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ACCOUNT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF MONT VERNON
TOGETHER WITH THE
SCHOOL REPORT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1880.

MILFORD, N. H.:
W. W. HEMENWAY, PRINTER.
1880.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

Report of The Officers

OF THE

TOWN OF MONT VERNON.

The Selectmen respectfully present to the Town of Mont Vernon their annual report of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1st, 1880.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, Mch. 1st, 1879,	\$935 06	
Amount of taxes assessed,	3081 86	
Amount of money borrowed,	500 00	
Amount received for books,	50 00	
Lots sold in cemetery,	15 00	
	<hr/>	\$4581 92

RECEIVED FROM STATE.

Savings bank tax,	483 83	
Literary fund,	39 22	
Railroad tax,	51 28	
For bounties,	4 80	\$579 13
		<hr/>
Whole amount of receipts,		\$5161 05

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax,	736 00	
County tax,	729 37	\$1465 37

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid Centre district,	356 10	
„ South „	178 40	
„ East, „	84 58	
„ North „	73 52	
„ West „	74 11	
„ Amherst „	19 27	\$785 98
Due south district,	6.26	
Paid McCollum Institute,	300 00	\$300 00

BREAKING ROADS AND EXTRA REPAIRS, TO
FEBRUARY 20th.

	E. R.	B. R.
Paid District No. 2	\$12 78	\$12 79
" " " 3		4 60
" " " 4		10 80
" " " 5	23 85	16 11
" " " 6		5 02
" " " 7	8 96	10 03
" " " 8	10 88	15 32
" " " 9	7 00	13 96
" " " 10	7 00	8 10
" " " 11	40 00	7 55
" " " 12	6 86	8 00
" " " 13	6 27	24 17
" " " 14	5 00	21 78
" " " 15	33 40	2 60
" " " 16	11 56	7 78
" " " 17	6 00	6 00
	\$179 56	\$174 61
		\$354 17

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid John Smith for Board and Clothing for Charles, and An- gelina Smith to March 25th, 1880,		\$113 37
Paid E. A. Butler, for board of W. H. Brown,		71 42
,, B. F. Davis for Clothing,		2 25
,, County of Hillsborough,		38 10
Paid for trip to Manchester,		
" " 2 " " New Boston,		
" " 1 " " Wilton, and		
" " 1 " " S. Lyndeboro'.		8 25
Paid Trow & Clarke for services at meeting before Judge Burnham,		15 00
Paid H. F. Dodge for expenses on the Brooks case,		5 00
Paid John A. Carlton for board for John W. Carton,		23 05
Paid Dr T. B. Dearborn for atten- dance upon James Smith,		4 00
Paid Dr. Sturtevant for Mrs. James Smith		5 00
		\$285 44

ROBINSON ROAD.

Paid John Eliott for building lot No. 1,	23	44	
Paid Joseph W. Averill for building lot No. 2,	189	00	
Paid John and George Carson for building lot No. 3,	272	00	\$484 44

ABATEMENTS.

Daniel R. Baker,	12	00	
Gilbert Hadley,	2	06	
Alvan Upton,	1	00	
W. P. Jenkins,	2	00	\$17 06

TOWN OFFICERS SERVICES.

Paid Alonzo Travis Selectman,	50	00	
„ C. H. Raymond „	38	00	
„ H. H. Trow „	35	00	\$123 00
Paid G. W. Averill Collector,	50	00	
„ John M. Fox Clerk,	20	00	
„ Clarke Campbell Treasurer,	18	00	
„ Elbridge F. Trow Constable,	2	00	
„ Charles J. Smith Superintending School Committee,	32	00	
A. Travis, Moderator,	1	50	
G. W. Averill and H. H. Trow Auditors,	2	50	
G. W. Averill, Supervisor	1	50	\$127 50

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Dr. Hinds for record of Births and Deaths,	1	00	
„ Bounties on Foxes and Hawks,	3	70	
„ For collector and Surveyor's books and stationery,	6	88	
„ for digging graves and repairing tomb door,	33	03	
„ for School notices and report cards and books,	3	33	
„ for printing town and school re- port and check list for 1878,	24	00	
„ J. A. Cline & Co. for 5 copies State Maps,	25	00	
„ Ira Hill for keeping tramps and tolling bell for 1878,	6	00	

„ G. G. Averill for repairs on town hall,	50	
„ Interest on L. E. Nutt's note,	32	77
„ for trip to Nashua to pay bills and on the Fry case,	2	10
„ Non Resident highway receipts,	60	87
„ Clarke Campbell for balance on land damage,	10	00
Whole amount of bills paid,	-----	\$4152 24
Amount of receipts,	5161	05
Bills paid,	4152	24
Balance in treasury,	\$1008	39

NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.

A. S. Bruce,	348	92	
A. W. Raymond,	322	87	
McCollom Institute,	322	56	
L. E. Nutt,	500	00	
A. W. Raymond,	106	13	
W. G. Bruce,	310	00	
W. G. Bruce,	205	00	
	-----		\$2115 48
Balance in Treasury,			\$1008 39
Indebtedness of the Town,			\$1107 09

ALONZO TRAVIS,	}	Selectmem of Mont Vernon.
CHARLES H. RAYMOND,		
HENRY H. TROW,		

Feb. 23, 1880.

I have this day examined the above report and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

JOHN TREVITT, Auditor.

Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer of the Town of Mont Vernon submits the following Report for the year ending March 1st, 1880.

To cash in Treasury March, 1879,	\$344 06	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1873,	41 00	
“ “ “ “ “ 1878,	500 00	
“ “ “ “ “ 1879,	800 00	
“ “ “ “ “ 1879,	500 00	
Money received of collector for 1879,	2281 15	
Money received from State on Banks, Railroads, etc.,	574 33	
Money received of Selectmen for lots sold in cemetery,	15 50	
Received from books sold belonging to town,	50 00	
Received from State Bounties on Foxes & Hawks,	4 80	\$5160 84
	Cr.	
By paying the following :		
“ “ State tax,	\$736 00	
“ “ County tax,	729 37	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1873,	41 00	
“ “ “ “ “ 1878,	25 00	
“ “ “ “ “ 1879,	800 00	
By Paying 93 Orders of Selectmen,	2687 08	
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	\$5018 45
Whole amount of receipts,	\$5160 84	
Whole amount of bills paid,	5018 45	
Balance in Treasury,	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	\$142 39

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Indebtedness,	\$2115 48
Notes for uncollected taxes and money in treasury,	1008 39
Balance against the Town,	<hr style="width: 100%;"/> \$1107 09

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CLARK CAMPBELL, Town Treasurer.

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

JOHN TREVITT, Auditor.

School Committee's Report.

CITIZENS:—Mr. John C. Carson who was chosen Superintendent of Schools at your last Annual Meeting, having other engagements which required his attention to an extent which in his judgement would interfere with his official duties, resigned some six weeks subsequent to his election and your present Committee was appointed to the vacancy. All the teachers for the first term of the several schools had been examined prior to his resignation—my services commencing with the opening of the schools.

Resuming this position after an interval of six years since my last connection with its duties, my knowledge of the history of the several schools during this interim is such only as may be obtained from the Annual Reports. These I have carefully examined. They are much more extensive than was the former usage, growing during the five years of Supervision by the late Principal of the Institute from four to twelve printed pages. I find this series replete with most valuable suggestion and counsel. Whatever specially pertained to the educational interests of the town was presented with a distinctness, and force which, were they properly appreciated and heeded, would leave upon this community a vivid and permanent impression of its duty to its schools, its teachers and its children.

So of the Report submitted by your Committee of last year. It was pervaded by such pertinent and judicious criticism as might have been expected from one whose character for sound and ripe judgement and solid literary and scientific acquirements is well established.

Coming before those who have had a variety of topics relating to the Public Schools so fully, ably and so recently discussed in their reports, I assume what ought to be true; that the town's people are well instructed in these matters, that if they fail to perform their entire duty to their school interests, it is from lack of disposition rather than knowledge, and having no belief that what I might say would avail to quicken the apathetic and indifferent, or to render the inconsiderate and unreasonable and passionate more thoughtful and just and self controlled, I shall spare myself the labor of writing, and the town the expense of printing it. If I have anything to say in the line of suggestion, or general remark it will be incidental to the main point, which is a notice of the several schools.

My first official act, was to receive and distribute to the five districts, each a copy of the new map of our State, contracted for by my predecessor with the sanction of the Board of Selectmen for 1878. It is a most elegant, accurate and complete map. Its purchase at an expense of \$5.00 to each district was a most judicious one, stimulating the pupils who become familiar with its outlines to acquire a knowledge of local Geography. A thorough knowledge of home Geography enables us to compare distant places and countries which we have not seen with those we have seen and studied intelligently and retain anything valuable about distant or foreign countries. As the first step in this direction I regard the suspension of a good State map upon the wall of the school room as a prime necessity.

During the year I have made in all twenty-six visits to the schools which were two in excess of the number required by law.

The position of teacher in the Centre District is not a bed of roses. Discordant elements are in the district. Jealousies and feuds abound, animosities that promise to survive a generation are rife. To what extent their baleful influence has marred the success of the School the past year is a matter of opinion rather than assertion. Prof. Todd who had watched the current here for six years, in reviewing the situation two years since inserted a remark which your last year's Committee in concluding his comments upon this school quoted, and which your present Committee believes will bear repetition.

“If there exists any unkindness, any party feeling, any unchristian thought, let us hope that it will all be laid aside for the future, that the children of this school district, and their teachers may enjoy the benefits of joint sympathy, united action and oneness of co-operation in their behalf.”

CENTRE DISTRICT.

Teacher for the Summer Term, Miss Clara E. Crosby of Milford. Miss C. had been much employed in one of the Primary Schools at Milford village, and for a period in one of its Grammar Schools. In the former relation her services are reported as highly acceptable. Her scholarship is unquestionable, and she is a lady of much spirit and energy. She commenced here with a school much demoralized by the lax discipline which had prevailed, and she set herself with vigor and persistency to the work of bringing order out of chaos. This she accomplished. The school was brought into a creditable state of discipline. Much time and attention were given to gymnastic exercises. Probably this was well judged as it was an aid in bringing her pupils perfectly under control. A good variety of movements were daily executed by the entire school with the utmost rapidity and precision. Of the advancement made in study, the Committee is not decided that it was a marked feature of this term. Some of the classes appeared to have progressed. Others did not make a satisfactory exhibit. The declamations were unexceptionably good. The Committee deemed a continuation of her labors desirable as the District favored them so far as we knew and having as a basis thoroughly secured order, it was hoped the way was opened for such a measure of future progress as would be so manifest as to silence all objection or cavil. But a more lucrative position in the schools of Quincy, Mass., having been accepted, Miss C. declined to renew her engagement here.

Miss Lizzie J. Bunton of Dunbarton was employed for the Fall term. Miss B. is a graduate of New London Seminary. She is a young lady of pleasant address, and of quiet and dignified manner both in and out of school. She had previously taught two terms each in a rural district. She found the school disposed to good behavior, but encountered

dullness and idleness in frequent instances. How to dispel this apathy and infuse life and interest in school work was the problem. I advised that the teacher tax her ingenuity and resources to impart freshness and attraction to the recitations, lift them if possible, from the rut of mechanical monotonous routine; that she study the capacity and needs of each pupil and seek to engage the attention and develop interest in the lesson, and desire for progress in the sluggish and careless. The precise way to effect this cannot be indicated, but will occur to the teacher of discernment and tact, to one who has the fertility of resource, the fulness of knowledge and faculty of illustration which is the indispensable outfit of one who would be thoroughly "apt to teach." Before the close of the term intimations of dissatisfaction came to my knowledge, but as it was limited in extent, and not unusual in this district, little importance was attached to it, and Miss B. was engaged for the Winter term though several of the parents favored the employment of a male teacher. At the opening of this term it was found that nine pupils all between twelve and fifteen years of age representing seven families, had been withdrawn from the District school and placed under the care of a special teacher provided for them at the Institute. Inquiring for the occasion of this movement, on the part of two or three families any disaffection was denied, but the remainder were displeased with the method of instruction and rate of progress in the District school. More than 20 children yet attended, and the teacher evinced a disposition to remedy so far as able any deficiency that might be shown, and under the stimulus of opposition devoted herself assiduously to her duties. There was good order and manifest progress, more proficiency than during either of the preceding terms. At the close the school appeared finely, the Committee conducting the examination largely without book and if, as affirmed, there had been cramming or undue preparation for the occasion, it must be conceded that the responses were singularly prompt and accurate. I had pursued this course with several classes at the close of the Summer term, July 3rd., and exception was made to my method, that the pupils were thus embarrassed and intimidated, confused and thrown off the track. I was told that it had become the

fashion to view this as an exhibition, a show day rather than an examination day, that it was no place to ascertain the true character of the school or the real work done, that the visiting public expected and would be satisfied with nothing less than a display, a *clap trap* performance. Be it understood that I appreciate the measure of truth contained in the above. My judgement of the merit or demerit of a school is but little influenced by the performances of an exhibition. Such are harmless and valuable in sustaining public interest in the schools, but as guides in determining the actual worth of the school they are often deceptive. The true mode of inspecting a school for Committees and all interested is to visit them frequently, unexpectedly, in their every day dress, doing their ordinary work. The reading in this school the past year has not been save in rare cases satisfactory. The teacher should be a good reader and should exemplify it to the school. No scholar should be permitted to read a passage as a school exercise of which he does not understand the meaning. He should be taught that good reading has something in common with talking, and should be required to give to each paragraph its proper expression and spirit, and kept drilling on a single reading exercise until it has been mastered and appropriately rendered, if it occupies a whole term. The Committee's judgement is that Miss B. sought with good conscience and fidelity impartially to fulfil her duty as an instructor, and it was somewhat due to causes independent of her merit as a teacher that she failed to satisfy a considerable minority. Any other teacher entering this school under similar conditions would have encountered the same obstacles to the highest usefulness. More of the earnestness which approaches enthusiasm would, I think, add to her success in this vocation. She made many friends here and has retired from her trust with assurances that her labors have won the approval of many of her patrons.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Carrie F. Averill of this town. Miss Averill's previous experience, as a teacher was limited to two terms in the small school of the North District last year where her administration was pronounced

“a success so far as any teacher could make it.” Miss Averill worked in the South School with great assiduity, and secured good results. Her School was kept busy and she was incessant in her efforts for the advancement of her pupils. The examination evidenced good discipline, faithful teaching and was in all essentials most creditable and satisfactory. Fall and Winter terms, Mrs. Emma J. Perham of Lyndeboro’, teacher. Mrs. Perham was a former resident, and for many previous terms a favorite teacher in this District. Wherever she has taught she has been a marked success. I had known her in former years as a pupil here, but this was my first observation of her as teacher. She moves about in the School room with quiet dignity, without noise or show. She requires work of her pupils and secures from each the performance of the labor assigned, punctually without friction. She is vigilant, suffering no waste of time. Regularity and system pervaded every thing. She impressed your Committee as a teacher of admirable executive capacity, which enabled her to accomplish so much with quietude and ease. Three pupils here are further advanced in study than any we met in the other Schools except in the first term of the West District. The Roll of Honor which embraces all who have been present every half day of a term without being tardy was, Summer Term two pupils, Fall Term, eight pupils, and Winter Term six pupils. These received valuable testimonials therefor from Mrs. Perham and at the close of the Winter Term, the scholars expressed their regard for their teacher in like manner.

The teacher was accustomed to close her school by verses from the Bible, recited by both teacher and scholar. All the examinations in this school have been numerously attended by appreciative parents and friends and I may here remark, that this has been the case in all the Schools in town, the seating capacity of the School Rooms has been fully taxed to accomodate the visitors.

EAST DISTRICT.

Miss Lenora A. Smith of Milford, teacher during the year. This teacher first taught here ten years since under my supervision, and one term the year following. The first

year I find this mention made of the school and teacher: "This was a well regulated, pleasant, and profitable school. The teacher was quiet, but efficient, maintaining good government with little apparent effort." This I quote as strictly applicable to her service here the past year. She found the school in prime condition, it having for the last two years been taught by a home teacher who was a strict disciplinarian and faithful worker. This school was in many respects a model school which it was a delight to visit. The deportment of the school was uniformly excellent. There are several pupils here who are scholars of rare promise. The singing was a most pleasing feature and the recitations in concert were admirably rendered. The Roll of Honor contained the names of thirteen pupils the Summer term, and of fifteen the Fall term. This District availed itself of a State Law recently enacted empowering a school district to elect females as Prudential Committee, Miss Nancy R. Batchelder being the first lady elected to this office in town, and her performance of its duties was most efficient, and I doubt not acceptable to the District.

NORTH DISTRICT.

Miss Annie I. Riley of this town teacher for the year. Miss R. entered upon her duties here with two years experience as the acceptable teacher of the West school. She is a fine scholar, clear and correct always, modest and self-possessed, and genial and kind in manner. She conducted this school to the unanimous approval of the District, and with her attainments and personal qualities it could not well be otherwise. She is a teacher of unpretentious, but superior merit, who knowing her own strength would assume no position, to which she would prove unequal. The order was good and under her skilful guidance every member of the school made satisfactory advancement. Surely there could be no unfavorable criticism in aught that pertained to this school. The Roll of Honor was one the first term and two the second term.

WEST DISTRICT.

This school was taught both Summer and Fall terms by Mrs. Hattie Carson Parker of this town. Mrs. P. made her debut as teacher in this District in the Summer of 1872. The

present Committee then serving in this capacity in his report thus expressed his estimate: "From her judicious management here the Committee was impressed with her fitness to assume the management of a larger and more advanced school. She has since been employed for sixteen terms as a teacher, and has never failed to win the commendation of committees and parents. Her order was perfect. She measures the reasonable capacity of each pupil and insists upon faithful and thorough work to that extent; there is no place for a drone within her control. Of her work in this school in 1875, Prof. Todd thus speaks: "Always successful in school, more than that this time." This District has been especially fortunate in securing so much of her service for its little school, and the good relative scholarship of several of the children shows the impress of her earnest and skilful tutoring. Two young ladies, the Misses Carson of Beach Hill attended the Summer term and in advanced studies and reading acquitted themselves with signal credit. The Roll of Honor in this school stands Summer term three, Fall term four. The Roll of Honor in the Centre District was for Summer term ten, Fall five, and Winter four.

In closing I may say, that if the foregoing record presents a correct view of the situation, the Common School interests of the town have thriven the past year, under competent teachers. There has been division of opinion in but one district and to judge fairly here requires an intimate knowledge of all the facts, all the interests, passions, and parties involved in controversies which may have arisen. Scrutiny—even a reasonable jealousy as to the careful and wise expenditure of the School Tax is commendable. All the Prudential Committees have I am sure aimed to perform their whole duty to their several Districts impartially and faithfully.

CONDENSED STATEMENT.

District.	Summer, Fall and Winter.	Names of Teachers.	Length of Term in Weeks.				Number of Pupils.				Average attendance.	Wages of Teachers, including board.	Visits by Superintending Committee.	Visits by Prudential Committee.	Visits of Citizens and others.	Number of Pupils under 5 years of age.	Number of Pupils over 16 years of age.	Number of Pupils who have not been absent.
			Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.										
Center.	S.	Miss C. E. Crosby	11	31	15	16	23	30.00	2	2	24	0	10					
	F.	Miss L. J. Bunton.	11	32	15	17	29	30.00	3	2	28	0	5					
	W.	" " "	10	22	14	8	20	30.00	3	2	23	0	0					
South.	S.	Miss C. F. Averill,	10	15	8	7	14	20.00	2	1	17	0	2					
	F.	Mrs. E. J. Perham,	10	21	11	10	19	24.00	2	1	11	0	3					
	W.	" " "	10	18	11	7	16	24.00	2	1	7	1	1					
East.	S.	Miss L. A. Smith,	7	27	14	13	25	22.00	2	4	32	0	13					
	F.	" " "	7	25	13	12	22	24.00	2	3	36	0	15					
North.	S.	Miss A. I. Riley.	10	9	5	4	8	19.00	2	1	30	1	2					
	F.	" " "	7	10	5	15	7.9	19.00	2	1	8	0	1					
West.	S.	Mrs. H. C. Parker.	6	9	6	3	8 1-2	18.00	2	0	17	1	4					
	F.	" " "	7	8	6	2	7	18.00	2	1	12	0	1					

Amount of Money raised by town,		\$699 86
Literary Fund,		37 74
Amount Allotted Center District,	\$307 72	
" " South	178 40	
" " East	84 58	
" " North	73 52	
" " West	74 11	
" " 8th, Amherst,	19 27	

CHARLES J. SMITH,
Superintending School Committee.