REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF BRISTOL,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1878.

BRISTOL, N. H.:
PRINTED BY R. W. MUSGROVE.
1878.
Selectmen's Report.

The Selectmen credit the Town for the year ending March 1, 1878, as follows:—

By list of taxes assessed April 1, 1877, $12,621.32
  Savings Bank tax, 957.04
  Railroad tax, 306.13
  Literary fund, 106.21
  Cash in hands of Treasurer March 1, 1877, 1,871.67
  Amount due from Grafton County, 428.98
  " " " licences, 14.00
  H. H. Bailey, 14.50
  Interest on taxes 1877, 17.35
  Rent of town hall, 77.92

$16,414.62

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid State tax, $1,348.00
  County tax, 1,856.95

$3,204.95

Paid outstanding orders, $75.00

School Money.

District No. 1, Elijah Sanborn, $45.71
  2, H. B. Fowler, 1,270.10
  3, Solon Dolloff, 52.47
  4, J. M. R. Emmons, 32.14
  5, S. W. Swett, 54.11
  6, D. Y. Emmons, 67.40
  7, H. C. Homan, 18.25
  8, C. N. Drake, 117.45
  9, J. O. Tilton, 61.58

$1,719.21
School-House Tax.

District No. 2, H. B. Fowler, $500.00

Precinct Tax.

J. D. Kelley, $305.00

Pauper Bills.

Daniel Tyrrell.

Dec. 29, D. S. Follansbee, $178.07
Feb. 23, C. Boardman, goods, 1.72
  " 23, Fowler & Co., medicine, 1.75
  " 23, I. A. Chase, medical attendance, 11.30
  " 23, C. Taylor, 2 pairs overalls, 1.30

$194.14

D. C. Willey.

May 26, Provisions, $2.95
June 30, Orren Wallace, sawing wood, 4.50
Aug. 25, H. Griffith, board, 15.00
Feb. 27, Mrs. M. B. Willey, 63.27
Nov. 5, C. Taylor, goods, 3.02
  " 30, C. Taylor, half bbl. flour furnished Feb. 26, '77, 4.63
Jan. 30, Fowler & Co., medicines, 7.75
  " 30, H. B. Fowler, medical attendance, 5.00

$106.12

Mary Swett.

July 28, T. H. Wicom, $57.43
April 24, Fowler & Co., medicines, 1.05

$58.48

Clarissa Brown.

June 30, Abigail Darling, $51.86
Feb. 16, " " 104.15

$156.01
ELLA HICKEY.

May 26, State Reform School, $26.18
Nov. 30, " " " 26.18

$52.36

PHelps FAMILY, for 1876.

Mar. 29, Woodbury Sleeper, $20.90

MRS. WILLARD.

Nov. 5, funeral expenses, $16.75
Feb. 23, O. K. Bucklin, horses for funeral, 2.00

$18.75

Feb. 23, O. K. Bucklin, keeping woman and 2 children, $1.00
Feb. 23, C. Taylor, crackers for tramps, 1.09

$2.09

Total for paupers, $608.85

Highways.

JOHN M. DAME’S DISTRICT.

March 17, Highway tax of 1876, $65.68
Feb. 21, " " 1877, 47.42

$113.10

J. W. BURLEIGH’S DISTRICT.

March 29, A. Dow, breaking roads in 1876–7, $11.10
Feb. 2, Highway tax, 22.37
15, J. W. Burleigh, work on highway, 3.38

$36.85

A. J. FERRIN’S DISTRICT.

Dec. 12, A. J. Ferrin, labor on highway, $3.57
12, Highway tax worked out, 12.87

$16.44

R. BUNTIN’S DISTRICT. (1876.)

Mar. 31, H. D. Cheney, work on highway, $4.30
Apr. 22, Robert Buntin, breaking roads, 12.27
28, P. S. Drake, labor on highway, 1.80
May  5, Work under R. Buntin,  $13.63  
Aug. 25, N. H. Batchelder's highway tax 1876,  3.00  
Sept. 29, H. H. Bailey, labor on highway,  26.63  

$61.63

**Calvin Martin's District.**

Nov. 30, Calvin Martin, work on highway,  $8.79  
Dec. 12, Highway tax worked out,  37.21  

$46.60

**N. T. Chase's District.**

Dec. 29, Labor on highway,  $2.10  
Jan. 29, Highway tax worked out,  15.26  

$17.36

**Calvin Mudgett's District.**

Feb. 22, Highway tax worked out,  $15.86  
" 27, Calvin Mudgett, labor on highway,  3.30  

$19.16

**W. J. Mussey's District. (1876.)**

Apr. 28, breaking roads,  $16.20  
" 28, Otis Sanborn, breaking roads,  9.60  

$25.80

**D. R. Sanborn's District.**

Dec. 12, highway tax worked out,  $13.53  
Feb. 28, Samuel Muzzey, labor on highway,  1.00  

$14.53

**P. S. Drake's District.**

Oct. 27, P. S. Drake, work on highway,  $9.65  
Nov. 24, H. H. Bailey, "  2.30  
Feb. 28, highway tax worked under P. S. Drake,  67.86  

$79.81

**F. Kidder's District.**

Jan. 26, work,  $2.34  
Feb. 2, highway tax worked out,  20.10  

$22.44
J. O. Tilton's District.
Feb. 28, worked on highway, $8.84
Oct. 27, highway tax worked out, 34.09

$42.93

D. Y. Emmon's District.
Feb. 15, labor on highway, $2.86
15, highway tax worked out, 19.07

$21.93

H. C. Homan's District.
Feb. 27, work on highway, $6.75
27, highway tax worked out, 19.13

$25.88

Otis Damon's District.
Feb. 27, labor on highway, $2.73
27, highway tax worked out, 29.65

$32.38

Rufus Eaton's District.
Nov. 24, labor on highway, $14.85
Dec. 12, highway tax worked out, 30.89
21, D. S. Mason, drawing plank, 1.00

$46.74

Samuel Hiland's District.
Feb. 28, work on highway, $.78
28, highway tax worked out, 5.96

$6.74

J. M. R. Emmon's District.
Feb. 15, labor on highway, $11.08
15, highway tax worked out, 34.88

$45.96

Union District.
Amount worked under W. Sleeper, Solomon French, D.
Cass, A. C. Prescott, F. Bartlett, $782.58
### Miscellaneous for Highways and Bridges.

Mar. 31, E. M. Eastman, snowing and lighting bridge, $8.00
May 29, Geo. W. Dow, labor on highway in 1876-77, 8.45
  " 26, Wm. Rankin, breaking roads in 1876-77, 2.25
  " 26, O. S. Hall, 1.25
  " 26, J. M. Sleeper, 7.80
June 30, J. M. R. Emmons, 5.91
July 28, M. F. Wilbur, labor on highway in 1876, 3.50
  " 31, Seth Cass, 6 M. plank, 54.00
Aug. 25, James Taylor, blacksmithing, 2.84
Nov. 24, Oren Nelson, watering tub, 3.00
  " 30, C. Taylor, plank and spikes, 19.57
  " 30, E. M. Eastman, snowing and lighting bridge, 25.00
  " 30, S. S. Patten, bridge plank, 10.28
Dec. 8, Thomas Muzzey, plank and timber, 14.88
  " 8, A. Clement, blacksmithing, 2.28
  " 29, C. W. Batchelder, watering tub, 3.00
  " 29, C. Gale, labor on highway in 1877, 3.15
Jan. 26, E. M. Eastman, showing and lighting bridge, 5.00
  " 26, Favor Lock, jr., plank, 1.12
  " 26, E. M. Eastman, snowing and lighting bridge, 3.00
  " 26, Manson Patten, labor on highway 1876, 1.87
  " 15, Favor Lock, jr., highway tax, 6.38
Feb. 23, C. H. Woodward, breaking roads, 1.90
  " 28, E. A. Colby, guide boards, 3.75

$198.18

Total for highways and bridges, $1,656.44

### Miscellaneous Items.

Mar. 20, R. W. Musgrove, printing reports, &c., 1876, $36.70
  " 20, J. W. Wells, police services to April 1, 1877, 25.00
  " 20, Morrill & Silsby, stationery, 8.68
May 5, A. J. Haynes, fence near town hall, 4.50
  " 26, L. W. Hammond, damage to wagon, 4.00
Aug. 25, Ezra E. Cawley, damage to wagon, 3.00
Oct. 29, Milo Fellows, hog bitten by dog, 10.00
Nov. 24, Jonas Call, tin roofing office, 23.67
Nov. 24, Rufus Eaton, stone, $6.00
" 30, G. W. Miller, police services, 1874-75, 5.00
Dec. 12, J. W. Farrington, damage to wagon, 3.00
" 12, Nancy Wallace, damage on highway, 64.00
" 29, Ella A. Currier, damage on bridge, 20.00
" 29, H. B. Fowler, medical attendance, Ella A. Currier, 5.00
Jan. 26, E. K. Dearborn, insurance on town hall, 20.00
" 26, C. M. Taylor, damage on highway, 10.00
Feb. 2, J. A. Haynes, error in invoice, 7.74
" 8, R. W. Musgrove, printing, 4.75
" 15, N. Hines and wife, damage on highway, 25.00
" 16, B. Q. Fellows, bill on highway, 2.58
" 23, C. Boardman, stationery, .52
" 23, H. B. Fowler, professional services, Mr. Wallace, 25.00
" 27, bounty on foxes, 8.50
" 27, bounty on hawks, .80
" 27, Morrill & Silsby, order and receipt books, 1.60
" 27, Hiram Kendall, care of town clock, 15.00
" 28, Charles S. Flanders, police services, 4.00
" 28, Expenses of wood and lights, care of town hall, 76.56
" 28, C. Flanders, damage to sheep by dogs, 5.00
" 28, F. Bartlett, to Haverhill on town business, 10.00
" 28, R. W. Musgrove, printing check list, 5.00
" 28, G. L. Tilton, bill, 2.30
" 28, Ministerial fund, 6.00

$449.90

Town Officers' Bills.

C. Boardman, Treasurer, $25.00
A. W. Bingham, Town Clerk, 40.00
N. A. Durgin, School Committee, 50.00
Seth Cass, Selectman, 100.00
F. Bartlett, " 110.00
A. J. Ferrin, " 100.00
Seth Cass, Collector, 175.00

$600.00
Abatement of Taxes.

John F. Tilton, poll tax, $2.35
Moses Kimball, “ “ 2.58
F. W. Quimby, highway tax, 1.85
Frank Dimon, “ “ .38
Isaiah Fowler, jr., “ “ .38
Shurborn Wells, heirs of, 7.75
Eben Darling “ 8.80
James Musgrove, part of tax, 7.92
Geo. Weeks, poll tax, 2.35
Wm. Elliot, “ “ 2.58
Samuel Hill, poll tax, 2.58
On tax list of 1877, 100.00

$139.52

Paid on Town Notes.

Dorcas W. Heath, $2,098.33
Amanda M. Stearns, 158.79
Almira M. Huse, 115.00
Eliza A. Rankins, 56.84
Hiram W. Kendall, 64.94
Hannah W. Gray, 66.28
Polly Sleeper, paid interest, 46.36
Levi Nelson, paid interest, 16.39
Hannah Woolson, 13.24
Town Bonds, paid interest, 458.33
Webster C. Brown, 597.92
Seth Cass, 774.22
Belinda K. Gordon, 63.11
Favor Lock, 108.87

$4,638.63
Recapitulation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total amount received</td>
<td>$16,414.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>State tax</td>
<td>$1,348.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>County tax</td>
<td>1,856.95</td>
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<td>Outstanding orders</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>School money</td>
<td>1,719.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>School house tax</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precinct tax</td>
<td>305.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pauper bills</td>
<td>608.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highways and bridges</td>
<td>1,656.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous items</td>
<td>449.90</td>
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<td>Town Officers' Bills</td>
<td>600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abatement of taxes</td>
<td>139.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes paid, and interest</td>
<td>4,638.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>In hands of Treasurer</td>
<td>2,517.10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,414.62</strong></td>
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Notes and Interest due from Town March 1, 1878.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Ordway</td>
<td>$125.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Kidder</td>
<td>122.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polly H. Sleeper</td>
<td>472.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Cheney</td>
<td>130.87</td>
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<td>Mary C. Mudgett</td>
<td>247.28</td>
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<td>Belinda B. Cass</td>
<td>875.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levi Nelson</td>
<td>166.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Woolson</td>
<td>135.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webster C. Brown</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Tobine</td>
<td>549.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,325.16</strong></td>
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Bonds Due from the Town March 1, 1878.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seth Cass</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda B. Cass</td>
<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Mason</td>
<td>700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda M. Stearns</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Fogg</td>
<td>1,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. K. Mason</td>
<td>300.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
R. S. Danforth, $500.00
N. W. Cass, 500.00
A. J. Smith, 1,000.00
Abbie S. White, 1,000.00
Mrs. Varnum Pratt, 1,000.00
Clarence Merrill, 200.00
Ezekiel Follansbee, 400.00
Mary C. Mudgett, 400.00
Sarah Cheney, 200.00
Wm. G. Kelley, 200.00
Daniel Kelley, 200.00
Interest on Bonds, 458.33

$10,458.33

Amount the Town owes.

Notes and interest, $3,325.66
Bonds and interest, 10,458.33

$13,783.49

Due the Town.

In hands of Treasurer, $2,517.10
Grafton County, for support of paupers, 78.30

$2,595.90

Actual debt, $11,188.09

Decrease of debt, $4,308.38

Respectfully submitted,

SETH CASS, F. BARTLETT, A. J. FERRIN, Selectmen of Bristol.
AUDITORS' REPORT.

We hereby certify that we have examined the report of the Selectmen of the town of Bristol, and find their accounts correctly cast and properly vouched.

L. W. HAMMOND,  }  Auditors.
M. W. WHITE,     }

Bristol, March 8th, 1878.
REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF BRISTOL,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

District No. 1.

This district had one term of school of ten weeks, taught by Mrs. L. D. Simonds, nee Calley, of Franklin. Whole number of pupils, 13; average attendance, 11. Eight scholars came from adjoining districts. This was Mrs. Simonds's second term in this school; she reported it to have been a very pleasant one, and I judged it to have been a profitable one. The scholars who came in had different text-books, so there were more classes than were desirable, which is a common fault in our schools. Mrs. Simonds has many excellent and highly commendable methods of teaching. Writing was taught by the use of the black-board; and, by pointing out the errors in the slants, size and heights of the letters, the scholars were enabled to criticize their own writing by comparing it with the copy, and a general improvement was apparent. Drawing was practiced to quite an extent, and there was considerable disregard of that mere book routine teaching which is so often seen. Scholars can really accomplish but very little in so short a term once a year, but I think they did what they could. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $18.00. Whole amount of school money, $45.71. Elijah Sanborn, Prudential Committee.

District No. 2.—See Graded School.

District No. 3.

Miss Ida M. Dolloff taught one term of eleven weeks in this district. Whole number, 10; average attendance, 9. Two scholars were somewhat advanced in their studies, taking Thompson's Seasons and Book-keeping, and one of them took University Algebra. The reading was very poor; the voice was pitched on too high a key; the utterance was too rapid and indistinct, and the scholars had but very little comprehension of what they were reading. It does seem to me that more.
time should be devoted to reading, writing and spelling in our schools, to the neglect of some of the other branches. The terms of school are so short that a great portion of the time might very profitably be spent in acquiring these *arts*, and he who possesses these has the key to many a position to which he may not be able to attain without them.

Four scholars were not absent, and cases of tardiness were very few—only six recorded. Miss Dolloff is a good disciplinarian; and teacher, committee and pupils all seemed to do their best for the highest interest of the school. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $19.00. Whole amount of money, $52.47. Solon Dolloff, Prudential Committee.

**District No. 4.**

Miss Jennie S. Emmons taught one term of ten weeks in this district with two scholars. Average attendance nearly the same. Miss Emmons' record of a service of thirty-eight terms speaks for itself in her behalf. The scholars read quite well, and Miss Heath's examination in Geography and Grammar did her much credit. I think there is altogether too much good teaching wasted on the air of one of our very best country school-houses. With good furniture, ample supply of black-boards, and every thing desirable about it, it ought not to rust out. I wish the citizens of this district would try the experiment of having a winter school, taking in scholars from adjoining districts for a suitable compensation. There is not a winter school in this town, except in No. 2, and our boys and girls are spending too many of their days and evenings in an intellectual idleness that is sadly deplorable. Shall the children of to-day receive a poorer education than their fathers did, at the town's expense? Wages of teacher per month, $12.87. Board given. Whole amount of money, $32.14. J. M. R. Emmons, Prudential Committee.

**District No. 5.**

Had one term of school of fifteen weeks, taught by Miss Kate L. Robie, with her usual success. Whole number, 14; average attendance, 9. Four scholars, only, belong in the district; the others were tuition scholars. As Miss Robie has taught this school for eleven terms, her mark is naturally upon it. The scholars who came in were not as far advanced as those in the district. A class of younger scholars read in History, and their answers to questions evinced an interest in it. The classes in Arithmetic and Geography did very well. If the good people of the district wish to preserve their school-house as a precious relic, I would suggest that they cremate it at a very early date, treasure the ashes, then set themselves to work with an earnest purpose to erect a building that shall better represent their wealth and intelligence. It is too well ventilated for the health or comfort of their children, and their aesthetic education cannot advance very far
towards the highest. Wages of teacher, including the board, which was given, $16.00. Whole amount of money, $54.11. Sylvanus Swett, Prudential Committee.

**District No. 6.**

Had two terms of school. First term, of four weeks, was taught by Miss Kate L. Robie, who began a very good work. Whole number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 13. Three were from No. 5. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $19.00.

The second term of 9 weeks was taught by Miss Emma O. Curtice, of Concord. Whole number, 16; average, 12. The average attendance was greatly affected by several cases of sickness during the term. This is an interesting school; the scholars evinced a very respectful independence, and manifested a freedom in answering questions, showing that they had been taught to do a little of their own thinking. A class of the largest boys were a good deal interested in U. S. History, and passed a very creditable examination in the same. Two scholars studied Algebra, and one young lady passed an unusually good examination in Grammar. The writing was not what it ought to have been. In this district, as well as others, some scholars have one system of writing-books, some another; while others have a few sheets of paper on which the teacher writes a copy. One teacher is a good writer, and knows how to teach writing; another is very poor, and can teach Greek as well; so, between the two, the scholars get a very bad system, or none at all. Miss Curtice is an energetic and faithful teacher, possessing that peculiar tact which enables her to readily impart instruction in those elements in which she had been herself well drilled in the graded schools of Concord. Had the parents judged by sight rather than hearing, visited the schools, and manifested the great interest which they really seemed to feel, it would have done teacher and pupils both much good. Wages per month, including board, $23.00. Whole amount of money, $67.40. Damon Y. Emmons, Prudential Committee.

**District No. 7.**

Had one term of twelve weeks, taught by Miss Clara M. Smith, of Maine. Whole number of pupils, three; average attendance, three. How can a teacher employ her time in so small a school, and what can she do to create an interest! I confess that I do not know. She must be one very peculiarly fitted for a peculiar situation. Miss Smith passed a very good examination indeed, and, taking into consideration her youth and total inexperience, the term was as profitable as might have been expected. The scholars need to have their school privileges increased, both in quantity and good quality. History was used as a reading book; reading, poor; writing, fair, and the school, to me, painfully quiet. I would suggest the advantage of uniting with adjoining districts, though it may be a little trouble to carry the scholars to
school occasionally. Wages of teacher per month, $6.00. The two families very kindly gave the board. Whole amount of money, $18.25. H. C. Homan, Prudential Committee.

District No. 8.

Miss Mary P. Payson taught both terms of school in this district; one of seven, the other of thirteen weeks. Whole number, first term, 16; average attendance, 14; second term, 15; average, 13. Miss Payson took a "new departure," and made it a point to keep the little ones engaged and interested in something apart from the mere text-books. Drawing on slates and black-boards from patterns on drawing cards was a favorite occupation. The scholars were alive, prompt in answering questions, showed a good degree of improvement in all their studies, and, taken as a whole, are rather further advanced in their scholarship than most of the other scholars outside of the village. Eight scholars were not absent during the first term. Cases of tardiness very few—only fourteen and twenty respectively. William W. Rollins, a little fellow of five years, deserves the champion belt for being neither absent, tardy or dismissed for the thirteen weeks, and being marked "plus" in deportment. This is a good record for him to look back upon in his after years, and I hope he may walk through his school days on just this line.

The parents were evidently much interested in the school; twenty-two visits being recorded, including five from the Prudential Committee and his wife—a rare occurrence, and worthy of special mention. There would, doubtless, have been many more visits had the first term not been terminated very abruptly by the sad calamity which called the teacher so suddenly away. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $20.00. Whole amount of money, $117.45. C. N. Drake, Prudential Committee.

District No. 9.

Had one term of ten and one fifth weeks, taught by Miss Lizzie F. Clement. Whole number of scholars, 6; average attendance, 4. I am at a loss to know why this school has not sustained its former reputation. At my first visit the first class of two boys appeared very well in their several recitations, showing, by their answers to my question, a general intelligence that pleased me greatly. The second class read very rapidly, miscalled and skipped the words, so that the sense was utterly destroyed. At my second visit I learned that one of the boys had left town, and the other had left school, for some reason to me unknown. One young man dodged both my visits, so I did not see him. Two girls, and a little boy of four years, were all there were present, and they had made a good improvement. Miss Clement had apparently done what she could. Neither parent nor Committee visited the school, although perhaps the latter is excusable. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $24.00. Whole amount of money, $61.58. J. O. Tilton, Prudential Committee.
Union District, No. 2.

Each of the four Departments in the Graded School had three terms of eight, ten and eleven weeks, respectively; beginning May 7th, and closing Feb. 15th, with the usual customary vacations. The Primary Department was taught by Miss Lilla A. Nelson. Whole number of different pupils for the year, 58; average attendance, 44; which is very good indeed for such little folks. At the commencement of the year, this school was found to be the only one that was crowded, or even nearly full, so that the idea of hiring another building, and a fifth teacher, at an expense of $200, was at once abandoned. As the school appropriation was greatly reduced, we felt obliged to cut our garment according to our cloth, so as to make the most of it. In addition to the fifteen who were qualified to enter the Intermediate School, twelve more were taken from the next class, and sent in with them. This left a good first class, who completed the Primary Geography, Arithmetic and Third Reader; so that eleven out of eighteen were found, upon a very thorough examination, to be qualified for promotion, and the younger classes made very good improvement.

I think more exercises on the Kindergarten principle ought to be introduced into this school, affording the little ones restful changes; and a short time might very profitably be spent in teaching the older ones to trace letter copies with a pencil, or some of the elementary principles of drawing. Arithmetic should be taught mostly by using the numeral frame, pictures and different objects. Miss Nelson succeeded much better than I anticipated in this trying, but most important, place. Many of the habits formed here go with the scholars through their school life, and a good start is necessarily very important. Thirteen were on the "Roll of Honor" the first term; three the second, and five the third. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $30.

The Intermediate Department was taught by Miss Katie F. George, who was promoted from the Primary, where she had taught for the last nine years. Whole number of different scholars for the year, 46; average attendance, 36. As Miss George took so many of her pupils with her, she changed the place but kept the pleasure. The scholars were quiet, good natured industrious, and did themselves and their teacher much credit. The first class completed Monteith's Elementary Geography and Greenleaf's Arithmetic; and, if they cannot, parrot like, define latitude, longitude, polar circles, &c., of which they have not the slightest comprehension, they can tell something about the climate, surface and products of their own and different countries, which I regard as far more useful knowledge. They were quite interested in reading History, so that I hope to see it one of the studies in the Grammar School. Eight scholars were promoted, leaving excellent
material for a first class for another year. I think it was the most neatly kept room in the building, which speaks well for the school. Wages of teacher per month, $30.

Miss Emma M. Crawford taught the Grammar Department. Whole number of different pupils for the year, 39; average attendance, 31. Miss Crawford taught the Intermediate School last year. Twenty of her pupils were promoted with her. This is generally conceded to be the most difficult school in the building. Scholars of their ages begin to cast aside some of the restraining fears of childhood, and assume an independence which often amounts nearly to a rudeness. Parents often sadly realize this when "Young America" begins to develop itself. With a good number of these bright, smart, almost irrepressible boys and girls, a teacher is obliged to be constantly on the alert. The first class of thirteen, who were promoted to the High School, made good progress, as shown by their two examinations. They fully completed their Grammar; and their compositions, spelling and habits of criticism on the improper use of words showed very plainly that they had gained some practical ideas of the study, instead of merely cramming their minds with its dry technicalities.

In Arithmetic, four of the class sustained themselves admirably well in reciting in the High School, and I think the whole class very much better qualified to enter that school than many classes that have been sent in. There is but a slight difference in the attainments of the first and second classes. There are some of the best readers in town to be found in this school, and spelling from the Geography has been a good practice. Penmanship was taught in the three upper schools during the first and second terms, and a good improvement made. Mental Arithmetic should be continued more or less through the whole course. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $36.

The first term in the High School Department was taught by Mr. George H. Calley, the second and third by Mr. I. A. Chase. Whole number of different scholars during the year, 41; average attendance, 36. Mr. Calley found the scholars in a very undisciplined condition; but he succeeded, by his peculiar tact and energy, in partially eliminating the disorderly element—did what he could in eight weeks. At the expiration of the term he resigned; and, fortunately for the school, he was succeeded by Mr. Chase, who taught the same one term two years ago, and gave most excellent satisfaction to both parents and Committee. The school has suffered greatly by too frequent change of teachers, having had eight during the last six years.

The scholars, by their ready answers and general appearance at the public examination, did themselves much credit. The classes in Latin, Algebra, Arithmetic and Physiology, particularly, demonstrated very
clearly that the teaching had not been superficial; while, at the private examination the preceding week, the other classes did as well. A class in Book-keeping were very studious, and made good proficiency. As the class in Grammar was too large for profitable instruction, it was, after proper consultation, thought best to divide it, and send a part into the next room, simply to recite to Miss Crawford, as she had more time than Mr. Chase could possibly devote to it. Nobody dreamed of giving any offence, yet it proved that the dignity of some was touched, and the extreme sensibilities of others to such an extent that four parents thought it best to remove their children from the school, without any consultation with teachers or myself; yet the class pursued the even tenor of its ways, received some of the elementary drilling which it sadly needed, and made evident improvement. I have never known the order to be any better than it has been during the last term, and a very large part of the scholars have seemed to be cheerfully obedient, respectful, and attentive to their studies.

Complaints from the neighboring citizens, respecting noise or damage to property, have been very few indeed; the per cent. of daily attendance (.98) has been unusually good, and the teachers have endeavored to expel profanity, obscenity and all dangerous things from the premises, as far as possible. The maintenance of good discipline commends itself to all scholars who are well disposed and anxious to learn, although it has some terrors for the evil doers. Honeyed words, and mild persuasions have never yet been able to effect it in a school composed of so many different scholars who are under all kinds of home management. I have entered the several rooms at various times without knocking; have made a thorough examination of the classes—not according to the book routine, but the principles—and, at the examinations for promotion, I went over all the ground that the classes had been over, called upon scholars by numbers, and in this way I feel that I have obtained pretty accurate information in regard to them, and I honestly commend the teachers and scholars. There have been nearly two hundred visits made by the parents during the year, and a hundred by other citizens and young people. Wages of teacher per month, including board, $52. Whole amount of money, $1270.10. Dr. H. B. Fowler, Prudential Committee.

In taking a survey of the schools I would say that many things connected with them have afforded me much pleasure and satisfaction, while there are a few things to deplore. The Prudential Committees have, very generally, succeeded in employing good teachers, and although they have mostly been from Bristol, yet the Committees might have gone farther and fared much worse; they have complied with the requirements of the law by notifying me of the beginning and close of their respective schools; in most instances have waited for my certificate that the Register has been properly filled out before paying the
teacher, and have interested themselves in the progress of the scholars, while their uniform courtesy and politeness merit my sincere thanks. The teachers have worked well with me, adopting my suggestions and helping me carry out my plans in every way possible. There is a chance for improvement in teaching many things, and there probably have been some mistakes made, as we are not perfect yet.

It ought to be a subject of deep regret that the children in the ungraded schools have so few school privileges. With such short schools and a new teacher every year what can the scholars know? Having so many different text books, the teacher is obliged to confine herself quite closely to the book, or the one scholar in a class knows nothing about his lesson. I would suggest that the districts try the accommodation plan: let one school begin; the next at its close, and so on, thus affording an opportunity for all the scholars to attend at least two terms in a year, or else let the teachers throw out half the text books and teach general principles only. I have thought it needless to change books where the one scholar could learn just as much from the book he was using. Many teachers seem to have a monomania for teaching words, while principles are ignored, although it should be evident to them that word cramming is not good for the scholar's mental digestion. The acquirements of school life have two values, one of knowledge and the other of discipline. Every scholar should be taught to think for himself.

Good order in a school is one of the effectual things for its success, and while teachers should be filled with "sweetness and light," yet it is necessary that they constantly maintain a "vigorous and rigorous" policy, if they would be highly successful in their calling. The law of love is admirable, but a teacher needs that love that is a conservation of tact, energy and good will which always regards the highest good of the greatest number. I deprecate that sentiment that would expel a pupil from school for misconduct unless he becomes a nuisance to the school, and, although I would have corporal punishment avoided as long as possible, it seems to me much better that two minutes should be devoted to making a bad boy smart for his offences, rather than take fifteen away from the whole school and devote it to a lecture which has not the slightest effect upon him. Our teachers are hired to teach, and it ought not to be expected that they should take time to study all the forces that have accumulated in each child, through ancestral channels, thoroughly enough to always know what is best to do for its highest development.

Home influence is a great help or hindrance, and those parents who regard the schools as proper places for correction, improvement and that discipline which is needed to make their children good, law-abiding and respectable citizens of our town, are most truly co-workers.
For any advice in regard to parents visiting schools, sustaining teachers, &c., I would refer them to the reports of all my illustrious predecessors in this office; but I do ask that all fault-findings, jealousies and sectarian interference be hushed until after the children are safely asleep. Let them be guarded as securely from all poisonous influence of this kind, as from tales of horror, superstition and witchcraft.

I wish that the services of good teachers for our Graded School could be secured and retained for a term of years. There is most excellent material in the several departments, which only needs to be properly worked. Some of our people prefer to send their children away to be taught. There always have been just such, but often it is not for want of suitable instruction at home, neither do all the best scholars go first. Good, thorough, practical instruction can be furnished here; if parents wish to supplement it by giving their children a classical, mercantile, medical or law course, it is their special privilege, but would it not be well to see to it that a good elementary foundation is first laid? The Committee and myself both agreed in thinking that it was not best to support a teacher in the High School at an extra expense for a dozen scholars, while the lower departments were obliged to suffer. In this we are aware we differ from some of our friends, but until the district will vote more money for our schools we must regard it as the best course for the largest number.

The following pupils have not been absent or tardy during the last term: Edward Badger, George Cilley, Willie White, Fred Pattee, Frank Favor, Henry Plumer, Nellie Beckford, Alice Crawford, Nellie Tilton, Eva Fling, Laura Sleeper, Helen White, in the High School; Ellis Kirk, Carrie Crawford, Katie Spiller, Eva M. Ballou, Winnie Heath, in the Grammar School; while Annie Fling and Mabel Rice are on the roll of honor for the year; Willie Heath, Bell Gurdy, in the Intermediate School; Elbert Dickinson, Harry L. Sleeper, Karl M. White, Lilla Dickinson, Willie G. Robie, in the Primary.

The average daily per cent. of attendance in the whole school has been 90.

In closing, I would say that I most heartily thank all the citizens, teachers and scholars who have, in any way, assisted me in my endeavors to promote the best interests of the schools.

NANCY A. DURGIN, S. S. Committee.