

for? Is this to make them "the gates of heaven?"

"I had an engagement that prevented me from attending." You had? And on God's day you were immersed in business? Have you had advices that the fourth commandment has been repealed? Surely it is safer and more profitable to overcrowd Saturday than to lose a Sunday!

Men act the fool nowhere as in matters of religion. Here they expect to get everything for nothing. Unconscious of God's presence, insensible to His love, with a positive disrelish for His society, they would think themselves terribly abused if informed that they will not be permitted to spend an eternity with Him. It is a fact, however. Heaven is a character. It is the natural outcome of a certain internal condition. It is not the reversal and the converse of the life in the flesh.—*Church News.*

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### COMFORT IN A CLOUD.

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A FRIEND of mine told me of a visit he had paid to a poor woman, overwhelmed with trouble, in her little room; but she always seemed cheerful. She knew The Rock. "Why," said he, "Mary, you must have very dark days, they must overcome you with clouds some times." "Yes," she said, "but then I often find there's comfort in a cloud." "Comfort in a cloud, Mary?" "Yes," she said, "when I am very low and dark I go to the window, and if I see a heavy cloud, I think of those precious words, 'A cloud received Him out of their sight'; and I look up and see the cloud sure enough, and then I think well, that may be the cloud that

hides Him, and so you see there is comfort in a cloud."—*Selected.*

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### WHAT IS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A COLLECT AND A PRAYER?

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A COLLECT is sometimes defined to be a short prayer, or a prayer collected from the Epistle and Gospel for the day; but the true distinction of a Collect is that it is a prayer with but one petition, or for a single grace and blessing. Thus, there is the "Collect for Peace," the "Collect for Grace;" but "a Prayer for all Conditions of Men." An examination of the Collects will serve to show how invariably they are concentrated each upon some one blessing or benefit, which alone is asked for therein; while a prayer may include many different, or even diverse petitions.

A Collect properly consists of three parts, which are generally clearly marked and plainly distinct. There is, first, the Invocation, or address to God; next the Petition, or supplication for ourselves; and, lastly, the Incitation, or urging of the merits of Christ our Saviour as the all-prevailing motive for the fulfilment of our petition.—*Old Church Path.*

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### A CHEERFUL VIEW OF THINGS.

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"How dismal you look!" said a Bucket to his companion, as they were going to the well.

"Ah!" replied the other, "I was reflecting upon the uselessness of our being filled; for, let us go away ever so full, we always come back empty."

"Dear me! How strange to look