BRIEF NOTICES.

THE SECRET OF POWER AND OTHER SERMONS. By Alexander Mac­
laren, D.D. (London: Macmillans.) Dr. Maclaren is one of the
finest, if not the finest, preacher of the day. Of a striking
presence, with a clear telling voice capable of the most pathetic
inflections, even his slight and pleasant Scotch brogue giving an
added effect to his words, and speaking with a quiet and controlled
intensity which commands an instant and deep attention, his ser­
mons, admirable in themselves, gain immensely from his delivery
of them. So much the more do they lose when the living voice is
not heard, when speech and presence no longer utter their quicken­
ing commentary and lay their weighty emphasis on his words. No
volume that can be printed will ever convey the man, or account
to those who have not heard him for the profound impression he
has left on those who, like the present writer, have heard him at
intervals, on private and on public occasions, for many years.

His eminence as a preacher, however, his pre-eminence even is
admitted on all hands, and by all classes of men, from the Bishop
of Manchester and the leaders of the Nonconformist denomina­
tions, who have again and again invited him to preach to them
on their most solemn festivals, down to the humblest and least
cultivated Christian souls that have hung on his accents with
instruction and delight. To as many as can recall his manner and
tones the sermons collected in this volume, many of which were
delivered on special occasions, will be most welcome, and will call
up grateful memories which may have slept for years. And even
to those who have never heard him the sermons will be welcome
both because, for mere intellectual power, they are among the most
brilliant of the purely orthodox school, and because of the noble
undertone of spiritual emotion and aspiration by which they are
pervaded. Sermons of as great intellectual force it would not
be difficult to find, nor sermons which appeal as strongly to the
"spiritual man" within us. But the combination of these qualities
is rare, and both are to be found in these discourses, and, with
them, some traces of that strange intensity of purpose and aim on
which we have already remarked as a special characteristic of the
preacher.

We have only to add that these choice sermons deserved a some­
what more liberal treatment from their publisher. They are
carelessly printed, on an unattractive looking paper, with mean
margins, although even this is an advance on the last volume of
sermons by Dr. Maclaren which we received from the same hands.