ACCOUNT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF MONT VERNON,

TOGETHER WITH THE

SCHOOL REPORT,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1875.

NASHUA, N. H.:
WHITTEMORES' PRESS.
1875.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

SELECTMEN OF MONT VERNON IN ACCOUNT WITH SAID TOWN.

DR.

To Cash in treasury, Feb. 20th, 1874,	$1099 94
" Amount of taxes assessed,	4335 00
" Cash received from State,	584 93
" Bonds sold,	494 00
" Interest on bonds,	240 00
" Cash for sale of lots in cemetery,	3 50
" Bonds on hand,	4000 00
	$10,757 37

CR.

By cash paid out as follows:

" State tax $720, County tax $407.90,	$1127 90	
Paid on C. Green's note.	400 00	
R. Smith and E. Upton, note and interest,	330,13	
On A. Trow's note,	112 00	
Betsey Crosby's note and interest,	1,019 15	
Donation to McCollom Institute,	300 00	
For support of Paupers,	258 00	
John Smith, tolling bell, $2.50, setting glass $1.50,	4 00	
Dr. Bunton, reports of births and deaths,	2 00	
P. F. Pike, for digging graves, care of hearse, attending funerals, setting posts,	18 71	

W. Wellman, $15.33, D. Gregg $5.05 for damages,	20 38	
Printing town reports, and watering place.	17 00	
G. W. Averill, for collector's book, printing town orders and stationery,	6 25	
Town clerk $20, town treasurer $22,	42 00	
Collector $50, constable $2,	52 00	
A. Travis, moderator,	2 00	
Wm. G. Bruce and A. Travis, auditors,	3 00	
Towards pump for public use,	10 00	

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Abatement of tax in 1872,	$6 09	
" " " " 1873,	13 19	
Overtax, J. Hartshorn,	4 08	
" H. McQuesten,	3 52	
N. Pike $1,76, I. Hill $4,64,	6 40	
F. Kendall,	1 76	

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Centre district $350, So. do. $153,	$503 00	
East do. $153, North do. $148,	301 00	
West do. $93, Amherst do. $28.06,	121 06	
Superintending school committee,	33 00	
		$958 06

REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS.

District No. 1, $74; do. No. 2, $47.70; do. No. 3, $50.84; do. No. 4, $78.50; do. No. 5, $85; do. No. 6, $37.56; do. No. 7, $27.76; do. No. 8, $39.68; do. No. 9, $40; do. No. 10, $72.80; do. No. 11, $51.82; do. No. 12, $32.28; do. No. 13, $78.97; do. No. 14, $32.33; do. No. 15, $90; do. No. 16, $41.19; do. No. 17, $39.03,	$919 46	$919 46
Breaking roads in 1874 and 1875,	43 49	43 49

SELECTMEN SERVICES.

G. W, Averill, $65; H. F. Dodge, $25; Cornelius Green, $26,	$116 00	
		$116 00

NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.

Literary fund note,	$150 70	
E. Batchelder, do.,	636 00	
H. E. Kittredge, do.,	124 29	
C. Green, note,	244 16	
H. Underwood, note,	295 76	
A. Upton, $425.52; R. Upton, $281,24,	706 76	
B. Trow, $331.20; J. Perkins, $243.07,	574 27	
P. Smith, $1797.76; A. Trow, 104.50,	1902 26	4,634 20
Whole amount of claims against the town,		10,430 77$
Am't of Dr. from foregoing page,	$10,757 37	
" " Claims,	$10,430 77	
Balance in treasury,	$326 60	

GEO. W. AVERILL, } *Selectmen of*
C. GREEN, } *Mont Vernon*

MONT VERNON, FEB. 25TH, 1875

We have this day examined the Selectmen's report, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched. We find a balance in favor of the town $326.60.

A. TRAVIS, } *Auditors.*
WM. G. BRUCE, }

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of the town of Mont Vernon, submits the following Report:

DR.

To cash in Treasury, March, 1874,	$200 50	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1872,	74 44	
" " " 1873,	825 00	
Literary fund note,	150 70	
State Bonds on hand,	4,500 00	
Interest received on State Bonds,	240 00	
Cash received on State Bonds, Railroads, &c.,	584 93	
Cash received of P. F. Pike, for lot sold in Cemetery,	3 50	
Cash received of Collector for 1874,	3,535 00	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1874,	800 00	
		$10,914 07

CR.

By paying the following:		
By paying the State tax,	$720 00	
" " County tax,	407 90	
Literary fund note,	150 70	
Discount made on State Bonds sold,	6 00	
Paying (92) orders of Selectmen,	4,668 67	
State Bonds on hand,	4,000 00	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1873,	81 00	
" " " 1874,	800 00	
		$10,834 27

Whole amount of receipts,	$10,914 07
" " " Bills paid,	10,834 27
Balance in the treasury,	$79 80

All of which is submitted:

D. R. BAKER, *Town Treasurer.*

FEB. 25TH, 1875.

We have examined the above report, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

A. TRAVIS,
WM. G. BRUCE, } *Auditors.*

REPORT OF THE OVERSEER OF THE POOR.

From Feb. 21st, 1874, to Feb. 23d, 1875.

DR.		
To cash received from town treasurer,		$258 00
CR.		
Credit by cash paid out as follows:		
Paid Board of Levi Averill from April 1st, 1874, to April 1st, 1875,	$65 00	
Clothing for Levi Averill,	18 50	
Board of C. Farnum, from Feb. 24th, 1874, to Feb. 23d, 1875, inclusive,	68 50	
Board of Lucy J. Wallace, from Feb. 1st, 1874, to Feb. 1st. 1875,	91 00	
Expenses of transient paupers,	5 00	
Overseers' services,	10 00	
		$258 00

GEO. W. AVERILL, *Overseer of Poor.*

MONT VERNON, FEB. 25th, 1875.

We have examined the above report and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

A. TRAVIS,
WM. G. BRUCE, } *Auditors.*

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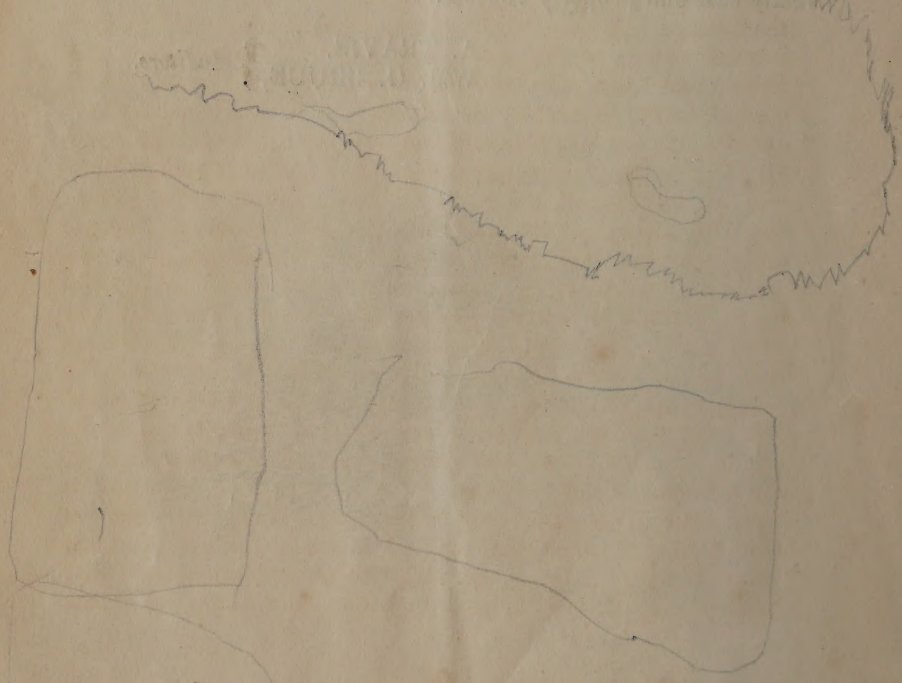

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In addressing you at the close of the school year, many topics present themselves for lengthy consideration, but space will limit us to few, and those briefly noticed.

FIRST—The grand importance of our educational interests. These we cannot overestimate. They lie at the foundation of our intelligence, our virtue, our industrial enterprises, and our prosperity as a people. They constitute the chief elements of high civilization, a safeguard for our republican institutions, and a source of security, and confidence among ourselves.—They are a better pledge of safety to persons and property than armed legions. Good schools prevent crime and pauperism among any people, and in any country. The four counties in England having the poorest schools, reported one criminal conviction for every 550 inhabitants. The four counties having the best schools, reported one criminal conviction for every 1,108 inhabitants, less than one-half. England reports 90 per cent. of her criminals utterly unable to read or write. Prussia, Holland, and Sweden, have the best schools in Europe, and by far the least crime and poverty. *There,* ignorance and crime are natural allies. *Here,* they are no less so. In Ohio State Prison 276 inmates are reported as very ignorant, 175 grossly so. The record of the Auburn Prison, N. Y., shows only 36 out of 244 inmates able to read or write at all. We could multiply statistics indefinitely, and all to the same effect. Our boys must be, they will be, educated at home and in the school, or in the street and dram shop. God deliver us from the influence of the last two. Our girls will be educated at home and in the school, or in the street, and the brothel.—God deliver us from those versed in the learning of the last two. Equality is the corner stone of our government, equality in the eye of the law, in the school-room, and at the ballot-box.

Our public schools are common in the full sense of the word. They do give equal rights to all who will claim those rights; and there is no place under heaven where rich and poor are alike, no, not even in the church. Let our schools have a warm place in all our hearts; and let the expense of them be met with a willing and liberal spirit. We shall receive rich returns in decreased taxation, in better society, in increased valuation of property, and in purer morals.

SECOND—Teachers: How vast the importance of employing men and women thoroughly capable, and worthy of the places they are called to occupy. A really good teacher not only has full knowledge of the branches to be taught, but capacity to communicate, to wake up mind, to rouse up an interest, to quicken the perception, and to guide it to a right understanding. The good teacher will not be content with guess work, or with giving *results* without an understanding of how *these* are reached. The capable teacher is not wedded to text books, but takes them only for a guide; nor will one-half of his library consist of Keys and such like ponies. A *teacher* is not one who merely hears recitations; he is far more, one who forms habits of study, awakens enthusiasm, draws out and directs talent. All this ought to be, and will be the aim of the good teacher. In view of this, the duty of selecting teachers is one of no small responsibility. The very best cannot always be secured, but sound discretion should be exercised to obtain the best *possible*. The difference of a few dollars more by the term, or month, is of little consequence, compared with incompetence, deficiency, or inefficiency.

THIRD—Aids to teaching: Mt. Vernon is a farming town, and the farmers are sharp enough to procure the very best kind of plows, mowers, churns, milk-cans, sewing machines, etc., etc. This is all right, 'tis wisdom. There is profit in having the best of tools, and enough of them, to aid us in manual labor. We employ the best mechanics, and the best day laborers, and furnish them with good tools. But we are quite apt to leave our wisdom at home, when we go to the annual school meeting. We do not exercise the same prudence and foresight in relation to our school teachers, which we do in relation to other things. On the contrary, we do go to the other extreme. Practically, we have not advanced one step in these matters the past two years. Not one school yet owns a globe, mural map, geometrical solid, or any other aid to the teacher. We believe the reason may be found in thoughtlessness. Not one day passes in our schools but we are losing money. Take

geography. Very few students can understand the mathematical part of it without a globe. You send an average of 30 pupils the year round to the Institute. We are glad to see them, and to teach them. We put them into classes, and give them the benefit of our apparatus. When that is in use we never fail of wrapt attention, and we often hear the exclamation, "I never could see into that before." The same is true of many parts of arithmetic, and other branches. What if these things had been mastered in the District school? How many more of the sciences might have been mastered? How much time saved? How many dollars tuition saved? With how much more consciousness of inward power could our young people go out into the world. To supply wants, and to remedy defects we have seen teachers the past year tax their imagination a good deal. All praise to them. We have seen apples and pumpkins, with Latitude, Longitude, Equator, Tropics and Polar circles cut upon them.

The laws of N. H. give school districts authority to raise money for necessary aids to teaching. A few dollars judiciously expended will go far, and be of permanent benefit. We sincerely hope our school districts will not wholly forget these things at their next annual district meetings.

Fourth—Education in Mt. Vernon: In 1874 twenty-five hundred and ninety-eight pupils between the ages of four and fourteen years of age, are reported as not having attended any school any where during the year. So many children without schooling a whole year! A sad thought! But have they not been to school and learned much? Yes, theirs is the largest school in the State. It holds daily and nightly sessions all through the year. Its school-room is at the corners of the streets and in under-ground cellars. That spirit of evil "which finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," is their teacher. Their text-books are the ribald oaths and ungodly jests of the low, the vulgar and the profane. Their tuition is paid in court fees, court fines, and pauper taxation. Their Diplomas, if they have graduated, are certificates of discharge from Houses of Correction, Reform Schools, Jails, or State Prisons. Let no one doubt the propriety of calling this a school. It is a school far more costly than any other. New Hampshire pays more taxes for its support than for those Teachers' Institutes so wisely abolished by the wisdom of our last retrenching Legislature.

Let Mt. Vernon rejoice that she has no reported representative in that school.

Our schools, on an average, have been far better than those of last year. The aggregate of 17½ weeks has been added to the aggregate of last year. The instances of tardiness are less. The average of attendance has increased.

Our teachers, though three of them are the same as last year, have been better, as they have had more experience, and profited by the same.

The teachers have behaved faithfully and earnestly, and results show their efforts have not been in vain. There is one fact worthy of mention. It is this: every district has retained its teacher during the entire year.

The Institute—deserves mention, as the town is pecuniarily interested therein. The town furnished twenty-four students during the fall term, and thirty-four during the winter. The hall has been improved with paint and pictures. A new and tasty fence incloses the grounds. The school, with its present standing, is one of the strongest inducements for men with means and families to settle here. Besides, it makes something of a home market. The school has risen rapidly and extensively in popularity for two years. It has a good name with all reasonable people both at home and abroad.—Its name, its honor, its usefulness, can be retained so long as teachers who know their business are kept at its head, and board and rooms can be readily secured at reasonable prices.

CENTRE DISTRICT.

This school was taught thirty weeks by Miss Emma F. Robertson, of Greenfield. She managed the school with the same quietness as last year. The improvement in this school is steady and constant from term to term. So far as we have observed all the classes acquitted themselves well. We have heard of no complaints. The record shows a fair number of parental visits. During the winter term a small prize was offered for the largest number of maps drawn from memory in the best manner. The result was such as would reflect credit on as many teachers competing for the same prize.

Rev. Dr. Keeler, C. P. Mills, A. M., and Miss Emma Wyman, were selected as committee to award the prize. Master Cleon Hill was the fortunate and successful competitor.

The winter term closed with an exhibition. The night proved a very stormy one, but a good number gathered and were pleased with the efforts of the children.

If this school can be continued in as good hands as the past two years, it may well earn the title of Model School.

EAST DISTRICT.

Geo. W. Battles, of this town, teacher two terms. He does not enjoy the best of health, but is possessed of good scholarship and the principles of true manhood, and an earnest desire to do good. With these as a basis of qualification, he performed his duties with fidelity to parent and pupil. He did a good work in the school by rousing ambition, improving the order, and interesting citizens. The record shows the largest number of parental visits of any district in town. In the absence of your committee from town, Mr. J. B. Leach attended the autumn examination. His written report is minute. The following is an extract: "The behavior was quite good, and the pupils manifested an evident regard for their teacher and an interest in his instruction. This was noticeable. I made careful inquiry of intelligent people who were familiar with the school, and the invariable answer was that the school had "improved in a marked degree in every way since Mr. Battles had instructed it." There are signs of radical progress here. Let it come, and we will hail it with hearty welcome.

NORTH DISTRICT.

This school was under the charge of Miss Emma Wyman, of this town. She exercised her accustomed tact in the management of the school, retaining the good will of pupils and of the district. The discipline of the school has improved very much. We have seen nothing in this school but what was in the best of order, and it has been a source of pleasure to attend the examinations of this school. Advancement very good. Excellent specimens of map drawing.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

Miss Hattie J. Carson, teacher through the year.

She labored faithfully for the interest of her pupils, and a good portion of the school appreciated her labors, improving accordingly. A few of the larger boys had a good deal to attend to beside the duties of the school-room, and when the day of examination came we found them deficient in every branch of study. Some of these boys, old enough to have been in the Institute long ago, were found unable to perform very simple examples. Here are two of those given: What must you pay for ½ bbl. of flour at 6 1-4 cts. per pound? What will you pay for a piece of land 40 rods long and 20 rods wide, at $50 per acre? Total failures. Some might censure the teacher.

We did not. We found the most of the school, all other things being equal, giving excellent attention, and passing a very commendable examination. Unruly boys richly deserve a master whose rules it would be safe to heed.

Those boys have contributed largely to the 84 tardy marks —nearly one half of all in town. We have always said Miss Carson was a good scholar and a good teacher. We say so still.

WEST DISTRICT.

Miss Emma J. Tarbell, of this town, teacher.

This was her first attempt at teaching, and well did she succeed. We knew her a long time in the Institute, exhibiting the attributes of a true woman, conscientiously scrupulous in the observance of all rules, and always ready in the discharge of every required duty.

Five pupils in this school, good material enough, but too little of it for the exercise of good abilities. We hope Miss Tarbell will have a wider field of action. The examinations in this school were very good indeed. The recitations of a little blind boy furnished all the proof we desired of faithfulness on the part of the teacher. We believe Miss Tarbell qualified to teach any district school in this county.

DISTRICT.	Summer, Fall and Winter terms.	No. of weeks.	Wages per month.	No. of scholars.	Average.	Times tardy.	Reading.	Spelling.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.	Penmanship.	History.	Algebra.	Composition.
Center,	S.	10	$30.00	26	22	9	26	26	20	7	3	7	5	1	4
	F.	10	$32.00	31	29	11	31	31	24	19	8	15	0	2	8
	W.	10	$32.00	23	22	9	23	23	21	19	6	14	4	2	6
South,	S.	12	$21.00	12	10	23	12	12	9	7	3	4	0	0	0
	F.	11	$29.00	17	15	61	17	17	14	9	3	10	4	0	0
East,	S.	8	$20.00	22	21	16	22	22	12	10	7	12	0	0	0
	F.	14	$30.00	26	20	24	26	26	26	13	7	13	3	0	6
North,	S.	10	$17.00	13	12	7	13	13	10	7	4	9	1	0	4
	F.	14½	$18.00	12	10	13	12	12	9	7	5	8	0	0	7
West,	S.	8	$18.00	5	5	11	5	4	4	3	0	4	1	0	0
	F.	11	$19.00	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	0	3	0	0	0

Amount of money raised by town, including Literary Fund, $925 00.

Amount allotted	Centre	District,		$350 00
"	"	North	"	148 00
"	"	South	"	153 00
"	"	West	"	93 00
"	"	East	"	153 00
"	"	8th District in Amherst,		28 06

GEO. W. TODD, Supt. School Committee.