

CHOICE MISCELLANY.

THE GOLDEN SIDE.

There is many a rest in the road of life,
 If we would only stop to take it ;
 And many a tone from the better land,
 If the querulous heart would make it.
 To the soul that is full of hope,
 And whose beautiful trust ne'er faileth,
 The grass is green and the flowers are bright,
 Though the winter's storm prevaileth.

Better to hope, though the clouds hang low,
 And to keep the eyes still lifted ;
 For the sweet blue sky will soon peep through,
 When the ominous clouds are rifted.
 There was never a night without a day,
 Or an evening without morning ;
 And 'the darkest hour, as the proverb goes,
 Is the hour before the dawning.

There is many a gem in the path of life,
 Which we pass in our idle pleasure,
 That is richer far than the jewelled crown,
 Or the miser's hoarded treasure ;
 It may be the love of a little child,
 Or a mother's prayer to Heaven,
 Or only a beggar's grateful thanks,
 For a cup of water given.

Better to weave in the web of life
 A bright and golden filling,
 And to do God's will with a cheerful heart,
 And hands that are ready and willing.
 Than to snap the delicate, minute thread
 Of our curious lives asunder,
 And than blame Heaven for the tangled ends,
 And sit and grieve and wonder.

THE SOUL.—I take it to be true of the intellectual, as of the natural creation, that it profits not a man if he gain the world and lose his own soul. Let not, therefore, philosophy take up our life, so as not to leave us leisure to prepare for death. We may visit Athens, but we must dwell in Jerusalem ; we may take some turns on Parnassus, but should more frequent Mount Calvary—and we must never so busy ourselves about the “many things,” as to forget the “one thing needful”—the good part which shall not be taken away from us.—*Hon. Robert Boyle.*

HOW TO MAKE A BLACKBOARD.—At the request of several subscribers, we produce the famous MICHIGAN TEACHER recipe for making a liquid preparation, which may easily be laid upon a wall or board, and will give a very excellent surface for chalk or crayon : Mix twelve ounces of shellac, three of ivory black, three of lampblack, and five of rotten stone, in one gallon of alcohol—or, for a smaller quantity, in the same proportions. The rotten stone is a new ingredient, which Prof. Goodison, an expert in such matters, says will improve the composition.—*Michigan Teacher.*

THE DIRECTION OF THE YOUTHFUL MIND.—How greatly do parents and preceptors err in mistaking for mischief or wanton idleness, all the little manœuvres of young persons, which are frequently practical inquiries to confirm or refute doubts passing in their minds. When the aunt of James Watt reproved the boy for his idleness, and desired him to take a book, or to employ himself to some purpose usefully, and not to be taking off the lid of the kettle and putting it on again, and holding now a cup and now a silver spoon over the steam, how little was she aware that he was investigating a problem which was to lead to the greatest of human inventions !

RECEIPT FOR MAKING COMPOSITION BLACK-BOARDS ON THE WALLS OF SCHOOL-ROOMS.—For 20 square yards of wall :—take 3 pecks of Mason's Putty ; 3 ditto of clean sand ; 3 ditto of ground plaster ; 3 pounds lampblack, mixed with three gallons of alcohol.—*Note*—The alcohol and lampblack must be mixed before it is put into the plaster. This sort of black-board is in use in the Normal and Model Schools, Toronto, and has in every respect answered the purpose admirably. A cloth or lamb-skin wiper should be used to clean the black-board. A narrow trough should also be placed below the black-board to receive the chalk and wiper.