

# OPINIONS ON LOVELL'S GENERAL GEOGRAPHY.

*From the Very Reverend William Leitch, Principal of Queen's College.  
KINGSTON, 29th April, 1861.*

SIR,—The plan of your School Geography is excellent and I hope it will meet with the success it deserves.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,  
Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. W. LEITCH.

*From the Rev. A. J. Parker, Congregational Minister.  
DANVILLE, C. E., 26th February, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—It gives me pleasure to know that you have undertaken the publication of a series of Canadian school books. Our country has extent, importance, and population quite sufficient to warrant the measure. We are not parcel, either, of "the old country," or of "the United States." Our physical geography is distinct; our population, diversified in its origin, has in Canada its home. Our civil, educational, and religious institutions should be, must be, Canadian, and ought so to be represented. This country has facilities for producing school books superior to any on the American Continent. Possessing the best productions of scholars and educators in Great Britain, and the United States; having liberty to adopt, incorporate, or amend, without infringement of copyright, Canada ought to furnish text-books in science superior to anything extant. And it is time that she should know and tell what place she occupies in the world. I am happy to witness so fair a beginning in this enterprise. So far as I can judge "Lovell's General Geography" is well adapted to our Canadian schools.

I could desire a more extended list of map questions, in order to guide teachers, and fix attention of pupils more fully. With that improvement I should predict its general adoption in this section.

Yours truly,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. A. J. PARKER.

*From the Rev. Abraham de Sola, LL.D., Jewish Minister, and Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature in the University of McGill College.  
MONTREAL, 11th March, 1861.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I have carefully examined your new "General Geography," through the advance sheets you were good enough to send me, and do not hesitate to pronounce it, so far as my humble, and I trust impartial judgment is concerned, the very best work of the kind I have ever seen. I happen to know that the quarto Geographies published in the United States, and so extensively used here, are especially objectionable to friends of Canadian education, as they instil into the mind of the young student views of the government and institutions of the land he lives in, as well as of the parent country, incompatible as they are undesirable. The short, dry, and most incorrect notices of the British North American possessions in the Geographies referred to, have also proved, and justifiably so, a serious cause of objection. This deficiency is fully and satisfactorily supplied by Mr. Hodgins in your new work, and without depriving the neighbouring republican states of their due prominence. For this alone your spirited efforts should be—as I am sure they will be—gratefully acknowledged and warmly supported by parents and teachers in Canada, nay, by the Government also, for it certainly cannot look uninterestedly on the successful completion of a work all must view as of national benefit.

I must sincerely congratulate you on the mechanical as well as the literary execution of the book. No existing work can be held to excel it, and not only the Metropolis but even the Eastern Townships of Canada may be proud of the evidences of artistic talent which Messrs. Barlow & Walker, of Montreal, and Mr. Hunter, of Stanstead, have afforded in their Maps and Illustrations.

I have specially examined the chapter on Asia, and find the notice of that most interesting continent of a much more satisfactory character than is generally given in School Geographies. It is pleasing to see that the Bible student has not been overlooked, and the Map of Palestine, in a two-fold aspect, on page 99, cannot but be regarded as a valuable addition acceptable to all.

Regarding the work in the very favorable light I do, I sincerely trust you may, as a result of your labors and outlay, have the satisfaction of finding your enterprise appreciated as it deserves. With the assurances of my own thankfulness,

I am, my dear Sir,  
Yours truly,

Mr. John Lovell. ABRAHAM DE SOLA.

*From the Rev. Samuel D. Rice, Wesleyan Minister.  
HAMILTON, 16th April, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—I have looked over your "Geography" with such an amount of attention as I could give. I admire its arrangement very much. With such brevity as was necessary to the plan pursued, its fulness on all the subjects connected with Geographical study is remarkable. It is most gratifying that Canada is not only preparing her own school books, but that, as in the case of the "Geography," they are of so high an order of merit. A few omissions supplied, I feel confident, would make it a most popular text-book in Eastern British America, and even as it is, I do not think there is any work of this kind in use in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island, at all comparable to the one you are now publishing.

I am, dear Sir,  
Yours very truly,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. S. D. RICE.

*From the Rev. Henry Patton, Rector of Cornwall, and Rural Dean of Johnston.  
CORNWALL, 26th April, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—As far as I have had leisure, I have examined the advance sheets of your "General Geography," and I consider it in many respects a decided improvement upon the Geographies commonly used in our Schools.

By the prominence given to our own, and the other Colonial possessions of Great Britain and the due proportion of space assigned to other countries it is much more suitable for the use of our Canadian youths than Morse's and other similar Geographies which give such undue proportions of space to the United States.

I cannot however say much in commendation of your Maps, as they are at present too indistinct and confused to be readily consulted. This defect may however be remedied to some extent when the maps are coloured.

I remain, my dear Sir,  
Yours truly,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. HENRY PATTON.

*From the Rev. C. P. Reid, M.A., Minister of the Church of England.  
SHERBROOKE, 24th April, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for the advance sheets of the new "General Geography" which you are about to publish, and which has long been needed.

Until your book shall be in the hands of our youth, the only notice so far as I am aware, that our growing country, one of the finest in the world, and likely soon to be one of the most important, has obtained in works on General Geography, is only what can be crowded into some half dozen pages of some small book.

This has long been felt to be a most serious evil in more ways than one, and we cannot feel too much indebted to you for the remedy that your enterprise has supplied.

The plan of arrangement followed seems to me, upon the whole, as judicious as any that could be adopted; and my little daughter thinks that the pictures with which it is illustrated, especially those of the animals, are very beautiful.

Yours very truly,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. C. P. REID.

*From the Rev. A. Carman, M.A., Principal of the Belleville Seminary.  
BELLEVILLE SEMINARY, 16th March, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—In my opinion your "General Geography" is a most valuable contribution to our School literature. With three of its characteristics I am especially pleased, viz:—1st. The succinct, yet comprehensive, statement of the astronomical relations and physical features of the earth, with which it opens; 2nd. The presentation of each lesson in topics, and their scientific arrangement; 3rd. The minute and extensive information given concerning our own country, our sister Provinces, and indeed the whole of the great Empire, to which it is our boast to belong. The aids to pronunciation, the statistical tables, and the remarks on the physical features of the different countries, must also be continually acceptable to both teachers and scholars, as well as profitable to the general reader.

This Geography—without controversy the best yet given to the British American public—will do much toward exalting the popular estimate of this branch of study, and fostering the patriotism and loyalty of our people. I sincerely hope that you and the judicious Author, Mr. Hodgins, will quickly find your well earned reward and encouragement, in the liberal patronage of the Canadian public.

Yours very truly,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. A. CARMAN.

*From the Rev. Hugh Urquhart, D.D., Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.  
CORNWALL, 25th April, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,—I owe you an apology for my tardiness in acknowledging the receipt of the advance sheets of your forthcoming "General Geography," and in responding to the communication which accompanied them, I beg to assure you, however, that my tardiness did not arise from any reluctance or unwillingness to unite my testimony with that of others, in favour of your praiseworthy undertaking. I have long regarded your generous and persevering efforts to bring forward a class of elementary books for our youth,—stamped with a national character and spirit,—as laying the country under a debt of gratitude to you. Your Geography, so far as I have been enabled to examine its structure and varied details, is framed with a view to the same wholesome and needful end. And while it does credit to your enterprise, and to the skill and talent of the accomplished Author, I doubt not but that it will be hailed by every intelligent teacher of youth, as well as by a grateful community, as a boon much-needed and well-timed,—calculated at once to save the minds of our youth from improper associations, and to lead them to cherish national and patriotic feelings.

I confine myself to this general expression of my sentiments, leaving to those who have been able to bestow more attention on the structure and details of the work than I have been, to give expression to their opinion.

Trusting that you will in this, as in all your other enterprises for the benefit of our common country, meet with the success and patronage which you merit, I have the pleasure to subscribe myself

Yours faithfully,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal. H. URQUHART.