

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Sermons. *The Bright and Morning Star, and other Sermons* (1) are published as a memorial of Dr. Henry Wilkes, the late Principal of the Congregational College of British North America. In a prefatory note his son-in-law, Dr. J. Monro Gibson, tells us that "those who remember that for the greater portion of his life Dr. Wilkes had not only the entire duties of pastor of a large and influential city congregation, but also as representative of the Colonial Missionary Society of the Congregational Union of England and Wales 'the care of all the Churches' for hundreds of miles around Montreal, will understand that even his best sermons give but an inadequate idea of his power." This we can well believe. The sermons here printed show no originality of thought or treatment; they are cast in a somewhat old-fashioned mould, and though sound and sensible, are not very striking. With the kindling eye, the striving voice, and the fiery energy that this "old man eloquent" delivered his sermons, however, they may have had a good deal of power; and we can hope that those who read them will find them profitable.

The Lord's Prayer, and other Sermons for Children (2) are the record of an attempt made by Mr. Hastings Ross to attract and instruct the younger members of his flock. He says the sermons were delivered one each Sunday preceding the usual sermon, with a short hymn between the two; and that the result has far exceeded his expectation. There are sixty-two sketches in the volume, and we are bound to commend them as being extremely well suited to their purpose. Their object, the author tells us, has been practical instruction rather than sensational effect. They have not been highly wrought nor embellished with stories that seldom benefit hearers; but we are informed that adults as well as children have manifested much interest in them, so that this part of Mr. Ross's labours has been very fruitful of good. Preaching to children requires almost a special gift, but to any one not possessing that ability these sketches will be found very helpful and suggestive.

We are by no means surprised that Mr. Newman Hall's commentary on *The Lord's Prayer* (3) has reached a second edition. It is a work