

mentary school reader, for which it seems well adapted. Its seven chapters are on 'The Geography of North America, The Growth (geological) of the same, Its Present Condition, Aboriginal Peoples, Natural Products and Resources, Effects of Its Form on the History of Colonists, and Its Commercial Condition. The book is intelligently and intelligibly written, without any attempt at eloquence, is moderate in its scientific tone, free from the domination of unscientific hypotheses, and sufficiently interesting to while away a pleasant hour or two for a reader who can enjoy popular science. Of course, the Dominion is not overlooked, but the place assigned to it is hardly such as to entitle *The Story of Our Continent* to become a Canadian text book.

I have received, from the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, Omaha and Ponka Letters, by the Rev. James Owen Dorsey, a large octavo volume of 127 pages, published by the Bureau of Ethnology. The Omahas and Ponkas are tribes of the Sioux or Dakota family, speaking a common language called the *Thegiha*, and in this language the letters contained in the volume are written, being accompanied, however, with an interlinear English translation and with notes. A complete grammatical analysis of one or two letters would have been a great boon to the student of *Thegiha*, but a careful study of Riggs' Dakota grammar may render such unnecessary. The letters are genuine documents, addressed by Omahas and Ponkas to one another, and to white friends conversant with their speech. From the same source comes *Catalogue of Pre-historic Works East of the Rocky Mountains*, by Professor Cyrus Thomas, containing 240 pages and 17 plates. I have more than once had occasion to refer to the important labours of Professor Thomas in this archaeological field. Since the time of Squier and Davis, materials for such a catalogue have been collecting, chiefly in the hands of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington. I sincerely trust that Professor Thomas has been more successful in his work with the pre-historic remains in the various states of the Union than he has been with those in Canada. Of the many discoveries of Dr. Boyle in the province of Ontario, and of those of Dr. Bryce in Manitoba, Professor Thomas is unfortunately ignorant. Yet the *Archæological Reports* of the Canadian Institute are in the library of the Smithsonian Institution, and doubtless Professor Bryce has furnished the same library with copies of his papers on *The Rainy River Mounds*. Having exhibited the author's ignorance and the Talker's knowledge, it is now in order, supposing him to be one of those literary Thugs castigated by Mr. Howells and others, and not unknown even in Canada, for him to hold Professor Thomas up to scorn, and belittle his painstaking labours. There is a suspicion that men who criticize thus are disappointed men, who have no other means of letting the public know the few facts with which they are acquainted. To them even a misprint is a mine. Professor Thomas has personally visited the sites of the more important ancient works in the United States, so that it is exceedingly