

Communications.

MEMORIAL SKETCH OF MR. BERNARD MACGUIRE.

MR. EDITOR—I am indebted for the sketches now submitted to your readers almost entirely to notes furnished by the excellent brother of the departed, who, I trust, will soon be called to make known to survivors those glorious truths which were the guides of his departed relative in his pilgrimage, and cheered him so remarkably in his closing hours.

Mr. Bernard Macguire was born in Toronto Township, Canada West, in January, 1832. His father was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, but his mother was a pious and intelligent Protestant, and by her the education of the members of the family was mainly conducted. Bernard had all the advantages of a good ordinary elementary education; and the family property was the field of his agricultural occupations. His mind was early impressed with a deep sense of divine truth; and a heart of great native sensibility was largely sanctified by the grace of the Gospel.

He joined in communion with the congregation of Brampton and East Toronto, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Mr. Holmes, in January, 1852. From this time till his lamented decease, his chief delight was in cheerfully serving Him who had called him by His grace, and in living to His glory in all things. The delightful service of family worship was kept up by him in his mother's house with most exact regularity and the deepest solemnity. The opportunity of assembling twice every day around the family altar, and of bringing their collected offerings before the Lord, was esteemed by the whole household as a singular privilege. Neither the hurry of business, nor any other opposing obstacle, was allowed to interfere with this important domestic duty. In the summer of 1859 he introduced the practice of family worship three times a day; and this practice is still kept up, and felt by the family to be a delight and a blessing. Mr. Macguire considered that morning, noon and night were as seldom as the members of the family should bow together at the common throne, and acknowledge God as the bountiful giver of all blessings, temporal as well as spiritual.

He took a great interest in the Temperance reformation, as also in the County of Peel Sabbath School Union; and indeed in every suitable plan for the advancement of Messiah's kingdom; and had his life been spared, there can be no doubt that he would have proved a most active, liberal, and persevering promoter of every pious and benevolent effort.

Mr. Macguire has left with one of his brothers some short manuscript notes, from which, as well as from his Diary, the state of the "divine life" in his soul, both as to real progress and growing happiness, may be clearly ascertained. While he walked with God and ripened for heaven with a holy rapidity, Satan often assailed him, and seemed almost to crush him beneath his withering and overwhelming power. But God had given him a strong and truly "living" faith in his beloved Lord, to whom he ever looked as his strong tower, to which he did run and was safe. Once and again he exclaims: "By the grace of God I am what I am; and by that grace alone am I kept from