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E. P. THOMPSON.

Dec. 20-1902









# ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

TREASURER,

SELECTMEN,

AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

— OF THE TOWN OF —

# BELMONT,

— FOR THE —

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1880

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LACONIA, N. H.:

PRINTED AT THE "DEMOCRAT" OFFICE.

1880.





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# Treasurer's Report.

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JOSIAH PIPER, Treasurer, in account with the town  
of Belmont,

	Dr.
To cash on hand March 1, 1879,	\$1,578 71
Money hired of treasurer of Parsonage Fund,	224 97
"        J. M. Clark,	83 00
"        H. B. Clark,	100 00
"        M. Kimball,	80 00
"        D. D. Maxfield,	150 00
"        S. Maxfield,	70 00
"        C. O. Judkins,	100 00
"        C. J. Goss,	500 00
"        A. W. Brown,	1,143 67
"        D. Sawyer,	1,143 67
"        S. W. Knowles,	100 00
Cash of D. W. Judkins, Rowe tax,	19 49
"        "        H. L. Folsom tax,	8 43
"        railroad tax,	111 03
"        savings bank tax,	1,129 73
"        literary fund,	71 41
"        J. S. Weymouth, collector 1874-5,	132 43
"        M. M. Ladd, money hired use of town,	30 00
"        town of Tilton, for support Gilman child.	44 00
"        C. B. Gile, collector for 1873,	37 01
"        J. W. Wells,        "        1876,	27 34
"        "                  "        1877,	337 30
"        "                  "        1878,	1,875 77
"        Clough note,	82 79
"        J. W. Wells, collector for 1879,	6,652 51
	\$15,833 26

## PAID CURRENT EXPENSES.

R. M. Smith, watering trough 1878,	\$1 75
G. Chase, bounty on 2 foxes,	1 00
Lewis & Sanborn, print. town reports,	34 00
W. A. Bucklin, cert. births and deaths,	7 50
T. L. Fuller, bounty on 7 foxes,	3 50
H. D. Cilley, " hawk,	20
C. B. Norris, " "	20
J. B. Sanborn & Co., books and stationery,	13 85
M. Kimball, watering trough to March, 1879,	3 00
F. A. Randlett, " "	3 00
J. L. Rowen, bounty on hawk,	20
T. J. Sweatt, rep. on school house, dist. No. 6,	10 00
O. Randlett, part of " tax, " 6,	50 00
J. W. Wells, making affidavits,	1 00
Lewis & Sanborn, print. col. receipts,	1 75
B. B. Lamprey, school house tax dist. No. 10,	25 00
O. Randlett, " " 8,	75 00
E. Woodward, bounty on hawks,	80
E. Farrar, " "	50
S. N. Jewett, " "	20
W. Lamprey, " "	60
T. C. Willard, " "	20
H. D. Farrar, " "	20
T. J. Moulton, " "	20
W. L. Sanborn, " "	20
E. M. Willard, " "	20
D. J. Hunkins, " "	20
E. F. Bryant, " "	20
C. W. Hackett, damage to horse March, 1879,	70 00
Pike & Parsons, fees and ex. at Concord,	27 15
E. C. Bean, bounty on hawk,	20
J. W. Wells, " "	20
T. L. Fuller, " "	20
E. F. Hall, " "	20
F. W. Wadlin, " "	20
G. Chase, " "	40
B. B. Lamprey " "	20
J. S. Leavitt, guide posts, boards and putting up,	4 00

E. G. Ladd, water tub to Nov. 4, '78,	\$3 00
G. W. Riley, hall rent to Oct. 3,	30 00
T. E. Willard, bounty on hawk,	20
O. W. Foster, " "	20
C. B. Norris, " "	20
E. A. Woodworth, " "	20
First installment county tax,	739 53
Lewis & Sanborn, printing collectors blanks,	2 25
State tax,	1,356 00
E. A. Hibbard, services and advice,	17 10
Second installment county tax,	739 53
Several school districts,	1,257 61
J. A. Chapman, bounty on hawk,	20
S. Bickford, watering tub to March, '80,	3 00
E. G. Ladd, " Nov. '79,	3 00
M. K. Smith, " 2 yrs. March, '80,	6 00
N. D. Garmon, " "	3 00
M. Kimball, " "	3 00
J. O. Stevens, " "	3 00
A. Piper, postage, reg. letters and sta.,	60
E. Tuttle, watering tub March, 1880,	3 00
D. W. Judkins, recording inventory,	5 00
I. Mooney, office rent and board of auditors,	15 50
A. D. Leighton, watering tub to March, '80,	3 00
I. Mooney, " "	3 00
C. E. Moody, bounty on hawk,	20
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	\$4,534 22

*PAID ROADS AND BRIDGES.*

A. D. Leighton, summer 1878,	\$22 25
J. F. Fogg, winter '78-9,	21 46
R. P. Willard, " "	18 60
M. O. Seavey, " "	2 19
R. L. Farrar, fall & win. '78-9,	26 83
S. N. Jewett, " "	10 20
J. F. Heath, " "	9 83
A. Janes, " "	19 62
D. H. Maxfield, labor and breaking, '78-9,	33 50

I. Piper, winter 1878-9,	\$10 99
J. P. Currier, " "	15 86
J. S. Young, " "	31 08
A. D. Leighton, " and spring '78-9,	57 15
C. H. Norris, " '78-9,	6 65
S. B. Knowles, " "	13 90
A. L. Bean, 1878,	2 15
J. S. Towle, winter '78-9,	22 70
F. Bickford, spring " "	45
J. S. Howard, winter " "	1 50
W. R. Gale, " "	14 03
G. F. Kenison, " "	35 99
J. F. Fogg, " "	8 77
J. W. Farrar, " "	32 90
D. T. Robinson " "	31 68
S. Bickford, " "	3 28
G. R. Smith, summer 1879,	33 75
" winter '78-9,	10 40
J. E. P. Randlett, summer '78-9,	25 17
J. W. Farrar, April, 1879,	4 62
J. Lane, fall '78 winter '78-9,	12 62
J. Pulsifer, summer " "	16 25
F. A. Randlett,	32 00
J. C. Wiggin, " "	26 37
J. C. Cilley,	14 66
J. F. Fogg, " "	49 61
O. Randlett, winter " "	6 30
J. W. Wells, " "	4 00
L. Gilman, breaking,	6 84
T. L. Fuller; summer, '79.	158 32
I. Thompson, " "	58 55
B. B. Lamprey " "	16 35
S. N. Jewett, " "	12 52
H. Chapman, winter '78-9,	21 40
N. Chase, " "	23 85
C. S. Sauborn, labor and cash in A. H. Lamprey's dist..	37 55
I. Mooney, winter 1878-9,	12 00
J. M. Folsom, " "	51 73
F. A. Randlett, labor and lumber.	18 63

A. S. Ladd, summer '79,	\$83 21
"    winter '78-9,	4 00
R. L. Farrar, damage to plow,	3 25
A. H. Lamprey, summer '79,	18 65
S. Hadley, labor	7 77
T. J. Folsom, summer '79,	39 45
B. W. Brown, lumber for bridges,	98 32
W. T. Batchelder, winter '78-9,	13 60
"    summer '79,	35 00
D. W. Judkins, labor	11 00
E. G. Ladd, " "	78 80
L. Sanborn, summer	21 60
D. W. Gale, " "	30 84
R. Brown, " "	11 70
A. D. Leighton, labor,	20 00
T. L. Fuller, "	75 65
S. B. Knowles, '79,	34 25
J. S. Weymouth, March 1879,	7 50
G. R. Smith, labor and lumber,	11 10
A. W. Brown, bridge plank and lumber for sidewalk,	143 64
D. P. Webster, labor and expenses on highway and bridge,	47 22
R. L. Farrar, summer '79,	45 45
"    rebuilding causeway and railing bridge,	18 00
R. P. Willard,	68 10
J. Tucker, labor and lumber on bridge,	11 24
L. Ladd, winter '78,	1 75
J. Pulsifer, fall "	6 65
J. W. Whicher,	5 60
O. Randlett, labor and lumber,	44 17
I. Piper, "	36 20
C. S. Sawyer, "	32 25
D. H. Maxfield, labor,	15 75
J. C. Wiggin, "	6 85
T. Britton, summer '79,	37 67
A. A. Lamprey, rebuilding bridge,	15 75
"    winter '78-9,	6 45
"    summer "	16 90
J. F. Fogg, labor '79,	5 20
J. M. Folsom, " "	7 75
J. P. Currier, " "	28 62

R. L. Farrar, breaking, winter '79-80,	\$1 03
J. Bartlett, damage to plow,	3 00
A. P. B. Currier, labor and services in horse case,	4 00
H. G. Prescott, labor summer '79,	29 88
S. Lamprey, " "	16 85
" " winter '78-9,	9 00
I. S. Thompson, fall '79,	3 00
M. A. Young, "	8 50
A. D. Leighton, "	43 69
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	\$2,431 99

*PAID TOWN OFFICERS.*

J. Weymouth, services as auditor,	\$ 4 00
S. F. Hill, " supervisor in '79,	12 00
A. J. Hackett, " school committee to Oct. 14, '79,	36 00
E. S. Moulton, " " March, '80,	27 00
J. S. Weymouth, " collector in '75,	6 33
J. C. Pearsons, " moderator in '79,	2 00
I. Piper, " town treasurer to March, '80,	40 00
" " out of town "	4 00
C. J. Sanborn, " selectman, inc. board, and ex. to March, 1880,	91 00
D. W. Judkins, services as selectman in and out of town inc. board and ex. from Mar. 1, '79, to Mar. 1, '80,	130 40
J. W. Wells, collecting taxes against T. E. Ladd est.,	4 00
C. E. Clough, services town clerk from March 1, to March 12, 1879,	5 00
W. C. Wells, " " to March '80,	25 00
J. G. Cate, " selectman and ex. in and out of town, with board to March 1, 1880,	99 63
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	\$486 36

*PAID PAUPER BILLS.*

J. G. Cate, money paid Dr. True medical aid to O. Cook,	\$ 4 50
C. B. Norris, for sup. of G. W. Norris,	10 00
J. W. Farrar, wood supplied Mrs. J. Randlett,	3 38
C. B. Norris, sup. G. W. Norris,	25 00
J. W. Piper, " Gilman child,	5 00



F. Bickford, sawing wood for Mrs. Randlett,	\$2 00
L. Rowe, " "	2 00
J. W. Piper, sup. of Gilman child,	5 00
C. B. Norris, board of G. W. Norris,	20 00
A. H. Lamprey, 4 cords wood supplied Mrs. Randlett,	16 00
J. W. Piper, sup. of Gilman child,	5 00
C. B. Norris, board of G. W. Norris, in full,	30 00
J. W. Piper, support of Gilman child,	7 00
" " "	5 00
" " "	10 00
J. Gilbert, coffin and box for W. Sanborn's daughter,	8 00
W. A. Bucklin, med. aid to Sanborn family,	53 00
J. W. Piper, sup. Gilman child.	5 00
L. Sanborn, cash paid for, and labor, supplies furnished W. Sanborn,	10 00
C. J. Sanborn, support of W. Sanborn,	13 13
J. A. Page, wood "	10 50
J. W. Piper, sup. Gilman child,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$251 51

*PAID ABATEMENT OF TAXES.*

N. Randlett, tax on horse,	\$ 72
J. W. Piper, " in 1867,	5 00
M. Kimball, " '78,	55
A. Chapman, in part for 1877-8,	17 87
E. Chandler, " "	1 53
L. Gilman, on horse,	45
G. Swain, 1878-9,	6 27
A. Hill's estate, "	1 20
D. Small, on cow lost,	33
A. Adams, "	27
J. S. Weymouth in 1875,	76 22
P. Davis, error in tax, '78,	3 60
J. C. Sweatt, " '79,	3 75
C. E. Heath, over tax "	6 00
J. W. Wells, 1876-7-8,	123 47
" tax on dog,	1 00
C. B. Gale, as collector of 1873,	12 01
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	\$260 24

*PAID NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.*

Treasurer of Parsonage Fund,	\$ 251 97
J. Pulsifer,	254 65
A. W. Durrell,	195 23
J. Cate,	86 25
H. Wadleigh,	50 00
G. D. Chamberlin,	346 42
L. A. Lamprey,	148 96
M. F. Sanborn,	262 30
C. Mooney,	300 00
L. Sanborn,	15 00
F. H. Evans,	25 00
A. W. Brown,	2,043 67
“	1,143 67
P. Page,	41 14
G. W. Norris,	24 42
F. H. Evans,	50 00
T. Clark,	38 45
“	110 00
L. J. Dearborn,	50 00
Treasurer Parsonage Fund,	13 50
J. S. Towle,	232 11
L. Sanborn,	25 00
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	\$5,709 74

*PAID DAMAGE TO SHEEP BY DOGS.*

J. Pulsifer,	\$ 20 00
Estate of D. Durrell,	14 00
C. A. Hackett,	28 00
N. Chase,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$65 00

### RECAPITULATION.

Total receipts,	\$15,833 26
Paid current expenses,	\$4,534 22
highways and bridges,	2,431 99
town officers,	486 36
support of poor,	251 51
abatment of taxes,	260 24
notes,	5,709 74
damage to sheep,	65 00
Cash on hand March 1, 1880,	2,094 20

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\$15,833 26

JOSIAH PIPER,

Town Treasurer.

JAMES G. CATE, }  
 DUDLEY W. JUDKINS, } Selectmen  
 CALVIN J. SANBORN. } of  
 Belmont.

February 28th, 1880. The undersigned have carefully examined the foregoing accounts, and find them accurately cast and properly vouched, and a balance due the town of \$2,094 20 in the hands of the Treasnrer.

SOLON F. HILL, }  
 CHAS. A. HACKETT, } Auditors.  
 JAMES S. WEYMOUTH. }

### INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN.

We find the town indebted for outstanding orders as follows, including principal and interest:

Edwin G. Heath,	\$ 15 04	Etta M. Bean,	\$13 04
Leora L. Foster.	108 73	F. H. Evans,	1,746 89
Thos. Clark,	298 89	Thos. Clark,	99 26
D. H. Maxfield,	87 03	Sarah Maxfield,	320 46
Joshua Lane,	688 15	H. F. Tucker,	446 90
J. Tucker,	159 62	N. F. Foster,	419 67
N. F. Foster,	599 49	Benj. Fifield,	733 38
J. C. Cilley,	456 81	Lowell Sanborn,	306 38
Matthias Kimball,	229 30	S. S. Fifield,	626 93
A. M. Fifield,	40 10	V. J. Fifield,	149 46
N. S. Plumer,	55 66	Joseph Plumer,	454 68

L. Plumer,	\$190 20	D. H. Maxfield,	\$1,249 77
J. F. Heath,	319 03	F. M. Heath,	391 75
H. B. Heath,	212 01	C. J. Gross,	597 19
H. Wadleigh,	167 34	C. Mooney,	318 48
L. A. Willard,	397 85	A. Dicey,	245 94
C. W. Hackett,	107 30	Sally Page,	257 92
J. Kimball,	326 82	L. Kimball,	90 49
S. C. Hill,	442 80	S. Piper,	173 25
Ella F. Judkins,	251 51	E. Dow,	98 29
W. A. Bucklin,	529 88	W. A. Bucklin,	529 88
E. G. Folsom,	1,171 30	J. Matthews,	275 50
L. M. Sweatt,	295 92	M. H. Sweatt,	347 31
Georgia C. Hill,	203 41	J. M. Folsom,	529 54
W. C. Wells,	100 94	L. J. Dearborn,	382 95
S. L. Bean,	127 59	N. Ellsworth,	108 69
J. M. Garmon,	49 50	M. J. Fifield,	152 62
L. A. Folsom,	1,156 02	Wm. M. Clark,	528 53
T. L. Bean,	105 47	L. A. Sanborn,	75 34
Nettie A. Sanborn,	44 62	M. S. York,	55 55
H. J. Clough,	86 73	Parsonage fund,	224 97
Hezzie B. Clark,	102 65	J. M. Clark,	85 20
S. W. Knowles,	102 65	Mary M. Ladd,	30 80
Matthias Kimball,	82 10	Daniel D. Maxfield,	153 95
Sarah Maxfield,	71 86	C. O. Judkins,	102 62
C. J. Gross,	512 87	David Sawyer,	1,172 87
		Lowell Sanborn,	373 75
			<hr/>
			\$23,767 19

*CLAIMS DUE THE TOWN.*

Cash in hands of treasurer,		\$ 2,094 20
“ C. B. Gile, collector for 1873,		87 87
“ C. H. Rowe, “ 1872,		1 80
“ J. W. Wells, “ 1876,		15 15
“ “ “ ’77,		103 02
“ “ “ ’78,		309 75
“ “ “ ’79,		1,337 29
Due on L. B. Fellows’ note,		28 86
from J. M. Bean for old plank,		7 50
		<hr/>
		\$3,985 44
		<hr/>
Indebtedness of the town over means,		\$19,781 75

JAMES G. CATE,	} Selectmen of Belmont.
D. W. JUDKINS,	
CALVIN J. SANBORN.	

## Report of Supt. School Committee.

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As circumstances beyond my control render it necessary for me to resign the office of School Committee, it becomes incumbent upon me to present my report for that part of the school-year which is now ended. In doing so, I have, for obvious reasons, thought best to confine myself exclusively to those schools which have already closed, leaving it with my successor to report in full the schools now in session. I am aware that this is to a certain extent unfair to those which I have already once visited as it is impossible for a committee visiting a school only at its close, to form a correct opinion of the progress it has made; still it seems to me less unfair and certainly less likely to involve confusion than it would be for me, visiting them only at the beginning, to essay a report which might be directly at variance with that of my successor. At the present writing there are ten schools in session. Of this number, so far as I have been able to learn, with possibly a single exception, all are successful and satisfactory. Those which have already closed have been, for the most part, in an unusual degree, satisfactory to me, and, I judge, equally so to all other interested parties. There has not been one total failure, and of the schools which are properly included in the current year, nearly all have been as successful as could be expected or desired.

In pursuance of the plan adopted last year, I have continued my efforts to improve the condition of the text-books used in the schools. This year I have given my attention to the subject of Arithmetics, and am happy to report that only one series is now in use in town. The selection has been attended with no little labor and perplexity; there are now published so many and so good Arithmetics that when one undertakes a selection he finds

himself confronted by an "embarrassment of riches." I carefully examined several series, and finally chose Greenleaf's new series, as combining in the highest degree those elements most needed in country schools. I was further induced to this choice by the recommendation of the State Superintendant of Public Instruction, and the opinion of several of our most experienced teachers, whom I consulted before deciding. The Practical Arithmetic, the leading book of the series, is the only Arithmetic now in use in the Normal school, and is used in every city in the State except Dover, as well as in a large proportion of the larger towns, academies, and seminaries. I have seen no reason whatever to regret the choice; the books seem to give very general satisfaction, and the most gratifying results are already apparent. I am sincerely grateful to parents and friends for the willingness with which they have acceded to the introduction of the arithmetic: from my last year's experience I anticipated some trouble, but I am glad to report that my fears were almost entirely groundless.

In severing my connection with the office, I wish to express earnest thanks to all with whom I have been thrown in contact, for the kindness, courtesy, and encouragement, which have been almost invariably extended to me. I cannot deny that there have been times when I felt that my actions were unjustly criticised, but I am glad to believe that no injustice was intended, that we have only differed in regard to the *means* while we all had the same worthy *end* in view. I only ask that the same charity be extended to myself. Probably I have made some mistakes, but I hope all will believe that they were mistakes and nothing else; I certainly have tried to do my duty by all, and if any feel that I have wronged them, I have only to say in the familiar language of doubtful contrition, "I am willing to be forgiven."

With these remarks, I will now proceed to the report of the several districts.

DISTRICT No. 1.—Summer term of ten weeks taught by Miss Myrtie J. Plumer. An excellent school. Miss Plumer is a young teacher of rare promise and is especially successful as a disciplinarian. The school was all that its friends could desire. The closing exercises, attended by a large number of parents and friends, were very interesting; few districts in town manifest so deep and active an interest in the school as this.

**DIST. No. 2.**—The summer term of six weeks was taught by Miss Addie L. Wells, who is a fine scholar and a teacher of some experience. Good progress was made, especially in arithmetic and reading. In point of order I would suggest that a somewhat more vigorous and aggressive treatment of some scholars whose parents had evidently “spared the rod,” would have been attended with gratifying results.

**DIST. No. 3.**—Summer term of ten weeks taught by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln has taught several terms in this district and always with good success. It is sufficient to say that in the present instance she fully sustained the reputation earned by former efforts in this and other districts of the town. I found in this school the best scholar in Mental Arithmetic in town.

**DIST. No. 4.**—Summer term of six weeks taught by Miss Minnie P. Gale. Miss Gale has a pleasant address and is a teacher of considerable energy. The school made in general good progress, the classes in Geography doing particularly well. When I made my second visit I found half of the school playing truant. I was glad to be assured by the teacher that this was the first occurrence of the kind, but such things have a bad appearance and create a disagreeable impression which teacher and scholars both ought to try to avoid. Fall term of six weeks taught by Mr. Walter S. Peaslee. There can be but one opinion of Mr. Peaslee’s methods of teaching. I consider him a most thorough and logical instructor. In the present instance his school made admirable progress, the classes in reading being the finest in town.

**DIST. No. 5.**—Summer term taught by Miss Louise A. Eaton. Miss Eaton has so long and so deservedly enjoyed the confidence of the residents of this district and the sympathy and approval of all intelligent people who know her worth as a teacher, that it is quite superfluous for me, at this late day, to express my humble commendation of her efforts. I will only say that during the term in question she met with her usual success,—which is only another way of saying that she has not yet lost the faculty of pulling this school through in better shape than can be done by any other teacher whom I have known to undertake the somewhat difficult task in recent terms. Mr. Clough the Prudential Committee, deserves the thanks of all friends of the school for the taste and judgment he has manifested in cleansing and beautifying the school-

room. If cleanliness be indeed "next to godliness," it is frightful to reflect in what danger of hopeless perdition the scholars were at the close of last winter's term. It only needs the recitation-seat now, gentlemen.

DIST. No. 6.—Summer term of three weeks taught by Miss Flora O. Bean. Sickness among the scholars made it necessary to close the school before it had fairly begun. Necessarily there is very little to report. I can only say that the school gave promise of being a successful one, and the scholars made as good progress as could be expected in so short a time.

DIST. No. 7.—Summer term of six weeks taught by Miss Ada F. Randlett. This was Miss Randlett's first attempt at teaching in town, and she had a somewhat difficult school to govern, but I think she has reason to be satisfied with the result. She seemed to possess in an unusual degree the good-will of her scholars, and good progress was very generally made.

DIST. No. 8.—The summer term of seven weeks was taught by Miss Emma J. Lane, who certainly deserves great credit for achieving such success as she did. She commenced the school under very serious difficulties, and I had grave fears for the result, but she proved herself equal to the occasion. The school went on smoothly and harmoniously to the end, and at my second visit I found excellent order and good advancement. I am gratified to be able to give so good a report of a school in which I have felt especially interested.

DIST. No. 9.—Summer term taught by Miss Marcia M. Woodward. Miss Woodward is a fine scholar and conducts a school in an easy and self possessed manner. Fair progress was made in the several branches. In point of discipline I think the school might have been improved; I dont mean to say that it was to any considerable extent disorderly so far as I could judge, but I think the teacher's great good nature led her to associate more familiarly with her scholars than was for their good or for the creditable appearance of the school. Of course it is indispensable that the teacher should be friendly and affable, but it is also equally necessary that the distinction between teacher and pupil be strictly observed.



DIST. No. 11.—Summer term of six weeks taught by Miss Frances M. Heath. Nos. 3, 11, and 12 have for several years been struggling for the distinction of being the smallest school in town. The result of this exciting contest has at times seemed very uncertain; but it has at last been settled, apparently beyond all possibility of dispute by No. 11 coming to the front with an attendance of only two. It is to be hoped that the other competitors will now retire gracefully from the field. But Miss Heath's devotion to the school is such that she could not be induced to desert it even when it was reduced to two small scholars. That the school was a good one, none who are familiar with her character as a teacher, will doubt.

DIST. No. 12.—Summer term taught by Miss Mary D. Leighton. A very satisfactory and successful school. The relations between the teacher and pupils seemed to be of the pleasantest character, and good progress was made in all of the studies. I found in this school the best class in Elementary Grammar in town.

In conclusion I would say that if the foregoing report contains any mistakes in regard to names, statistics, etc., I hope the reader will consider that I have not had the register to refer to, as the teachers of the schools now in session have them in their possession; I have been obliged to rely entirely upon memory and such meagre notes as I took while visiting the schools.

ALLAN J. HACKETT,  
Supt. School Committee.

Belmont, N. H., Oct. 14, 1879.

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### **Report of Superintending School Committee.**

*To the legal voters of the town of Belmont:*

It was the pleasure of your honorable Board of Selectmen to appoint your humble servant to fill the vacancy in the office of Superintending School Committee, made by the resignation of my predecessor, A. J. Hackett, Esq. I took the duties of the position upon myself, and have endeavored to perform them to the best of my ability, in a faithful and impartial manner. I was necessarily placed under peculiar circumstances, being a comparative stranger in town, and entirely unacquainted with a large majority of your teachers and scholars. I was also embarrassed to some extent by

not knowing how the schools stood at the commencement of the autumn terms, having received my appointment near their close. I may, in consequence, do a seeming injustice to some schools and also to some teachers, but any such injustice will be wholly accidental and unmeant. I shall report the schools as they seemed to me and compare them with other schools which are similarly situated.

#### DISTRICT NO. 1. (Ladd Hill).

The autumn term was taught by Myrtie J. Plummer. No preparation had been made for an examination, yet a commendable proficiency was seen in nearly all classes, which were called upon to recite, which showed a thoroughness of instruction on the part of the teacher, and a close application to study on the part of the scholars. One little girl was noticed, who was a good reader—the best in the school. The school was a success.

The winter term was in charge of the same teacher. It was a success of which we can speak in the highest terms. Miss Plummer more than sustained her reputation as a teacher. The order of the school was perfect. We do not see how it could have been improved. Every pupil seemed to be in love with the teacher and labored in an earnest manner to please her in all respects. With such perfect sympathy between teacher and scholars success is an assured fact. We were much pleased with the promptness and advancement shown by all the members of the school without exception. The literary exercises were of high order, and were delivered in a manner to reflect great credit upon all concerned, and to awaken enthusiasm in the hearts of the citizens who were present.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2. (Bean Hill).

The autumn term was taught by Addie L. Wells. Good instruction was given by the teacher, who labored earnestly for the good of those over whom she had been placed. There seemed to be a failure on the part of some to properly deport themselves. A carelessness and rudeness were exhibited which were quite reprehensible. Some of the classes made a total, or at least, a partial failure in recitation. The school was backward. We would suggest a more stringent code of laws and a more thorough and faithful attention to study.

## DISTRICT NO. 3. (Jamestown).

The autumn term was taught by Laura E. Randlett. Miss R. has a modest and persuasive manner, which peculiarly fits her for the school-room. The school showed that her labor was not lost. Some of the scholars exhibited a high degree of proficiency in their recitations, and evidently made good progress. The school was so small as to preclude the idea of infusing much ambition into it. We were much pleased with the quiet and orderly appearance of the scholars.

## DISTRICT NO. 4. (South Road).

The autumn term was taught by Walter S. Peaslee. It is needless to say that Mr. P. is a good teacher, his work shows that fact. In this instance he seemed extremely anxious to have the school make a commendable advancement, and labored faithfully to secure that end. A perfect understanding existed between the teacher and his pupils; and the citizens of the district were disposed to have the reputation of the school raised to a higher standard than it ever reached before. Such conditions and circumstances were not amiss. It can be said, truthfully and consistently, that this is one of the best schools in town. An unusual degree of proficiency was seen in all the classes. We would make especial mention of the classes in reading and in algebra. The pupils went over the ground in a thorough manner, and acquired a substantial knowledge of the principles of the various branches. Some of the best scholars in town are found in this school.

## DISTRICT NO. 5. (Village).

The autumn term was taught by Louisa A. Eaton. This was a success as all other terms taught by Miss E. have been. We notice, with pleasure, the very excellent attendance through the entire term. A few of the pupils occupy a high rank. Good progress was made in Grammar and Arithmetic. All must have been much pleased with the classes in reading, all of which did very well indeed, and showed a proficiency which was commendable. Miss E. has the sympathy of all the people in the district and their moral aid is extended to her in a remarkable degree. The presence of thirty-four visitors, to witness the closing exercises, testified to the high esteem which the people hold for her. One very pleasing item demands a passing notice. Just before the school

closed Miss Minnie Judkins, a member of the school and a very fine scholar, stepped forward, and, in a modest manner, presented the teacher with a fine and elegantly bound autograph album, which was accepted in a thankful and felicitous manner.

The winter term was taught by A. P. French. Mr. F. is a fine scholar, being a graduate of Dartmouth College. He came to Belmont highly recommended as a faithful and successful teacher. Your committee is fully satisfied that he labored in a faithful manner for the good of the school, and that his greatest, if not his only wrong, was the use of too much leniency towards certain evil-doers, who ought to have received the punishment due to their misdeeds. It can be said, in truthfulness, that the teacher had the influence of certain parents thrown against him, which constituted a serious obstacle in the way of success. It seemed to us that certain rebellious spirits felt encouraged in their disorderly course. The results were such as to throw a measure of undeserved discredit upon the teacher, and, in the language of the old quaker, to give the school an "ill name." Those pupils who applied themselves to study made good progress. The others could not have been expected to do so. It is a matter to be deeply regretted that the school should have resulted in such a failure.

The spring term is now in session under the management of W. S. Peaslee. Thus far the school is a successful one. The pupils are interested in their studies and seem anxious to make the term a profitable one. It is our opinion that a goodly degree of discipline is maintained and a hearty obedience is quite generally given to all requirements.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

The autumn term was taught by Flora O. Bean. Miss B. showed herself at home in the school-room and gained a good reputation as a successful instructor of youth. The school was quiet and orderly and the pupils seemed disposed to do their best. The discipline was simply excellent. We noticed, with pleasure, a faithfulness of instruction, and a diligence in study. The per cent. of the questions which were promptly answered was greater than what we found in any other school in town. Hardly a question was missed in the recitations. What they learned they learned well and evidently understood it.

We would make particular mention of the class in Practical Arithmetic. The work, which this class performed at the blackboard, was superior to anything of the kind which was seen in any other school in town. The school was a success in all respects.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

The autumn term was taught by Clara J. Maxfield. It was her first attempt at teaching. It is an act of simple justice to say that she did remarkably well. At both of our visits, good order was seen. A good degree of progress was made by all, while the ad-

vancement made by some was very praiseworthy. We were entirely satisfied with the teacher's efforts, and doubt not her ability to make a successful teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

The autumn term was taught by Addie J. Folsom. Miss F. is a fine scholar, one who is conversant with all the branches which are taught in your schools. She labored to gain success. Beyond any question, she tried to perform her duty faithfully. Some of the scholars were prompt and made good progress, while others were lacking in promptness and proficiency. A few of the boys were mischievous, or worse, and manifested a lack of politeness, and an inclination to have their own way. We saw many things of a reprehensible character. A little of the article sometimes called "muscular christianity," if used in this school, might show good results. It would do no harm, and we would advise the teacher to give it a fair trial, in doses to suit the various cases.

The winter term was taught by the same teacher. Some progress was made—as much as the pupils labored for. We were pained to see the old carelessness and rudeness manifesting themselves in a very aggravating manner, which called for condign punishment. Such deportment as was seen in this school should not be tolerated. In some instances the scholars were absolutely saucy and impertinent. We would suggest the propriety of giving a little more attention to reading. The reading book could be used a little more efficiently without incurring the risk of injuring the school in a serious manner. The reading of some of the pupils would not edify an interested listener, because only about one-half of the words could be distinguished—the other half were muttered and murdered so as to be perfectly unintelligible. A change in the method of governing this school is an absolute necessity.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9. (Upper Province Road).

The winter term was taught by Mina J. Fonda. This was her first school and it can be called a good one. Miss F. is not only a good scholar but she has the other qualifications which are essential in the school-room. Her scholars made good progress in their studies and seemed to understand what they had been over. Some of them stand well in scholarship. We have just one criticism to offer. The discipline of the school might me better. In point of numbers this is the second school in town.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10. (Lower Province Road).

The autumn term was under the faithful and very efficient care of Laurena Gale. We should infer that Miss Gale was the right person in the right place. Perfect order prevailed in the school-room. If we belonged to her school we should be quiet against our own inclination. The force of her personal influence would compel us to yield a perfect obedience. Doubtless good progress

was made in all branches. We would refer to one young man in Practical Arithmetic and one little lady of seven years. The little lady was almost a prodigy. We were much pleased with the school and pronounce it a perfect success in nearly all respects. We would simply suggest that a little more attention to reading would not be amiss.

#### DISTRICT NO. 11. (Farrarville).

The autumn term was taught by M. Jennie Garmon. We visited this school once, near its close, and were pleased to see it all present. It was a compact body of one little fellow who had lived in this evil world about seven rolling years. Miss G's entire number of pupils was four, but one moved out of the district, one went to Boston on a visit, one had to remain at home on account of sickness and one remained in the school to keep up the name and its semblance of an existence. We are thus minute in this matter, in order that justice may be done the district and no discredit be attached to the teacher. Probably the greatest task of the teacher was in finding something to do. Her one pupil did well and gives good promise for the future.

#### DISTRICT NO. 12.

The autumn term was taught by Miss Mary E. Leighton. Miss L. succeeded finely, and her little school made very good progress. We found in this school, one of the best scholars who attend the public schools of the town.

Having made brief mention of the various schools, we would improve the opportunity to make a few suggestions and observations. In these suggestions and observations we may differ from others but will do it in kindness.

There exists a tendency to crowd the scholars beyond their years and capabilities, and to force upon them studies for which they are not fitted. We have seen children, six and seven years of age, engaged in the study of arithmetic, a step, which, in our humble opinion, is beyond their ability and should not be allowed. A child may be met with at rare intervals, who could do so in safety and with profit, but as a general rule such children should spend their time in acquiring the very fundamental principles of reading and spelling. A system of hot-house cultivation may be followed so as to produce ripe fruit in early summer but such prematurely ripened fruit is very apt to experience an early decay. So youthful minds may be unnaturally forced to receive sets of ideas very much beyond their natural ability, but the unnatural straining of the mind will be followed by evil consequences. It can be attended with no lasting benefit. The ability to talk over certain items by rote, without a proper understanding of the underlying principles, will amount to very little. It would be preferable to wait until the mind could receive and comprehend the principles, and then build upon a permanent foundation.

There is a slight danger that time may be wasted in efforts to acquire a certain amount of so-called refinement and polish, when all the time the average pupil has at his disposal, should be improved in an earnest effort to acquire the knowledge of the ordinary English which will be needed in the practical duties of after life. Our common school system was established for the benefit of the masses. It was the original intention to instruct the young, at the public expense, in those branches which would qualify them to be good citizens. Those branches which are considered ornamental were left unprovided for, to be secured in seminaries or colleges, at private expense. It is a fact, which no one will dispute, that a small number of our children, not over ten per cent., can or will study anything above the common English branches. It does not seem right or just to use the public money in benefitting so small a part of the children when that money if spent in furthering the ideas of the fathers of our common schools, would show a good return and bring a direct benefit to the masses. It may be legal to spend one-fourth of the school hours in teaching certain higher branches to half a dozen pupils, but a greater good would result if that time was spent in giving boys and girls instruction in arithmetic so as to enable them to survey a load of wood, to compute the interest on a note, or to make out taxes. I may be called an old fogey but I will adhere to the idea that it is better to know all things of something than it is to know something of all things. A certain amount of paint will paint one house well, or two in a very imperfect manner. The first is preferable. So a boy has time enough to conquer certain branches in a thorough manner, or to go slipshod over two or three times as many. We prefer the former course.

In two of your school districts complaints have been made that the girls have been insulted in a serious manner by the boys. If certain cases are correctly reported the offence is of such a magnitude as to constitute a violation of the statute laws of the State. It might not be a very bad policy to let some of these lawless spirits have a lesson taught them so that an example might be placed before others. Our schools should be moral in their tendencies so that parents may send their children in safety without fearing moral contamination or bodily injuries.

We would call attention to the smallness of your schools and suggest the thought that very little energy can be found in them. There is very little to inspire ambition or to serve as an incentive to action. In the day when the average family sent eight or ten scholars to school, your schools were all well attended, but in these days of degenerate refinement, where a large family is a crime against genteel society and is tolerated only by the vulgar, some of your schools are almost annihilated. In one district with sixteen families we found two or three school children in its limits and only one scholar in the school upon the last day of the term. A change is needed. The town needs fewer districts or more

children. In the village the school should be graded. One teacher cannot manage it with profit to the scholars or with credit to himself. It is to be hoped that something will be done in this matter.

Thanking all with whom I have met in the school-room for their uniform courtesy to myself I will respectfully submit my report for your consideration.

EDMUND S. MOULTON.

Supt. School Com.

Belmont, N. H., Feb. 16, 1880.

## TABULAR STATEMENT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1880,

No. of the District.	Prudential Committee.	No. of the Term.	Name of Teacher.	Length of school in weeks.		Average No. of pupils.	Average attendance.	No. not absent at all.	Wages per month.
				Whole	Number of pupils.				
1	C. H. Rowe,	1	Mrytie J. Plumer,	10	11	10.9	10.14	0	\$17.00
		2	" "	12	12	11.6	11.15	1	18.00
		3	" "	7	10	8.9	8.93	1	18.00
2	Samuel Lamprey,	1	Addie L. Wells,	6	13	12.8	11	1	21.00
		2	" "	10	14	13.3	11.5	0	21.00
3	D. P. Webster,	1	E. A. Lincoln,	10	5	5	4	1	16.00
		2	Laura E. Randlett,	15	7	6	5	0	17.20
4	Ichabod Grant,	1	Minnie F. Gale,	6	11	10.9	10.5	2	17.00
		2	W. S. Peaslee,	6	13	11.9	11.6	2	19.80
		3	" "	12	11	11	10.6	4	23.80
5	T. E. Clough,	1	Louisa A. Eaton,	9	41	38.8	34.8	5	33.00
		2	" "	9	49	45.7	43.4	6	33.00
		3	A. P. French,	8	42	33.3	27.8	0	36.00
6	D. W. Gale,	4	W. S. Peaslee,	3	4	3.6	3.4	0	15.60
		2	Flora O. Bean,	18	10	9.3	7.7	0	16.00
7	Albion Lamprey,	1	Ada F. Randlett,	6	14	12.5	12	2	15.80
		2	Clara J. Maxfield,	10	14	13	13	0	16.80
8	M. H. Philbrick,	1	Emma J. Lane,	7	11	11	11	5	20.00
		2	Adella J. Folsom,	10	10	10	9	1	20.00
		3	" "	6	7	7	7	0	20.00
9	Edwin Randlett,	1	Marcia M. Woodward,	9	19	17.9	16.1	0	18.00
		2	Mina J. Fonda,	13	22	20.2	18.1	0	18.00
10	N. Chase,	1	Laurena Gale,	10	11	9	8	3	26.00
11	N. D. Garmon,	1	Frances M. Heath,	6	4	3	2.6	2	16.00
		2	M. Jennie Garmon,	10	3	2.6	2.25	0	15.00
12	Mary E. Leighton,	1	Mary E. Leighton,	5	5	5	5	5	16.00
		2	" "	3	5	5	5	5	16.00

















