

books any one work which gives a connected account of the subjects dealt with in this little volume, hence the great bulk of our school-children leave school with hardly an idea of what is meant by the history of the literature of their native tongue. With the present work in their hands this could not continue to be the case, and we therefore trust that it will come into extensive use.

LOVELL'S INTERMEDIATE GEOGRAPHY, with Maps and Illustrations; being introductory to Lovell's Advanced Geography, authorized by the Hon. the Minister of Education, Ontario. Montreal: John Lovell, 1879.

The personal history of the publisher of this Geography, and the record of his long and industrious life, is a perpetual inspiration to any one familiar with his remarkable career. Before many of the present generation were born, Mr. Lovell's public services to the country had earned for him enviable distinction, and a pension from the British Government which his ardent patriotism and generous, disinterested nature would not allow him to accept. Exchanging the military saddle in the turbulent times of '37 for work at the printer's "case," he found ready means to serve his country in a sphere of usefulness no less important than that of the military trooper. His enterprise and industry, as well as the integrity of his character, and his high sense of honour, soon secured him recognition and employment by the authorities in the practical career he had set before him. As Parliamentary printer, through the many years of the early Colonial life of the country, the Government libraries and State archives witness to his faithful and loyal labours. His many and important publishing enterprises testify also to the irrepressible public spirit which has been signally manifested in all his work. Stimulated by this patriotic ardour, some twenty years ago he threw himself into educational publishing with the motive of adapting the school-books of the country to the educational wants and national predilections of the people. The earliest outcome of this project was the "General Geography," prepared by the present Deputy Minister of Education of Ontario,

soon followed by the introductory "Easy Lessons,"—text-books which have long enjoyed the favour and patronage of the schools.

The work before us takes the place of the latter book, which we learn it would have earlier replaced but for the delay caused by the thoroughness of the revision to which the new book has been subjected. The place of the 'General Geography,' is to be immediately taken by a new and 'Advanced' text-book, of a high character, which Mr. Lovell is about to issue. The most cursory glance at the 'Intermediate,' will assure anyone that examines the book that it is the product of faithful and intelligent labour; while its attractive mechanical appearance will instantly prepossess the critic in its favour. A closer acquaintance with the work will deepen this impression, and increase the satisfaction with which the peruser of its contents will examine its pages. If we entertain an opinion that would qualify our unstinted commendation of the book, it is that that would lead us to give preference to the ordinary literary form of book construction over the catechetical, which has been adopted by the writer. The question and answer form, in our opinion, is apt to lead the instructor to impart his knowledge in splinters of fact rather than in the convertible pulp of a simple and enticing narrative. Still, for elementary classes, the form into which the book has been cast may be best suited; and the writer has admirably succeeded in the choice and statement of facts which he has embodied from the interesting fields of geographical information. As an epitome of elementary geography for Canadian schools, the work, in our opinion, is wholly satisfactory. Within its compass we have just that amount and variety of matter which must make the book thoroughly acceptable to the teacher, and easy of digestion by the pupil. The page is a clear, clean, and inviting one, and the maps and illustrations are features of excellence which call for spontaneous recognition. The book will doubtless receive a large measure of favour, and the instant and hearty commendation of every one examining it interested in education in Canada.