

# OPINIONS ON LOVELL'S GENERAL GEOGRAPHY.

*From Thomas C. Keefer, Esq., Civil Engineer.*

TORONTO, 1st March, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have duly received the advance sheets of your beautiful Geography, which does equal credit to your judgment in a literary sense (I trust it will be so also in a commercial one), and to your enterprise. I have never seen one arranged upon a better system, or more profusely and judiciously illustrated. I have no doubt it will immediately become the standard work in our schools, where it will supply a very great want,—by the Canadian information which it affords, and the impartial character it possesses.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS C. KEEFER.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

*From Alpheus Todd, Esq., Librarian to the Legislative Assembly.*

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,  
QUEBEC, 22nd March, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have examined with great care the advance sheets of your "General Geography," and have much pleasure in bearing my humble testimony to the great merits of the work. Upon comparing the statistics you have given with those in the most recent and reliable publications within my reach, I find abundant proof of the accuracy and completeness of the work.

Publications of this class too often repeat and perpetuate the errors existing in previous compilations, but your Geography is evidently the fruit of great labour and research, and it is replete with information of essential importance to the rising generation of these Provinces, among whom I trust it will hereafter become a standard text-book.

The sections relating to the British North American Provinces are peculiarly valuable, on account of their furnishing, in a condensed form, authentic particulars hitherto not to be found in any School Geography.

The numerous wood-cuts interspersed throughout the work greatly enhance its attractiveness, and at the same time contribute not a little to its utility. Altogether the volume reflects the highest credit upon its learned Author, Mr. Hodgins, already favourably known by his previous labours in the same field; and also upon yourself for the zeal and enterprise displayed in its publication.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

ALPHEUS TODD.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

*From T. A. Gibson, Esq., M.A., First Assistant Master of the High School.*

MONTREAL, 27th April, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I owe you an apology for not sooner expressing an opinion of your "General Geography," the advance sheets of which you kindly sent me several weeks ago. During the interval, however, I have carefully examined these, comprising no less than 100 pages.

Geography has always appeared to me a branch of such importance in an educational point of view, that I have perused with peculiar interest (*con amore*) any works on the intended subject as text-books for youth. For professional purposes I have examined most of the works that have issued from the press for more than the last quarter of a century. During that period numerous improvements have been undoubtedly made; but, in recalling these to my memory, I feel myself justified in pronouncing yours as not only embracing these improvements but supplying various desiderata by means calculated to instruct and interest the youthful pupil in a most attractive manner.

This has been most fully and successfully accomplished by introducing the great variety of cuts representing in a correct and striking manner the different animals of the Continents and Oceania, the features and costumes of different races, and the leading cities of the world, along with separate ones showing many objects most remarkable in nature and art. By such interesting media, appealing constantly to the pupil's understanding and memory through the eyes, his thirst for information will be excited and gratified.

Throughout the Geography, the names of countries, cities, animals, &c., &c., have been correctly syllabicated and accented, as each occurs for the first time. This will prove most helpful to the pupil, and will save a world of trouble to the instructor.

The tables of the population of countries and cities, of the height of mountains, and of the length of rivers, will aid greatly in readily comparing the relative proportions of these.

The leading maps, too, have been frequently enhanced by condensed information on the margins.

I regard the Introductory Chapter, divided into Astronomical, Physical, and Political Geography, as approximating as nearly to perfection as any dissertation can possibly represent the subject.

I highly approve of directing the pupil's earliest attention to the Provinces of British North America, and of regarding these as a standard of comparison with countries subsequently described.

In conclusion, I think I am justified in entertaining the confident expectation that your "General Geography," through an enlightened appreciation of its varied intrinsic merits, is destined very shortly to supersede most of the Geographies now in use in British North America. Towards this consummation permit me to suggest the desirableness of a reprint of the simple text for use in the class room during the preliminary examination of the lessons, as I apprehend that several teachers may, somewhat reasonably, object to the size as inconvenient in point of portability to and from school or for use therein.

Sincerely hoping that your enterprising efforts towards improving our educational works may be crowned with the desired success,

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

T. A. GIBSON.

Mr. John Lovell, Publisher.

*From G. W. Wicksteed, Esq., Law Clerk, Legislative Assembly.*

QUEBEC, 12th March, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I was absent from Quebec when the second part of your School Geography was addressed to me, and on the point of leaving Quebec when the first part reached me, otherwise I should certainly have acknowledged both parts earlier. I have now examined the work with considerable attention and very great pleasure, and think it highly creditable to Mr. Hodgins and to yourself, as well as to the Province. It seems to me to be a very excellent school book, and just what we wanted to make us independent as to the American Geographies, which do anything but justice either to England or to Canada, while they do considerably more than justice to the United (?) States. The Maps, animals, and views are all that can be reasonably expected for the price at which you offer the book, and I know very well that the distinctness and general appearance of the Maps will be vastly improved by the coloring you promise to give them.

Yours very sincerely,

G. W. WICKSTEED.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

*From Frederick Griffin, Esq., Q.C.*

Judging from the advanced sheets (100 pages), I look upon Mr. Lovell's "General Geography for the use of Schools," to be a great improvement upon the books on the same subject now generally used in this Province, and he has therefore my best wishes for the success of his undertaking.

43 St. Gabriel Street, Montreal, 23rd April, 1861.

F. GRIFFIN.

*From William Hicks, Esq., Professor McGill Normal School.*

MONTREAL, 24th April, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am sure the Teachers of Canada will feel grateful to you for publishing the new Geography, a specimen copy of which I have just been looking over with much pleasure. Such a work has been long needed in this country, where the instructors of youth have been obliged to use books either badly arranged, or very scantily furnished with information connected with the British Provinces of North America.

I shall not fail to bring your work before the notice of those who may at a future period be engaged in teaching, and I shall also recommend it to all my friends interested in the work of education.

The Teachers of the Model Schools of the Colonial Church and School Society are desirous of introducing it into their respective departments, and I shall be most willing to represent this to the Committee.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM HICKS.

Mr. John Lovell.

*From Charles Nichols, Esq., L.R.C.P., Principal of Collegiate School.*

MONTREAL, 1st March, 1861.

SIR,—Canada has been very deficient, and is so still, in good text-books for her Schools. The series now issuing from your press is doing much towards a reformation in this respect. We have had from it books on Spelling, Elocution, History, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and English Grammar, all admirable works on the subjects of which they have treated.

I have just been perusing your "General Geography," edited by J. George Hodgins, LL.B., and I must say that it is an excellent work, and I make no doubt will soon supersede all other Geographies in the Schools of Canada. A more luxurious type would perhaps be a recommendation, but this could not be effected without an increase of price, which all must acknowledge is very reasonable for so good a work. I shall adopt it for my upper classes.

Yours truly,

CHARLES NICHOLS.

Mr. John Lovell.

*From George Lawson, Esq., Ph.D., F.R.P.S., F.B.S., F.R.S.S.A., Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the University of Queen's College.*

KINGSTON, 12th March, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to express my approval of your new work, the "General Geography for the use of Schools." Its general plan is good. The prominence given to physical phenomena, and natural and artificial products, as well as to history and statistics, is a distinctive feature that will commend the work to those who have enlarged views as to the real nature and objects of geographical science; while the apt illustrations, pictorial and typographical, that run through its pages, are well calculated to excite the interest of the young, and make permanent impressions on the memory. I doubt not it will come into extensive use in Schools, and prove also of great value in private families.

Yours truly,

GEORGE LAWSON.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

*From Archibald Macallum, Esq., Principal of the Hamilton Central School.*

HAMILTON, 28th February, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have examined with care your School Geography, now in course of publication. The whole work is marked by learning, ability, and taste. The arrangement is natural, and therefore excellent. The information supplied is very great and very good, just what is wanted for the school-room, and suited for the studio. The labor and care bestowed on it have been immense, and reflect much credit on all concerned. In making this valuable addition to the school books already published, you have laid all connected with the education of youth under renewed obligation. This work should, as I trust it will shortly, be in the hands of every teacher and school officer in Canada.

Yours very respectfully,

ARCHIBALD MACALLUM.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.