

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL, N. H.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH,

1852.

CONCORD:

NEW-HAMPSHIRE STEAM PRINTING WORKS,

TRIPP & OSGOOD, PROPRIETORS,

1852.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Disbursements by the Selectmen.

Paid for the support of Schools.

District No. 1.	S. S. Sanborn,	\$27.63
“	2. O. F. Fewler,	111.17
“	3. Stephen Nelson,	35.18
“	4. S. N. Heath,	34.53
“	5. Calvin Sweatt,	54.22
“	6. B. Q. Fellows,	43.65
“	7. Ben. Cass,	20.49
“	8 R. Rollins, \$15. S. S. Fellows, \$33.46,	48.46
“	9 Sanborn Gale,	46.43
“	10. M. C. Sawyer,	97.09
“	11. Nathan Sleeper, jr.,	60.66
		\$579.52
March. 1.	Paid D. O. Morton, ministerial money for Congregational Society,	\$2.00
“	Calvin Holman, ministerial money for Methodist Society,	2.00
“	Samuel P. Furnald, ministerial money Freewill Baptist Society,	2.00
“	State Tax,	171.00
“	County Tax,	328.20
		\$505.20
1851.	<i>School House Money, District No. 2.</i>	
Nov. 24.	Paid O. F. Fowler,	4.72
“	E. Duparow, poll tax abated,	1.53
	<i>District No. 10.</i>	
March 2, 1852.	Paid Samuel C. Brown, services as committee, 1849,	17.39
“	M. C. Sawyer, abatement school-house tax in district No. 10,	4.09

March 2, Reuben Rollins,	10.00
	21.48

District No. 9.

Oct. 25, 1851. Paid John Hastings, Gilman In- galls, jr., S. T. W. Sleeper, building com- mittee,	198.75
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District No. 4.

Oct. 28, 1851. Paid J. M. R. Emmons,	10.00
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1851.

Repairing Highways and Bridges.

June 28. Paid J. F. Kendall, for lumber,	26.10
“ Sevrens & Favour, for plank and lumber,	30.51
Aug. 30. Sam'l H. Rollins, for lumber,	16.56
“ O. S. Hall for labor on bridge,	75
“ E. W. Cheney, for building bridge,	20.83
“ Drake & Wells, for plank,	10.87
“ Aaron Kidder, plank,	15.00
Oct. 25. Gould & Heath, iron work on bridge,	2.36
Nov. 29. Ben. Cass for work on road,	7.50
“ Elijah Sanborn, labor,	50
“ Stephen Nelson, work on road,	12.66
“ Sam'l H. Rollins, work and lumber,	5.93
“ Jonathan E. Sleeper, labor,	3.00
Dec. 17. Luther Fellows, labor,	2.50
“ 27. Osmond Gale, for stone,	2.00
“ “ John Hastings, labor,	7.00
Jan. 31. 1852. Nathan Sleeper, jr., labor,	5.55
Feb. 21. John W. Sanborn, for lumber,	3.00
“ House & Ainsworth, sharpening drills,	90
“ Drake & Wells, plank,	2.40
“ 25. Lovejoy & Kelley,	25
“ Noah Horn, labor,	50
“ Sevrens & Favor, lumber,	13.24
Mar. 2. Joseph Kidder, labor,	1.15
“ H. T. Sevrens, labor,	2.25
“ H. T. Sevrens, powder,	3.37
“ John Hastings, labor on road,	1.58

\$198.26

1851.

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Mar. 15.	Paid Samuel C. Brown for reports,	12.25
"	Geo. M. Cavis, register and alphabet,	4.62
Oct. 28.	Levi Bartlett, road damages,	25.50
"	Levi Bartlett,	6.00
"	D. O. Morton, road damages,	40.00
"	Frederick Bartlett, road damages,	3.00
Dec. 17.	Amos Webster, damage on road,	5.00
" 27.	E. G. Wilson, horse-hire,	10.16
Jan. 21, 1852.	J. T. Sandford, enrolling soldiers, . . .	1.00
"	N. B. Bryant, for road business,	7.05
Feb. 25.	Soldiers,	15.00
"	S. Cavis, for powder, &c.,	1.16
"	M. C. Sawyer, stationery,	4.49
"	J. S. Chase, medical attendance on A. Hutchinson, county pauper,	2.67

1852.

Town Officers' Bills.

Mar. 2.	Paid G. M. Cavis, services as Town Clerk,	15.00
"	S. Cavis, services as Town Treasurer, . . .	10.00
"	Reuben Rollins, collecting taxes,	26.90
"	M. C. Hoyt, Sup. School Committee,	19.25
"	J. S. Chase,	7.00
"	N. B. Bryant,	12.00
		\$228.05

1851. *Nathan Sleeper jr.'s bill of services as Selectman:*

Mar. 15.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day disposing of the poor,	50
" 22.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on town business,	50
Apr. 5.	4 days taking inventory,	4.00
" 10.	5 days making taxes and other business, .	5.50
" 15.	2 days appointing town officers,	2.00
" 19.	1 day on town business,	1.00
May 10.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day examining bridges,	50
June 7.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on road,	50
" 11.	1 day to Plymouth,	1.00
" 14.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day to Plymouth,	50
" 26.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day to Plymouth,	50
July 28.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on town business,	50

Aug. 2.	1 day to Bridgewater,	1.00
" 8.	1 day in District No. 9,	1.00
" 14.	3 days to Haverhill,	3.00
" 19.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day to Haverhill,50
" 20.	1 day to Meredith for counsel,	1.00
" 30.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day to " "50
Sept. 5.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day warning town meeting,50
" 27.	1 day giving orders,	1.00
Oct. 25. " "50
Nov.	1 day to Wentworth,	1.00
	4 days to Plymouth,	4.00
Dec. 27.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day regulating juror-box,50
Jan. 31.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "50
Feb. 25.	1 day giving orders,	1.00
Mar. 2.	1 day on settlement,	1.00
" 4.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days making report, &c., - - - - -	2.50
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		\$36 50

1851. *Samuel H. Rollins's bill of services as Selectman :*

Mar. 15.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day disposing of the poor,	50
" 22.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day " "	50
Apr. 5.	4 days taking and regulating invoice,	4 00
" 10.	5 days making taxes and warrants,	5 00
" 14.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day appointing town officers,	50
" 15.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day and cash paid out,	87
" 19.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day	50
" 29.	Recording taxes,	3 00
May 10.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on town business,	50
June 7.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on road,	50
" 14.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
" 26.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
July 14.	1 day on town business,	1 00
Aug. 8.	1 " "	1.00
" 30.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
Sept. 27.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day laying out road,	50
Oct. 25.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
" 29.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
Nov. 29.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
Dec. 27.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50
Jan. 31. 1852.	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	50

Feb. 21.	2 days making check-list and warning town meeting and other business,	2 00
“ 25.	1 day on town business,	1 00
Mar. 4.	3 days making report and other business,	3 00
“	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
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		\$28 37

1851. *H. T. Sevrens, services as Selectman.*

Mar. 15.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day disposing of the poor,	50
“ 22.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
April 4.	4 days taking invoice,	4 00
“ 10.	5 days making taxes and warrants,	5 00
“ 14.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day appointing town officers,	50
“ 15.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
“ 19.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
“ 29.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
May 10.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
“ 11.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on small pox,	50
“ 12.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
June 7.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on road,	50
“ 14.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
“ 26.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
July 14.	1 day on town business,	1 00
Aug. 8.	1 “	1 00
“ 30.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on town business,	50
Sept. 27.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day laying out road,	50
Oct. 21.	$\frac{1}{2}$ day on road,	50
“ 25.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “	50
“ 29.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “	50
Nov. 29.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “	50
Dec. 27.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “	50
Jan. 31.	$\frac{1}{2}$ “	50
Feb. 22.	2 days making check-list and warning town-meeting, and other business,	2 00
“ 25.	1 day on town business,	1 00
Mar. 4.	3 days making report and other business,	3 00
“	$\frac{1}{2}$ “ “	50
		<hr/>
		\$27 50

Abatement of Taxes.

Paid Samuel H. Rollins, 1848,	11 17
“ James Mushgrove, 1851,	1 58
“ E. Duparow, poll tax,	1 65
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\$14 40	

1851 *SUPPORT OF THE POOR.*

Aug. 30. Paid Samuel Page, for making Coffin for Betsey Cleveland,.....	4 00
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	Alexander Tyrrell's widow,	25	56
Oct. 25.	Miss R. S. Blaisdell, for Betsey Cleveland's robe,	2	15
Nov. 26.	J. F. Kendall, for board and moving Mary Allen	2	00
Feb. 21.	Stephen Nelson, support of Polly Lowell,	31	20
	Isaac K. George, for rent of the Hutchinson place,	20	00
	C. P. Fellows, support of J. Fellows and Betsey Cleveland,	86	20
	John W. Sanborn, support of Mary Ann Gurdy,	46	80
" 25.	J. S. Chase, for medical attendance,	15	00
Feb. 25.	S. Cavis, sundries, wood, &c., for S. Simonds,	37	79
"	Sevrens & Favor, for wood,	2	33
"	Bartlett & Taylor, wood,	1	60
"	S. Cavis, sundries for David Eaton,	6	99
"	Bartlett & Taylor, for sundries,	1	92
"	S. Cavis, clothing for Daniel Hoyt,	2	27
"	Ira Edgerly, digging grave for B. Cleveland,	1	00
"	S. Cavis, by order of A. Kidder, for the support of Lydia Gurdy,	49	40
"	Aaron Kidder, for support of Mary Allen,	38	51
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			\$374 72

1851.

Small Pox bills.

June 28.	Paid Sybil Watts, for nursing S. Huse,	13	00
" 6.	S. Cavis, store bills, for pest house,	5	51
"	O. F. Fowler, for pest house rent,	10	00
"	D. Brainard, taking care of Huse,	1	00
"	J. S. Chase, medical attendance,	13	50
"	M. C. Hoyt, "	2	00
"	L. Robinson, for meat,	50	
"	R. Rollins, taking care of Huse,	11	45
"	H. T. Sevrens, sundries for Huse,	3	77
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			\$60 73

**The Selectmen credit the town for the year ending March
1852, as follows :**

By list of taxes assessed in April, 1851,	1773	81
" Railroad tax in 1851,	130	05
" Literary Fund, . . 1851	30	87
" Cash on C. P. Fellows, notes,	69	71
" Peter Bean,	31	75
" Soldiers money, from the State,	15	00
" County,	10	00
" use of Town House,	4	00
" Samuel H. Rollins, paid non-resident highway tax,	9	09
" Reuben Rollins, " "	17	50
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		\$2100 78

Total amount of disbursements,	\$2289 67
Total amount of receipts,	2100 78
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	\$188 89

Estimated Debts against the Town, March, 1852.

Miss Whittemore,	160 23
J. M. R. Emmons,	173 27
Caleb Whittemore,	300 00

School money unappropriated.

District No. 2,	51 00
“ “ 10,	5 24
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	\$689 74

Back Standing Orders of 1850, to March 11, 1851, and notes paid.

1851. Town Treasurer,	Cr.
Mar. 25. J. S. Chase, cash and orders,	123 00
July 24. Cash,	25 00
Sept. 4. J. M. R. Emmons, on note,	111 97
Oct. 9. Levi Bartlett, on note,	218 30
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	\$478 27

Schedule of Notes and Claims due the Town, March, 1852.

NAMES.	DATES.	PRINCIPAL.	INTEREST.	AM'T DUE.
U. P. Fellows, ..	Apr. 10, 1848...	\$100 00	\$25 36	\$125 36
“ “ “	“ “ “	100 00	25 36	125 36
“ “ “	“ “ “	100 00	24 61	49 61
Tim. Wiggin, ..	Oct. 31, 1849.....	9 00	1 26	10 26
B. Q. Fellows, } G. Ingalls, Jr. }	Mar. 1, 1851.....	18 00	1 08	19 08
Reuben Lowell, ..	June 22, 1843....	150 00	98 64	248 64
G. Ingalls, Jr., ..	Dec. 1, 1849....	6 56		6 56
D. Sleeper,	Dec. 1, 1849....	3 07		3 07
G. Ingalls, Jr., ..	Nov. 20, 1832....	100 00	6 00	106 00
A. Cheney,	May 7, 1850....	47 00	5 17	52 17
J. S. Chase,	Mar. 4, 1852....			100 00
County pauper claim,				65 40
Money in the Treasury,				91 60
Money in the Collector's hands, year 1851,				100 00

Amount of the Claims of the town,	\$1103 11
Amount of the debts of the town,	689 74

Balance in favor of the town,

Which is respectfully submitted,

NATHAN SLEEPER, Jr.,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
SAMUEL H. ROLLINS,	
H. T. SEVRENS,	

of
Bristol.

Bristol, March 4, 1851.

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

For the Town of Bristol the Year ending March 9, 1852.

The general deportment of our schools, with one or two exceptions, has been good. In districts 6 and 7, there has not been that general satisfaction given by the teachers which is desirable. How much of the fault is to be attributed to the teacher, scholar, and parent your committee can hardly determine. They cannot say that either are faultless. The schools in districts 2, 9 and 11, have been decidedly improved and rank among our best. Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10, have in most instances maintained their former good character, while in some it has been exceeded.

Superintending School Committee.—It has been the intention of the committee to visit every school at or near its beginning, and at or near its close; and to make such other occasional visits, as circumstances permitted or necessity required. At our first visit it has been our practice to note the general character of the school, method of instruction, &c., and to make such suggestions in relation to books, discipline, classification, and the like as was thought practicable and for the interest and best good of the school; to point out the great importance of an education, the vast amount of time and money expended in obtaining it, and the utter imbecility of man without it; at our occasional visits to correct errors and to encourage in meritorious progress; and at our last visit, to make a careful and critical examination of the school in the studies attended to.

Prudential Committee.—The prudential committee is the grand pioneer in our common schools. To him we look to provide us with competent and energetic teachers. The solicitous feelings for nieces,

nephews, cousins, and friends in general, not to mention family patronage, should all be sacrificed on the *shrine* of the *district's good*. No one should be engaged as teacher when there is a shade of doubt as to their competency to manage your school. No teacher should be hired on the principle "if you can get a certificate." The Pamphlet Laws, which are to be found with the clerk of every district, point out the special duties of the prudential committee.

Parents and Guardians.—As the prudential committee is the pioneer, so the parents and guardians are the chief proprietors of the soil. It is for them to see to it, that their common school interests are looked after by men of known ability, who are interested in the cause, and who will engage a thorough and systematic instructor. And when your school is once in operation, see to it that your servant, the teacher, does his whole duty. Do not let the first fortnight pass without finding you at the school-room, and as often as once a week thereafter. Who of you, if you had entrusted to an experienced hand, the feeding and training of a splendid horse or a valuable pair of oxen, which you wished to exhibit at your State Agricultural Fair, would fail to see them every day, to note their bettered condition and their improvement in pulling. O! "ye blind leaders of the blind," of how much more importance is the expansion and right culture of the immortal intellect of your child, than is the growth of the skin, the gloss of the hair, or the strength of the muscle of your pettied brutes. Visit your schools: thereby encouraging your scholars and stimulating the energies of your teacher. Let not another year pass without seeing every parent and guardian at the district school, at least once every term.

Teachers.—Yours is a high and a noble calling, big with responsibility, and requires a faithful discharge of your important trust. To you is entrusted the moulding, and in many respects the maturing of that noble conception of a Supreme Being, the human intellect. But how can you do this unless your own minds have been matured by long and diligent study? How can the potter fashion the plastic clay, unless he has a perfect pattern impressed on his own brain? How can you teach others to reason, unless you have first learned to think? How can you explain abstract principles, unless you are master of elementary bodies? How is it possible for an individual to be a thorough instructor, unless he be a thorough scholar?

DISTRICT NO. 1.—One term during the year: taught ten weeks by *Miss Angeline D. Smith*; whole number of scholars, nine; aver-

age attendance, eight; order good. Did not visit this school but once, not being notified of its close.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—Summer term not reported. Winter term taught fifteen weeks by *Miss Martha A. Smith*. Whole number of scholars, fifty-eight; average attendance, forty-four. This school has been decidedly improved.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—One term of twelve weeks during the year, taught by *Miss Mudgett*. Whole number of scholars, eighteen; average attendance, fifteen. Order bad. Social habits were cultivated.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—Summer term not reported. Winter term of nine and one half weeks, taught by *Miss P. W. Pike*. Whole number of scholars, nineteen; average attendance, fifteen. Here is an instance in which the old maxim is verified “as is the teacher so is the school.” Our poorest school in the summer, one of our best in the winter; social habits well cared for. In closing her report the teacher remarks as follows: “The parents in this district are deeply interested in their school. The consequence is, the children are at school in good season, and are never absent for a day if it is possible to avoid it. They are also taught to obey their teacher and be ‘very good,’ consequently this school is easily managed. The public opinion of this district is, that it is wrong and disgraceful to disobey the expressed wishes of their teacher. The happy influence of the parents makes the teaching of this school a pleasant task.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—One term during the year. Length of school sixteen weeks. *Miss J. R. Moor*, teacher. Whole number of scholars, twenty-two; average attendance for fifteen weeks, about nineteen. Too much whispering to be considered good order. Social character good. School-house should be remodeled.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—Summer term taught seven weeks by *Miss R. L. Moor*. Whole number of scholars, twenty-five; average attendance, sixteen. A medium school. Winter term taught ten weeks by the same teacher. Whole number of scholars, twenty-one; average attendance, eleven. Social habits sadly neglected. Great want of energy and spirit. The following remarks by the teacher are inserted: “I very much regret that I am not able to report more favorably of this school. When the scholars were present their deportment was good. But during the last part of the school many of them left, and several mornings I found the stove torn down, the chimney filled, and like derangements of the school-room, which was evidently done

by the scholars or their parents. But some of the parents acted a more noble part. They did all they could to render the school pleasant and interesting both to the scholars and teacher. To them many thanks are due for their kindness. When parents permit their children to remain out of school for days and even weeks together, encouraging them to enter the school-house nights and make all the disturbance they can; and more than this, carry their party quarrels into the school, can it be expected that a school can appear well, and make good improvement?"

DISTRICT NO. 7.—One term during the year, taught thirteen weeks, by *Miss Mary Moor*. Whole number of scholars, seven; average attendance, four, and a fraction. A medium school. The teacher's remarks are appended. "I have found this a good school. The scholars, with but one exception, have been orderly and respectful in their behavior, and have made good improvement. If parents would teach their children that it is a disgrace both to themselves and their parents to break the rules of school, and that they should act from principles of right, both at home and abroad, there would be less difficulty in our schools.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—Summer term taught ten weeks, by *Miss R. L. Moor*. A medium school. Whole number of scholars, twenty-six; average attendance, twenty-one. Winter term of nine weeks, taught by *Mr. Reuben Rollins*. Order good. Social habits well cared for; progress commendable. Whole number of scholars, twenty-five; average attendance, eighteen. The teacher in his report after referring to the bad condition of the school-house, and the probabilities of having a new one, says;—"But we cannot make parents exchange their shameful negligence of suffering their children to be late at school, and their damnable indifference whether their children have any education at all, for habits of punctuality and devotion to the interests of our common schools. Any one can see, by referring to the record, who those parents are. I say, that as long as parents allow their children to stay away from school to race up and down the street, sliding on their sleds, tearing out their clothes, swearing and using all manner of vulgar and profane language, as some parents in this district do, they are sending their children to the State prison, the gallops, and to eternal ruin. I taught one term of school in this district, sixteen or seventeen years ago. There was a little boy allowed to stay away from school, and was indulged in the same practices that ten or a dozen of the children in this district now are. But what is his

character now and where has he been since that time? Two terms in the State prison; and are not these children as likely to take the same course as he was?"

DISTRICT NO. 9.—One term during the year, taught thirteen weeks, by *Mr. Phineas B. Smith*. Order and discipline excellent. Progress good. Whole number of scholars, thirty-one; average attendance, twenty-four.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—Summer term taught twelve weeks, by *Miss Amy A. Sargent*. Whole number of scholars, forty-two; average attendance, thirty-one. Order and progress very good. Social habits well cared for. Winter term of seven weeks, taught by *Mr. Milan Graves*. Order good. Progress commendable. Whole number of scholars, thirty-six; average attendance, twenty-eight.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—Summer term, taught nine weeks, by *Miss Maria G. Ayer*. Whole number of scholars, fifteen; average attendance, ten. A good school. Winter term of nine weeks, taught by *Miss Mary Pierce*. Whole number of scholars, fifteen; average attendance, 11. Order good. Progress commendable.

SUMMARY.

Length of all the schools in weeks, during the year,	197½
Whole number of scholars attending school two weeks,	264
Average attendance in summer schools,	123
“ “ “ winter schools,	184
Average monthly wages of male teachers,	\$14 00
“ “ “ female teachers,	\$6 77
Amount of money raised by taxes,	\$442 00
Amount contributed in board and fuel,	\$100 40
Income of local fund,	\$52 46
Amount of literary fund,	\$39 87
Non-resident school money,	\$28 66
Amount appropriated to the scholar,	\$2 51

In closing our report, we have to say, that we feel much gratified in being able to realize a growing interest in behalf of our common

schools. One hundred dollars was added to the amount required by law, for the support of common schools, the past year. The result is you have had longer schools and thereby much more profitable. It is suggested that an additional hundred dollars be raised, making two hundred dollars over and above what is required by law; one hundred to be divided equally among the school districts, the other hundred to be divided according to the valuation. You will not miss it in the purse, while you will receive a rich harvest in the intellectual growth of your children. Our teachers are not so well qualified, as our schools and the progress of the age demand. The past year we have a few noble exceptions, with better pay we should have more. We find that those teachers who have been attendants on our Teachers' Institutes, are much the best qualified to instruct and govern their schools. Our zealous and able County Commissioner has promised us a session of the Teachers' Institute in this town the ensuing season. Another great and important desideratum, in the welfare and progress of our common schools is the interest which the parents take in encouraging and sustaining our teachers in their arduous duties, and how can you do it more effectually than by visiting your schools. See to it that you are not found wanting in this respect.

Respectfully submitted,

M. C. HOYT, *for S. School Committee.*

