

OPINIONS ON LOVELL'S GENERAL GEOGRAPHY.

From the Venerable Archdeacon Bethune, D.D., Rector of Cobourg.
COBOURG, 26th April, 1861.

SIR,—I have to thank you for the transmission of a copy of the "General Geography" which you are on the eve of publishing; and although I have been unable to give it a minute or critical examination, I feel justified in the belief that it will prove a great acquisition to our School literature.

The most prominent facts seem to have been carefully gleaned, with an arrangement that appears to be very simple and lucid. The illustrations and maps are also highly creditable for their variety and execution; and the work in general appears to evince a large amount of industry and ability.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

A. N. BETHUNE.

From the Rev. J. Hellmuth, D.D., General Superintendent in British North America of the Colonial Church and School Society; and from the Rev. William Bond, M.A., Superintendent for the Diocese of Montreal.

MONTREAL, 5th March, 1861.

DEAR MR. LOVELL,—For many years the Society which we represent has been looking, without success, for a Geography which could be recommended for the use of all its Schools. Those we have examined have proved unsatisfactory; not only because of inaccuracies, but also because, amongst other faults, of the cramped and miserable description of our noble Provinces and Colonies which they contained, and of the meagre information which they gave, or rather because they withheld upon that subject so much that is necessary for the instruction of youth, and exhibited a false view of our position and importance on this continent.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we welcome your "General Geography," as supplying a want very much felt by us. We have examined it, and we are conscious that we shall be consulting the best interests of the Schools of the Society by endeavouring to introduce the book into every part of our charge. We, therefore, heartily commend it to all our Teachers, and trust that it will meet with that large sale which must be necessary to secure you from pecuniary loss.

Truly yours,

J. HELLMUTH,
WILLIAM BOND.

Mr. John Lovell, Publisher.

From the Venerable Samuel Gilson, M.A., Archdeacon of Montreal.

MONTREAL, 15th March, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have examined, with as much care as my time would allow, the specimen copy of your "Geography," which you were pleased to send for inspection.

Having done so, it is with great pleasure that I can speak of the high character of the work, considered as a whole. The information it contains on those subjects which are common to it with other elementary works on Geography is full and correct, while that which refers to British North America is, so far as I know, peculiar to itself, and renders the book better fitted than any other I have seen for the instruction of the youth of these Provinces.

The printing, engraving, and general appearance of the work, would be creditable to the press of any country, and reflects great credit on the enterprise and skill of its Publisher.

I sincerely hope that it may meet with general adoption in schools and private families, not only in order that encouragement may thereby be given to the production of books of this class in our own country, which is much to be desired, but also because its general tone is such as to promote a loyal attachment to the Queen, under whose rule we have the happiness to live, and to the Empire of which we have the honour to form a part.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

Mr. John Lovell.

SAMUEL GILSON.

From the Rev. Alexander Mathieson, D.D., late Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

MONTREAL, 8th March, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have examined with some care the sheets of your "General Geography for the use of Schools."

I approve of the plan of the work. The taste and care displayed in the illustrations demand commendation. The chapter on Astronomical and Physical Geography, though short, is complete, and as introductory to the body of the work must be highly useful. But what I consider chiefly valuable is its adaptation to the Schools of Canada. Hitherto, in the text-books in use, little more than the briefest notices have been taken of the physical features, of the history, and commercial importance, of the British American Colonies, while undue prominence has been given to the States of America. I am glad to perceive that while general information respecting every section of the globe has been equably distributed throughout the "General Geography," the resources and commercial importance of the Provinces of Canada have not been overlooked,—a feature which, with the style in which it has been got up and the lowliness of the price, cannot fail to recommend it as a text-book for the use of Schools, and especially of Canada.

The only thing I have to remark that appears to me faulty is, the line-shading of the Maps is too deep, rendering them somewhat indistinct, and which I fear the coloring will not ameliorate. Scotland particularly would have been better to have been more in outline.

Wishing you all success in your patriotic undertaking,

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Mr. John Lovell.

ALEX. MATHIESON.

From the Rev. Wellington Jeffers, Wesleyan Minister, and the Elected Editor of the Christian Guardian.

TORONTO, 26th February, 1861.

SIR,—I have examined with some care the new Geography, by J. George Hodgins, LL.B., which you are about to publish. A new Geography has become indispensable in our Schools, for there is no really good one, exhibiting the present state of the world, available for general use. Mr. Hodgins has proved himself to be qualified for the task he has undertaken by his admirable Canadian Geography; and I must say that the present work contains numerous proofs of the immense industry of its Author, and of his good taste and judgment in using his materials. A very large portion of every American Geography is taken up with the United States, and the English Geographies give very little space to America, while in all of them Canada is almost entirely overlooked. Mr. Hodgins has shown excellent judgment in giving to each country that amount of space to which its relative claim to attention entitles it. The first thing for which I look in any elementary work for Schools is, that the definitions should be clear and well adapted to the purposes of instruction, and in this respect your Geography excels any that I have seen. It contains an immense amount of information, and yet the style and arrangement are so natural and easy as to prevent any appearance of tediousness and dryness, and greatly to aid the memory. The Tabular Views, without being too extensive, will be found very useful. One of the most valuable improvements is the manner in which the pronunciation of geographical names is given. There is no waste of words, no useless matter, and a most cosmopolitan spirit of impartiality in treating of different countries. Too much cannot be said in praise of the mechanical and artistical part of the work. The type is of a judicious size, and very clear; the numerous illustrative engravings cannot be excelled; and the maps especially, besides exhibiting the results of the latest explorations and surveys, have a distinctness in the lines and names that renders them invaluable. I really think that we have reason to be proud of our Canadian Author, and of our Canadian Publisher.

I am, Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

WELLINGTON JEFFERS.

From the Rev. Henry Wilkes, D.D., Congregational Minister.

MONTREAL, 8th March, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—The General Geography, prepared by J. George Hodgins, LL.B., Deputy Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, which you are about to publish as a text-book for the better class of schools,—the advance sheets of which have been in my hands several weeks,—must, in my humble judgment, supersede every other in the Schools of British North America. Complete and thorough in its introductory analysis of Mathematical, Physical, and Political Geography, it begins its description of the earth at the point whence our youth should always start, namely, these Colonies of the British Empire. It then passes naturally to other parts of this great continent, and crossing over to Europe brings the pupil into contact with the British Isles on its western confines. I see no lack of attention to the older portions of the earth, of which our former Geographies were wont principally to treat, but it is manifest that youth trained with this text book will not be, as were the students of a former generation, well read it might be in relation to the Old World, and to the Atlantic shores of this continent, but sadly ignorant of the magnificent possessions of Her Majesty which form no mean portion of North America.

The pictorial part of the work deserves special mention. It must greatly add to its value as a text book in families as well as in schools. The Maps, though necessarily restricted in size, are very distinct. Intended, as you announce, for Schools, it appears to me to be also a highly valuable contribution to a pleasant and less formal family instruction in Geography.

I know not that my opinion of a school book, highly favourable as it is in this instance, can be of much value, for the practical teacher must always be the best judge of its qualities; but I confidently anticipate for this and your other school books that large demand that will indicate the high appreciation of the profession. Wishing you success in the preparation and issue of the "Series of School Books,"

I am, yours respectfully,

Mr. John Lovell, Publisher.

HENRY WILKES.

From the Rev. Dr. Wood, General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions and late President of the Wesleyan Conference in Canada.

TORONTO, 4th March, 1861.

SIR,—Having carefully examined "Lovell's General Geography, by J. George Hodgins, LL.B.," I have no hesitation in pronouncing it superior to any work of the same character and size extant. We have all mourned over the bad taste and disparaging sentiments which are to be met with in a work of this nature until now very generally used in the North American Provinces, as upon the whole being the best and cheapest accessible to our youthful students. Mr. Hodgins has not only avoided this breach of national charity, but he has acted with fidelity and impartiality to other portions of the human family who share in the possession of this magnificent world. The amount of knowledge put into these 100 quarto pages is truly amazing, while the number and accuracy of the maps, the expressiveness and beauty of the wood-cut illustrations (some of them really being splendid specimens of the art), and the correctness and clearness of the typographical part of the work render it a valuable addition to our colonial literature, and give to it a very attractive appearance. I hope the large outlay of the enterprising Publisher (the Rivington of Canada), and the labour and diligence of the gifted Author, will be amply rewarded by the book finding its way into every National School between Newfoundland and British Columbia.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

Yours truly,

ENOCH WOOD.