

"No sacred text, however, no trait of the edifying annals of the church of the first age, can serve as an authority or pretext for the establishment of the papal power—it became necessary to forge documents which might appear to institute or to recognise it. Accordingly in the eighth century the 'Donation of Constantine' was forged, NEAR 400 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH!! What, you now acknowledge the Donation of Constantine to have been forged—you require now that it be no further mentioned. BUT in the eighth century you fabricate it, BUT you have produced it as the most decisive of its titles—BUT during more than 600 years you have impressively cited it—you inserted it in your codes—you permitted not its truth to be questioned; BUT in 1478 you BURNED those who refused to believe it—BUT in 1712 you had not ceased to require that the grant of Louis-le-Debonaire should be recognized as authentic. You deplored the blindness of the times in which it was dared, as you said, to treat as Apocryphal, a deed consecrated by antiquity. But finally, all these acts DISAVOWED in time of need by the partisans of the Church of Rome—this court is at all times cautious of rejecting *expressly*—and to-morrow, if she again become sufficiently powerful to compel us to receive them, we should confess, under pain of excommunication, that Constantine did cede the Empire of the west to Sylvester, and that the Popes received Sicily and Sardinia from Louis-le-Debonaire, who NEVER POSSESSED THEM.

Other documents forged in the eighth century were made use of to delude the people. The forgery of them is so evident that no Roman Catholic writer dares now to quote them. We give as a specimen the letter which Pope Sylvester received from Saint Peter, written in heaven, eight hundred years after Peter's death! and by the Pope handed to the three kings, etc. to induce them to come and destroy the Lombards.

"I Peter, called to the apostolic office by Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, who, reigning before all ages with his father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, became flesh in these latter days, and for our salvation was made man, and who has ransomed us with his precious blood, by the will of his glorious father, as he had announced by his holy prophets.

"With me, and by me the whole Church of God, Catholic and Apostolic, to wit, the Roman church, the mother of all the churches of God, founded upon a firm rock, by the blood of our Redeemer; together with Stephen, prelate of this same august church.

"In order to rescue from the hands of its persecutors the same holy church of God, and his Roman people who are confided to me, grace, peace, and virtue be granted more abundantly unto you, by the Lord our God.

"To you, excellent men, Pepin, Charles and Carloman, three kings, and to the holy bishops, abbots, priests, to all the