"FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY." SCULPTURED BY J. THOMAS.

IRA ALDRIDGE, THE AFRICAN TRAGEDIAN, AS "OTHELLO.

MR. ALDRIDGE, THE AFRICAN TRAGEDIAN.

We this week engrave a portrait of Mr. Aldridge, better known as the "African tragedian." His impersonations of the characters to which his color particularly suited him are those of Zanga, Holla, Shylock, Othello. Mr. Aldridge was engaged last year, after a long and successful tour of professional engagements. At Hanover, Meiningen he was presented by the reigning Sovereign, the brother of the late Queen Adelaide, with the Nassau gold medal of the order of the Royal House of Saxony, and it is accompanied by a beautiful decoration in the shape of a Maltese Cross in gold. The best proof, therefore, that can be given of the appreciation of his merits as an actor and a gentleman by those foreign potentates is to be found in the fact that he has been presented with those costly medals and the authentic credentials which they are accompanied. Mr. Aldridge's career in life has been very remarkable. He was originally trained for the Church; but, having no vocation for that profession, he turned his attention to the stage, and made his first appearance in New York, in the character of Elisha, and was loudly applauded. He then came to England, and was the first negro to achieve stardom at the Glasgow University; after which he went to London (having still the old charm of theatrical propensity), and was immediately engaged at several of our metropolitan theatres, at which his impersonations of the characters of Othello, Zanga, Shylock, and other characters suited to his complexion, were so successful that he rose rapidly in the layers of fame; and now every time a note of the Continental press reflects on his merits are really and substantially appreciated.

Mr. Aldridge is the only actor, native or foreign, so decorated. It is, perhaps, not a broader grin. The ecstasy of his long shrill note in Iago becomes polished; the coal emits sparks. His face is the faithful index of his mind; and, as there is not a darker frown than his, there is not a broader grin.