

THE FACT OF CONVERSION

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The fact of conversion by George Jackson

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GEORGE JACKSON

**THE FACT OF
CONVERSION**

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THE FACT OF CONVERSION

By
GEORGE JACKSON, B.A.

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TO
THE MEMBERS OF
THE THEOLOGICAL FACULTY
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
WHOSE GENEROUS CONFIDENCE INVITED
AND WHOSE SYMPATHY ENCOURAGED
THE DELIVERY OF THESE
LECTURES

PREFACE

THE six lectures contained in this volume were delivered, in the spring of this year, at Vanderbilt University, in response to the invitation of the Theological Faculty. In sending them forth to a larger public, it is unnecessary to add more than a brief word of introduction.

The book is addressed primarily to those who, like myself, are engaged in the practical work of the Christian Church. I have done my best to become acquainted with the literature of the subject, but the book remains still the message of a busy city pastor rather than the scientific treatise of a professional student.

The point of view from which the whole discussion proceeds can be stated very

simply. With all my heart I believe that, as the author of *Ecce Homo* says, the article of Conversion is the true *articulus stantis aut cadentis ecclesiæ*. But in theology we retain nothing that we cannot re-interpret. "We are not done with Conversion," says a writer in *The Expository Times*, whose words appeared after these Lectures were completed; "we never shall be done with it. *But we must tell our own generation what Conversion means.*" That is what this little book seeks to do.

Some readers may be disposed to complain of the frequency and length of the biographical illustrations of which I have made use. I cannot apologize for them; they were essential to my purpose. Facts and an interpretation are all that the book contains, all that it was ever designed to contain.

It only remains for me to acknowledge my indebtedness to my friend and former colleague, the Rev. E. J. Ives, who has

assisted me with many valuable suggestions, and to my wife, who has been in this, as in all my work, my unfailing helpmeet and adviser.

GEORGE JACKSON.