

ate the inestimable blessings of our holy faith, which has become an object of envy and admiration to many who are separated from Catholic communion. Who among us has not sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed? "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John i. 8.)

THE PASSIONISTS.

Str.—It is now three or four years since I published a letter in the *Catholic Magazine*, to solicit contributions for paying the expenses of the first party of Passionists who came to settle in this country. I have been requested to be once more the medium of recommending their wants to the public, and I beg you will kindly contribute your part to this charitable work by allowing my letter a place in your columns. On the former occasion abundant contributions for their aid were the result of my appeal, and so to England they came, and have now been settled more than three years in the Central District Aston Hall, near Stone in Staffordshire—a house which was formerly a family residence of the Welds, and having been given by them to the Church, has been inhabited by Brigittine nuns and by Franciscan friars. Father Dominic, the Superior of this first colony of his first order in England, had for twenty-eight years, before he was appointed to this mission, been sighing to devote his life to the salvation of England. This holy desire had sprung within him before he joined the Order; but it was strengthened and cherished, when, after having done so, he found that a devotion to the cause of England had been received by the whole body of the Passionists as a holy bequest from the heart of the venerable Paul of the Cross, founder of their institute, who for fifty years of his life was incessantly mourning over the fallen state of our people, and praying for their recovery.

When first he settled with his brethren at Aston, he was engaged wholly in the work of the mission connected with the place, and although he was just beginning to speak English, nearly eighty converts, old and young, had been received into the Church at the end of a year, and a new mission had been opened at Stone, where a school-house has been built, which serves at present for a chapel. But doing the work of parish priests is not the proper calling of these religious; and during the last year they have been entering vigorously on the performance of what is considered, in Italy, the leading purpose of the institute; that is, going from one congregation to another, at the invitation of the pastor, and preaching missions, or giving a course of spiritual exercises from Sunday to Sunday, preaching two or three times every day. They go, for this purpose, wherever they are called, and

have, since last March, given twenty-two courses of sermons or missions as they are called; and, in several instances, I know the effect has been most salutary in awakening the fervour of the best among the Catholics, in calling back the negligent to the practice of their duties, and in deciding the conversions of many Protestants. Last Sunday, the first Sunday in Lent, Father Dominic commenced a mission in Liverpool, and follows this up with another in the same town next Sunday. This is being done without anyways interrupting their zealous attention to the wants of their own congregation, where they are greatly beloved. I have given some detail of the proceedings of the Passionists, in order to interest your readers in the consolidation of their establishment in England. At present they have four priests, three or four clerical students, and four or five lay brothers in their house. These are by no means sufficient for meeting all the calls made upon them, and keeping up worthily, at the same time, the regular observance of their rule at home. The general of the Order, accordingly, has promised them two more priests from Italy; but the means for their journey must be sent from hence, and as they are allowed by their rule to possess no property, they are quite unable to meet this expense. It is for this purpose that I have taken upon myself to state their case publicly, and hope that I may meet with the same success as on former occasions. The sum wanted is 30*l.* to convey these two priests from Rome. Should more than this be contributed it will go to a purpose for which it is greatly wanted; towards paying a considerable debt still due for the school, which they have built at Stone. Contributions will be received and gratefully acknowledged by the Rev. Mr. Dominic, Aston Hall Stone, or by myself at St. Mary's College, near Birmingham, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE SPENCER.

St. Mary's College, Feb. 6, 1845.

(From the *Catholic Miscella*.)

PROTESTANT MISSIONS.

Since the beginning of the present century, Protestants have generally thought themselves bound to endeavour to convert all men to some one or other of their many creeds. Accordingly, the Church of England, or rather, some of its members, have sent out Anglican missionaries. The Protestant Episcopalians here have sent out their missionaries likewise. The Presbyterians, the Baptists, and the Methodists, each contribute their quota of men and money. Scarcely a month passes by, that we do not see a notice of the departure of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. A. and of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. B., missionaries about to enter "*tu and tuq,*" into some chosen field of labour. At times it is among the