

OPINIONS ON LOVELL'S GENERAL GEOGRAPHY.

From Mrs. Gordon, Principal of Ladies' Seminary.

5 ARGYLE TERRACE,
MONTREAL, 25th February, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—Since the day you favoured me with the advance sheets of a portion of the "General Geography for the use of Schools," which you are about to publish, I have been devoting to its examination a portion of my few and short minutes of leisure.

To produce a school treatise on this science, corresponding with anything like completeness to the wants of teacher and pupil, is a task which, so far as my knowledge extends, has never yet been fully accomplished. Few works of the sort have been long in use before their inadequacy in some important respect is felt and acknowledged, and there is a never-failing crop of new ones professing to supply the defects of their fore-runners. I remember, just before leaving Europe, having in my hands a list of more than a hundred and thirty geographical treatises, all for the use of schools, and all published within the two preceding years.

Until the best possible work shall have been produced, we who are engaged in tuition will always gladly avail ourselves of the best actual one that comes within our reach. The Author's name (to say nothing of the Publisher's) was sufficient to insure my respectful attention to the admirably got up volume now before me, and I rise from its perusal convinced that I shall be able to use it in my seminary with considerable advantage to all concerned.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,
AUGUSTA GORDON.

Mr. John Lovell.

From the Honorable A. A. Dorion, M. P. P.

MONTREAL, 4th March, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great satisfaction "Lovell's General Geography," which you are about to publish, and I consider it will be a valuable addition to our stock of books for the use of the most advanced of our common Schools. Its complete description of the British Colonies fills a vacuum not supplied heretofore by either Foreign or British Geographies, while the style in which it is got up, and its low price, cannot fail to recommend it for general purposes.

I only wish it were in your power to have it published in French also, as most of the Geographies in use in Lower Canada are deficient and do not contain much important information which is to be found in your work.

Respectfully yours,
A. A. DORION.

Mr. John Lovell.

From J. B. Meilleur, M.D., LL.D., Ex-Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.

MONTREAL, 26th February, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have carefully examined the copy of your "General Geography," which you have had the goodness to send me, and I confess that I have derived no little pleasure from such an examination. It is a work well calculated to attain the end which you have in view, and will undoubtedly prove invaluable, as a text book in the hands of our Canadian youth. Its maps are excellent and the varied and extensive information it contains, not being, as far as I can see, tainted by any sectarian or party prejudice, will, I trust, contribute much to recommend it to a discriminating public, and procure for it a wide spread circulation.

I need not say that I will hail with joy the success of an enterprise which reflects so much credit on yourself, as well as on the Author of the work, and that I shall recommend it as a product of Canadian talent and industry, in preference to any other work on the same subject, of even equal merit, but published elsewhere.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
J. B. MEILLEUR.

Mr. John Lovell, Publisher.

From Wolfred Nelson, M.D., Provincial Inspector of Prisons.

MONTREAL, 28th February, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have carefully perused your valuable work on General Geography with much pleasure, and am convinced that it will attain the patriotic ends you aim at. Not only to the Canadian student will it prove a boon, but it will be found useful and entertaining everywhere.

The maps seem to be got up with much care and minuteness, but, being necessarily of small compass, have at first glance the appearance of indistinctness, which, however, soon disappears on a closer examination.

With best wishes for your complete success in your many and most valuable enterprises so intimately allied to the public good,

I am, my dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Mr. John Lovell. WOLFRED NELSON.

From T. Sterry Hunt, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., Chemist and Mineralogist to the Geological Survey of Canada.

MONTREAL, 26th February, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—From the partial examination which I have been able to give your Geography, I have much pleasure in saying that I conceive it to be compiled with much care and judgment; at the same time the admirable engravings and maps add greatly to its value, and make it in my opinion the best School Geography I have ever met with.

Faithfully yours,
T. STERRY HUNT.

Mr. John Lovell.

From Archibald Hall, M.D., L.R.C.S.E., Professor of Midwifery, &c., in the University of McGill College.

18 VICTORIA SQUARE,
MONTREAL, 26th February, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have carefully perused the advanced sheets of your "General Geography," and have little hesitation in pronouncing an opinion on the merits of the work.

As regards the manner in which the different subjects have been treated, I consider it all that can be desired. The definitions of the different geographical, astronomical, and meteorological terms are correct, and embody the true meaning of them in as few words as our language admits. This most important division of the work is so well executed as to combine conciseness with clearness, and brevity with perspicacity.

The great objection to geographical works in general consists in the fact that they are usually too minute on the country of which the author happens to be a native, or in which he resides, to the exclusion of important particulars in regard to other countries and places. While it is proper that every scholar should be intimately acquainted with the particulars of his own national home, and that it should therefore receive an especial attention, I think that your Geography forms an exception to other works of the kind, as you have dealt in equality of fairness with all countries, thus rendering the volume one which might with the greatest propriety be placed in the hands of a pupil here, in England, the United States, or Australia. In fact, I think you have made it as cosmopolitan as such a work can well be.

The maps and other embellishments are such as to render the work peculiarly attractive to the young scholar. If a fault is to be found with the former, it consists in the fact that they are too profuse of names of places. The wonder is that you can afford to publish it at the price which I have learned that you propose to demand for it.

I shall be only too happy to hear that your enlightened efforts in favour of education have been crowned with the most complete success. No one with whom I am acquainted deserves a more substantial reward.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
Yours most truly,
A. HALL, M.D.

Mr. John Lovell.

From Charles Smallwood, M.D., LL.D.

OBSERVATORY,
St. MARTIN, ISLE JESUS, 25th February, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have examined the advance sheets of your "General Geography," and have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the fidelity of its scientific and general character.

The maps, illustrations, and letter-press, are in keeping with the general character of the book, and reflect great credit on your establishment.

The Editorial department has been carried out with a talent and perseverance worthy of the highest encomiums, and has left nothing to be desired. As an Educational book of the first class, I feel confident that it will supersede any work on the same subject at present in use.

Yours very truly,
CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M.D.

Mr. John Lovell, Montreal.

From Alexander Morris, Esq., M.P.P., and Author of "Canada and her Resources, a Price Essay," "Nova Britannia," &c., and Governor of University of McGill College.

MONTREAL, 27th February, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—After a careful examination of the advance sheets of "Lovell's General Geography," which you have sent me, I have much pleasure in bearing a willing testimony to its merits. In its publication you have rendered a real service to the community. I have long felt that it was, in a patriotic point of view, a great misfortune that the youth of British North America were compelled to derive their knowledge of the geography of their native country and of Britain from geographies published in the United States, in which these countries were dwarfed and in many cases depreciated, while the United States were correspondingly magnified. For this evil you have provided a most effectual remedy.

I have paid particular attention to the study of the natural characteristics and other features of British North America during some years past, and I have no hesitation in saying that I know of no other source from which the pupils in our schools can gain the information you have provided for them. The Map of British Columbia and the North-West Territories is very good and full, and is to be found in no other Geography that I am aware of. The Maps of Canada and the Lower Provinces are also extremely valuable features of the work. The illustrations and maps are, as a whole, very creditable to Canadian enterprise, and would redound to the honour of any of the publishing companies of Britain or America. I believe that the Geography will prove a boon to the country, and will have a most happy effect in training the youth of the British Provinces to right views of the great extent of their country, and of the variety of its resources, and will largely contribute to the development of a national sentiment. I trust that the Geography will obtain the widest and most general circulation, and that you will thereby be rewarded for your public-spirited enterprise.

As a simpler and more elementary work, for junior pupils, would be very useful, I hope the encouragement awarded to the "General Geography" will lead you to issue another work for use in our primary schools, as you intimate your intention of doing.

I am, yours obediently,
ALEXANDER MORRIS.

Mr. John Lovell, Publisher.