

# The Gospel of Fact Forgotten

By GEORGE E. BRINGMANN

## CHAPTER I.

1. And it came to pass that there were flowers sweet and fresh from the fields adorning the altar.

2. And the sunlight fused the oranges and yellows of a stained glass window into a golden road. And like a golden carpet the road was thrown athwart the red pews.

3. And the figure in the window could have walked the golden carpet and sat among them who listened. The lamb in His arms and all. But He listened from where He stood.

4. To the rustle of silk and the rasp of stiff linen and the whisper of rich fabric;

5. To the grand vibrations from the organ with golden pipes; to coughs and clearing throats;

6. To the slither of envelopes with numbers that meant names; to the text; to the prayer;

7. To the voice of the tenor turning baritone and rich; to the thumbing of hymnals and more clearing of throats;

8. To the padded chink of coins in envelopes with numbers that meant names.

9. And to the man who stood above them all and spoke of faith in God.

10. And then it was He walked the golden carpet and sat among them. The lamb in His arms and all.

11. And those around Him felt His nearness and knew He sat among them and listened as did they to the man who spake of faith in God.

12. And the lamb lifted its head. But He sat bowed and followed the thought uttered by the man who stood above all.

13. For the man spake of faith. And the word he spake often was God.

14. And second to that was Hope and Charity.

15. And he spake of bread and how the scarcity of bread blotted out the faith men have in God.

16. And never did he say I. For he was fed.

17. And he compared the needs of

body and the needs of soul and mind one with the other.

18. And he extolled the happiness of the second and the third of these while the happiness of the first he likened to the happiness of swine.

19. Yea, and with great eloquence said he this for heavy was his concern for others.

20. And He who held the lamb pondered the seemingly unseemly error of God in making man with stomach.

21. Yet further spake the man. An anecdote of a man ill and destitute who closeted himself with a minister of God.

22. And how when that sorely tried man had departed from the minister's side he took with him a faith that comforted him.

23. And the lacks of his body no longer held terror.

24. And again He fell to stroking the lamb. And He thought on the faith of that man once destitute of comfort.

25. And He cried within, for His Father had provided. And man had divided. And not well had man divided.

26. And He looked back to the household of the man who had this new strong faith in God. For some had died from need of bread. And some had frozen.

27. And His heart was pierced, for His Father had provided. And man had divided. And not well had man divided.

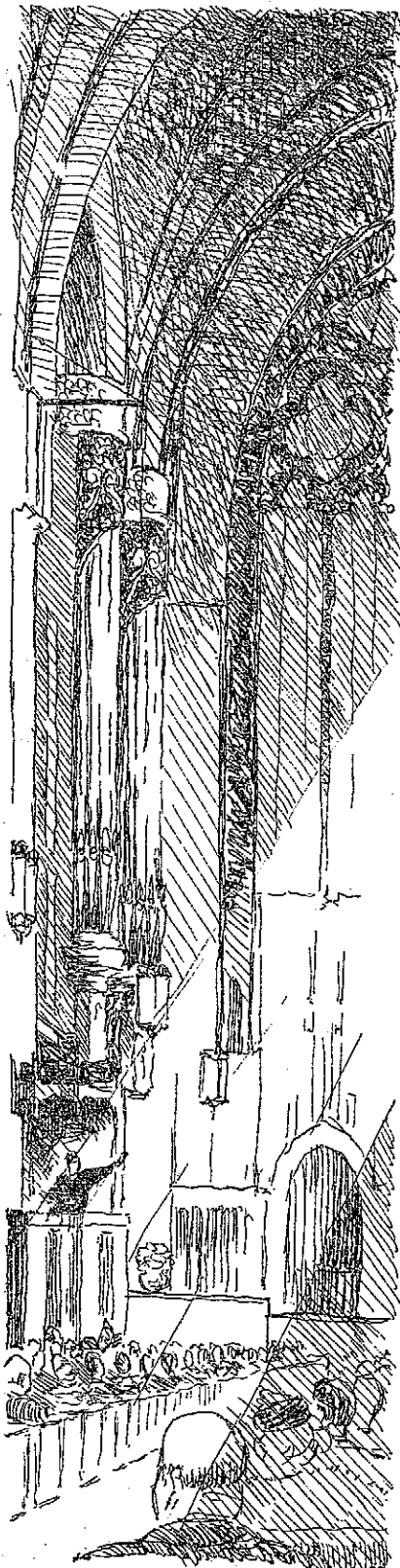
28. But the enhungered lamb bleated. And He walked the golden carpet of road and fed the lamb. For the lamb was with belly.

29. "The poor ye have with ye always." Yet I did not say they need be, said He.

## CHAPTER II.

1. And it came to pass that on the night of the same day there was another man. And he was outside upon a bushel.

2. And this man's eyes were lit, for he spoke of bread and the need of it.



3. And he stood above them who listened. A shivering lot who listened stupidly as they leaned against the wall. For they were hungry. And they were cold.

4. And above, a stained glass window, dull with no light behind it. And its leaded segments of colored glass were a puzzle none looked to solve.

5. For they were hungry and they were cold.

6. And the man who stood above them who listened stupidly, spake. And the word he spake the most was bread.

7. And the word he spake next often was children. And the one he spake the less of the second was crumbs.

8. And the next to that was Charity. And to that, privilege.

9. Aye, always he spake of bread. And never but once did he say God. And added he with trembling lips, "the poor die very slowly."

10. Yet never did he say I. For he was fed and clothed.

11. And the gnawings of the belly and the ache of cold bothered his body none. But the gnawings and the aches in the bellies and the bones of others troubled his spirit.

12. And often he spake of equity and brotherhood.

13. And he spake of paper diets instead of bread.

14. And the lamb bleated and the figure in the window came down to stand among them. Lamb and all.

15. Yet e'er long he on the bushel spake much of brotherhood, a voice was raised from the dark knot hard against the wall under the window.

16. And the voice asked, "And you would do? And what would you others do?"

17. And a quiet fell. And so great was the quiet that the chatter of teeth was loud.

18. And again the voice was raised in question. And great was its suavity.

19. And it came to pass that he who stood above the listeners paused. And his eyes searched them against the wall.

20. For he was not deceived. And long had he expected the voice. For it was that of authority come from privilege and not equity.

21. And he answered the voice. And the word he spake was one. And it was "anything."

22. And he looked up and saw the window and a smile couched the corners of his mouth. For he knew the Man and His lamb.

23. But the questing voice persisted. Again, "Anything?"

24. And the crowd muttered. And the lamb hid its head in His arms from fear. But He whispered to the man on the bushel:

25. "Man does not live by bread alone. And all that a man hath will he give for his life."

26. And the man on the bushel heard it from afar and held it close to him as did He the lamb.

27. And he answered to the baiting unafraid. "Anything, for there are things for which man will give even his life ... men."

28. And he had no fear. For he was warm and he was full and it was the gnawings in the bellies of others that embittered him.

29. And he waited for the man to lay his hand upon him and to lead him away.

30. And the crowd pressed hard 'gainst the wall under the window and hid their faces and held their breaths lest they be known and fall into the hands of others.

31. And they edged away and hurried off. To hope. And to die.

### CHAPTER III.

1. And He and His lamb looked once more from the stained glass window upon the altar vague in the sweet gloom of His Father's house.

2. And tears fell from His face to the lamb.

3. And He thought of the two speakers. The one within and the one without His house.

4. And He compared them one with the other and found them both to be as He.

5. Verily, verily, the Son of Man has no place to lay His head. And as one of these two men did they crucify me.

6. And verily I say that as the other of these two men did they SAY they crucified me.

7. And the lamb slept.

8. But not so the Son of Man.

9. Jesus wept.

