

Editor's Portfolio.

WORK AND WAIT.

A HUSBANDMAN who many years
Had ploughed his field and sown in tears,
Grew weary with his doubts and fears.

"I toil in vain! These rocks and sands
Will yield no harvest to my hands;
The best seeds rot in barren lands.

"My drooping vine is withering;
No promised grapes its blossoms bring;
No birds among its branches sing.

"My flock is dying on the plain,
The heavens are brass—they yield no rain;
The earth is iron—I toil in vain!"

While yet he spake a breath had stirred
His drooping vine, like wing of bird,
And from its leaves a voice he heard;

"The germs and fruits of life must be
For ever hid in mystery,
Yet none can toil in vain for Me.

"A mightier hand, more skilled than thine,
Must hang the clusters on the vine,
And make the fields with harvest shine.

"Man can but work; God can create;
But they who work, and watch, and wait,
Have their reward, though it come late.

"Look up to heaven! behold and hear
The clouds and thunderings in thy ear—
An answer to thy doubts and fear."

He looked, and lo! a cloud-draped car,
With trailing smoke and flames afar,
Was rushing from a distant star.

And every thirsty flock and plain
Was rising up to meet the rain
That came to clothe the fields with grain.

And on the clouds he saw again
The covenant of God with men,
Rewritten with His rainbow pen.

"Seed-time and harvest shall not fail,
And though the gates of hell assail,
My truth and promise shall prevail."

—*North Western Christian Advocate.*

THOMAS COLLINS.

SHORTLY after beginning his ministry at Wark,
Mr. Collins received several valuable letters
from the Revs. Francis Collier, James Heaton,
and others. Three of these letters his bio-
grapher has condensed into the following

MODEL "CHARGE."

"Set to work with all your heart. Be an
early riser. Lose no time. Say 'No' to a
friend rather than waste an hour. Follow no
mere impulses. 'Square your useful life
below by reason and by grace.' Be a *Methodist*.
Do nothing haphazard. Forecast. Lay plans,
but, before committing yourself to any, pray
for light, seek counsel, and exercise wary
judgment.

"Let all your reading bear upon your work.
. . . . Be sure that you study thor-
oughly John Wesley's writings. For purity
and force, plainness and elegance, they have
seldom been equalled. His distinct thought,
appropriate language, and lucid arrangement,
are exemplary.

"Kind approval, wisely expressed by the
sensible and devout, is a favor from the Lord
cheering and helpful. But beware of the
flatterer's net. If a man can but hold up and
hold on, loud and fast, ignoramuses, with
wonder smitten, rate him a nonpareil at once;
and being, as fools generally are, afflicted with
a flux of speech, straightway assure their
victim that he is a *very great preacher indeed*.
Should any of these loose-tongued agents of
the devil for the ruining of young ministers
thus deal with you, let their manifest im-
prudence moderate your estimate of their
judgment. Trust them not. Exaggerating
adulators are almost invariably fickle. They