notices.....	325
Missionary Cabinet, Dr. Norman Macleod.....	311	Higher Education of Youth.....	326
Presbyterianism in British Columbia.....	313	Prohibition Petitions, Anent.....	326
Home Missions in Muskoka and Algoma.....	313	Missions in the Rookies.....	327
The American Board.....	315	New Hebrides Mission.....	327
Household Words.....	316	Central India.....	329
International Sabbath School Lessons.....	318	Missionary Outlook.....	329
Ecclesiastical News.....	320	Literature.....	331
Our Own Church.....	321	Page for the Young.....	333
Churches and Congregations.....	323	Acknowledgments.....	334

The Bible in 1890.

IN the eighty-sixth annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society we have an interesting account of the latest transactions of that venerable society. It is an account of work of the most important kind which, in almost every part of the world, is extending and exerting, year by year, a happier influence. Its sole object being to encourage the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, in the languages of all people that on earth do dwell. The issues of the year have again been large—rising to a total of over three million seven hundred and ninety thousand copies. The story of the Bible in France is pleasantly told by M. Gustave Monod, of Paris. There is a light upon its page and a happy energy in its tone contrasting strongly with the accounts of former years. "The circulation has leaped into a total which nearly trebles that of 1889." M. Monod expresses his conviction that the horizon is brightening in France—the current of popular thought and life is, very apparently, less irreligious than it was a few years ago. In Belgium, one of the hardest fields for the society's work, on account of the prevailing socialistic atheism, there has been substantial progress. Some of the educated Roman Catholics in that

country are feeling it a reproach that the Scriptures are seldom read by even the most devout of the people. The spirit of enquiry has, however, been awakened, and the Word of God is coming to be in demand. In Germany the circulation of all the Bible societies rose last year to 600,000 copies, and it is gratifying to note that the young Emperor is a warm friend of the work. In Austria, notwithstanding the hostility of the Church of Rome, the agents of the Bible Society are encouraged in their work. In Italy the outlook is hopeful. The total issues from the depot in Rome last year were 21,593 copies. In Spain, the aspect of affairs is "the quiet and slow, but sure advance of the Holy Scriptures over all the land." The accounts from Africa picture the advance of European civilization and Christian influence. The reports from India afford impressive testimony to the revolutions and advances in religious thought that have been made. In China, although the progress is still slow, "there is a movement of the dry bones." In Canada, there has been marked progress all along the line. The Scriptures, in whole or in part, are now printed by this society in 291 languages or dialects. The total receipts for the year were over one million of dollars; and the amount of good that has been done by the army of colporteurs employed by the Bible Society is beyond calculation.