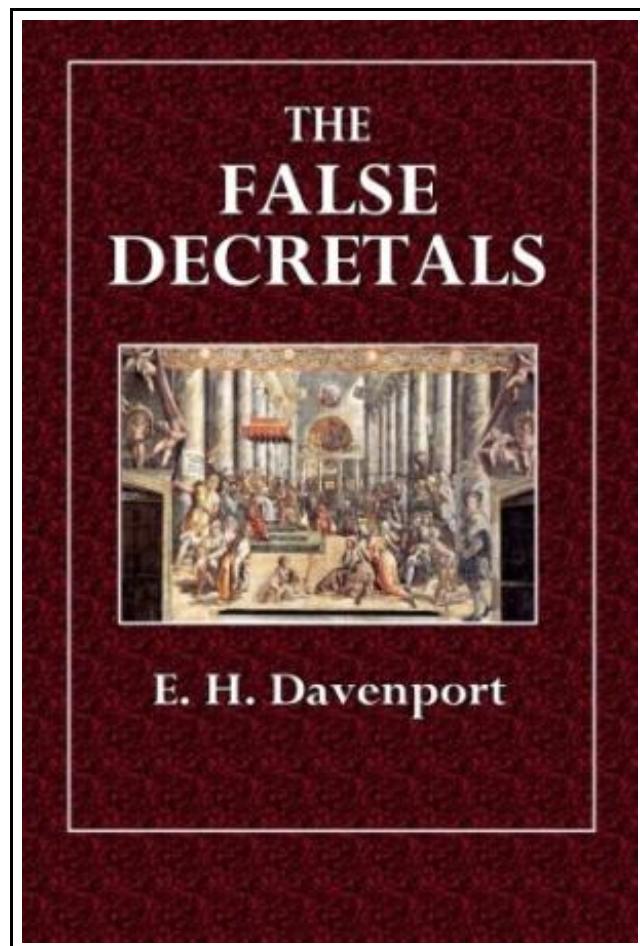


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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The name False Decretals, or Decretals of the Pseudo-Isidore, is given to certain apocryphal papal letters contained in a collection of canon laws composed about the middle of the ninth century by an author who employs the pseudonym of Isidore Mercator. The forged letters number about one hundred, and many fragments of them found their way into the *Corpus Iuris Canonici*. Their chief purpose was to win respect for the Episcopal authority, not to increase the power of the papacy, as Protestants have claimed. There is a good account of the whole matter in Vol. V of the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. But we have hitherto lacked a satisfactory English treatise in book form. This need has now been supplied by Mr. E. H. Davenport, a non-Catholic lawyer, whose book on *The False Decretals* (Oxford: Blackwell), according to the *Catholic Book Notes* (London, No. 225, p. 82), is the most complete answer to the common Protestant calumny about the influence of the False Decretals on the papacy that could be desired by any Catholic apologist. Mr. Davenport's conclusions are summarized by our esteemed contemporary as follows: - The forged texts fall into three classes-defensive, against aggression of the State in Church matters; constructive, about the administration of Church authority; aggressive, which, if urged, would lead to the supremacy of the Church over the State. Pseudo-Isidore is in no way concerned to magnify the papal office-indeed, in one point, his desire to restore primates is rather against the papacy. Nor does he make anything of the *Donatio Constantini*. His chief objects are defence of bishops and priests, and attacks on chorepiscopi and metropolitans. In no point was his work of...

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