







ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

FINANCES OF THE TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN.

The undersigned, Committee on Town Accounts, respectfully submit the following to the Town, as the result of their investigation of Town affairs.

Calvin Piper, Collector, in account current with the Town.

DR.		
To Tax Bill for taxes of 1858,		\$5,777 46
“ “ School-House Tax, district No. 9,		365 48
“ Balance due on Tax Bill of 1855,		25 70
“ “ “ 1857,		314 56
		\$6,483 00
CR.		
By Cash paid State Tax,	\$517 30	
“ “ “ County Tax,	741 28	
“ “ “ Treasurer, tax 1858,	4,091 93	
“ “ “ School-house tax, district No. 9,	356 08	
“ “ “ tax 1855,	11 00	
“ “ “ tax 1857,	266 99	
“ Collector's services for 1858,	55 00	
“ Abatements of taxes 1857,	16 61	
“ “ “ 1858,	12 66	
“ Amount of uncollected taxes 1855,	14 70	
“ “ “ 1857,	30 76	
“ “ “ Town tax, 1858,	359 29	
“ “ “ School-house tax, 1858,	9 40	
		\$6,483 00

George Olcott, Treasurer, in account current with the Town.

DR.		
To Balance in Treasury as per Report of 1858,		\$774 06
“ Cash paid by Collector Piper,		4,726 00
“ “ “ Baker, Tax, 1856,		10 28
“ Literary Fund,		122 36
“ Proceeds of Sales from Town Farm,		72 50
“ Sales Liquor,		100 00
“ Paid for County paupers,		891 17
“ Of Garfield's Estate,		130 39
“ From all other Sources,		74 14
		\$6,840 90
CR.		
By Cash paid for support of Schools,	\$1840 00	
“ “ “ for Roads and Bridges,	443 65	
“ “ “ for Town Paupers,	735 40	
“ “ “ for County Paupers,	576 99	
“ “ “ for Town Farm,	434 89	
“ “ “ Sextons,	68 00	
“ “ “ for Cemeteries,	91 72	
“ “ “ Town Debt,	1,372 04	
“ “ “ Incidentals,	372 81	
“ “ “ Wm. McCrae, Overseer,	25 00	
“ “ “ Wm. McCrae, Selectman,	78 50	
“ “ “ Russell Robertson, “	58 83	
“ “ “ Samuel Walker, “	75 00	
“ “ “ Adams Ayer, Superintendent of Schools,	60 00	
“ “ “ C. C. Kimball, Town Clerk,	25 00	
“ “ “ George Olcott, Treasurer,	25 00	
By Balance in Treasury,	558 67	
		\$6,840 90

Town Farm in account current with the Town.

DR.		
For Personal Property as per last report,		\$1,275 78
“ Interest on same,		76 54
“ “ Farm,		180 00
“ A. H. Wheeler's services to April, 1859,		325 00
“ Sundries bought for Town Farm,		355 76
“ Overseer's services,		25 00
		\$2,238 08
CR.		
By Personal Property on hand,		\$1,286 24
“ Cash of County for County Paupers,		239 38
“ “ Sales from Town Farm,		401 86
“ Balance,		310 60
		\$2,238 08

Debts of the Town.

Note due J. J. Hubbard,	\$1,000 00
“ David Holton,	1,000 00
“ C. C. Sumner,	1,060 00
Due School Districts,	236 20
“ Literary Fund,	122 40
“ Swan Fund,	333 33
“ Town Farm Agent,	249 00
“ Liquor Agent,	50 00
“ School District No. 9, School House Tax,	408 04
Outstanding Orders,	101 04
Excess of assets over liabilities,	1,201 50
	\$5,761 51

Property of the Town.

Town Farm,	\$3,000 00
Personal Property on Farm,	1,286 24
Liquors in Hand of Town Agent,	171 99
Cash “ “ “	45 30
Real Estate bought of Mrs. Wheeler,	100 00
Due from C. Piper, Collector, Tax, 1855,	14 70
“ J. Baker, “ “ 1856,	13 64
“ C. Piper, “ “ 1857,	30 76
“ “ “ “ 1858,	368 69
Balance of Tax due from S. Garfield's Estate,	171 52
Balance due from Town Treasurer,	558 67
	\$5,761 51

The Selectmen recommend to raise the following sums:

For State Tax,	\$517 00
“ County Tax,	750 00
“ Schools,	1,500 00
“ Roads and Bridges,	600 00
“ Town Officers,	400 00
“ Paupers,	700 00
“ Town Debt,	600 00
“ Incidentals,	200 00
“ Cemeteries,	200 00
	\$5,467 00

BROOKS KIMBALL,
SAML L. WILDER, JR. } *Committee on Town Accounts.*

CHARLESTOWN, March 5, 1859.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending Committee of Schools

TO THE

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN,

For the Year beginning in April, 1858.

BELLOWS FALLS:

PRINTED AT THE PHENIX JOB OFFICE.

1859.

REPORT.

The Superintending Committee of Schools respectfully submits his Report for the year beginning in April, 1858.

It gives me great pleasure to say that most of the Schools in town have made commendable improvement within the year. There has been more promptness and accuracy in the recitations, evincing a greater familiarity with the branches studied. Though the Schools have not attained to perfection, they are for the most part steadily advancing, and for them the future is full of hope.

During the past winter I have had an opportunity to visit some of the schools in each town in the County, and I deem it but a simple act of justice to say, that the Schools of Charlestown compare favorably with the Schools in the County. It is fair to presume that the Superintending Committees of the various towns took me to see some of their best schools. I do not mean that I was taken to see *only* the best, but that some of the schools visited were among the best. If this be true, I am willing to place the best schools of our town beside the best schools of any other town in the County. I should not say this were it not that the schools in Charlestown have been most grossly libelled, and I do not like to have those of you who never visit the schools suppose that they are utterly worthless.

There are still some poor houses for schools, to which I would again call your attention. In some parts of the town you have provided your children with comfortable school-houses, but not in all.

Several of the districts are unsupplied with Maps, except the Map of New Hampshire. In accordance with my suggestion last year, you have provided all the Schools in town with this map, and and I am quite sure that all of you who have been present at the examination of the pupils in the geography of New Hampshire, must feel satisfied that the money to purchase them was wisely expended. Many of your schools are well supplied with outline maps. I consider these maps as a most useful aid in the study of geography, and I hope other districts will soon be provided with them.

There are a few things to which your special attention needs to be called.

Our school laws have been framed with the view of making our

schools of the highest possible advantage. Among other regulations it is expressly provided, that no person shall go into a school as a teacher without having first been examined in the several branches to be taught, by the Superintending Committee, and from him have received a certificate of qualification for the office. But in several of the districts, the Prudential Committees have permitted the candidate to open the school without the previous examination.

It is easy to see what trouble may arise from this course. Suppose, what is by no means improbable, that such a person shall be found incompetent, what is to be done? The strict letter of the law requires that he shall be rejected. But this involves great difficulties. Quite possibly a district heretofore harmonious, may be disturbed by feuds engendered by enforcing the law. It therefore becomes a question big with important consequences whether it were better to disturb the peace and harmony of the district, or to allow the incompetent teacher to remain. It is true that no such alternative has been presented me, but there is no certainty that it may not arise. This difficulty can easily be avoided by a little care on the part of the Prudential Committee.

There is another matter of grave importance. The law requires that certain statistics of the schools in the State shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State. Whatever may be said of the value of such information, I think it may safely be said that it is of as much interest and importance as the statistics of grain and cattle. The statistics of the schools are gathered by the Superintending School Committees from the School Registers kept by the Teachers, and the accuracy of these statistics depends upon the faithfulness with which the Registers are kept. But several of them are not faithfully kept, and I am obliged often to approximate to the correct statement from information gleaned elsewhere. But the greatest evil to be complained of is that the Registers are often withheld, so that only with great trouble can I get them. To secure this end the law declares that if the Prudential Committee shall pay the teacher before the Register has been handed to the Superintending Committee, such Prudential Committee shall be held to pay such sums from his own pocket.

Some of the Registers have not yet been handed in, and the delinquent Prudential Committees must not complain if the penalty be enforced. I ought to call your attention to the fact that if by reason of failure to furnish me with the Registers, my Report be not furnished the Secretary of State, the town will lose its share of Literary Fund appropriated by the State for the support of our schools.

In some of the schools there has been an unwarrantable interference with the teacher. The parents sometimes take up the no-

tion that the teacher is not doing her duty, and instead of seeking to remedy the difficulty in a judicious way, proceed to the school room, and in the presence of the scholars, give utterance to abusive language. Quite likely there may be matters to which the teacher's attention should be called, but this is not the way to secure the correction of evils. Besides, this act on the part of parents is a legal offence, and it is to be hoped when such a case shall occur hereafter, that information will promptly be lodged with the committee, that he may take such measures as shall remedy the evil likely to result.

I have long felt the importance of having the children in our schools become acquainted with the history of our own country. It is a shame that so many of them should be utterly ignorant of even the most prominent events in its history. At the same time I have been oppressed by the difficulty attending the introduction of another study in addition to those already pursued by the larger part of the pupils. To obviate this objection and to do something to secure the end in view, I have introduced Quackenbos' History of the United States, as a Reader for the more advanced scholars. This experiment appears to have worked very well. Those who have used this book have been interested in it, and made good progress in the art of reading, while they have also learned something of History.

District No. 1.

This school has been under the care of Miss Maria L. Robertson, during both terms. Length of summer school, 10 weeks; of winter school, 13 weeks. Whole number of scholars, summer term, 16; winter term, 19. Average attendance, summer term, 13; winter term, 16. Instances of tardiness, summer term, 10; winter term, 36. George Bowker was present every day during the summer term and was but once tardy. Miss Robertson is a good teacher. Mild and gentle herself, she appears to have infused much of the same spirit into her school. The parents in this district have always shown a deep interest in their school, and done what they could to render it pleasant to the teacher, and prosperous in all respects.

Somersworth District.

Centre School kept by Miss Sarah M. Peck during the first and second terms. Length of first term, 9 weeks; length of second term, 13 weeks. Whole number of scholars, during first term, 29; second term, 28. Average attendance, first term, 23; second term, 18. Instances of tardiness, first term, 115; second term, 146. Lucretia E. Evon had no marks during the first term. Miss Peck seemed interested in her school and worked hard, but was not altogether successful. Nor can I tell what the difficulty was. Sometimes we find two persons married but mismated. They may be very

excellent people, yet from incompatibility of temper, fail to live harmoniously together. So it may sometimes be in the relationship between a teacher and her school. She may be a good teacher, may succeed well in some schools, and yet fail utterly in others, for which she is unfitted only because their relative duties cannot be properly adjusted.

The Winter term, under the care of Mr. Galen Allen, has been very successful. His discipline has been marked by mildness and firmness. He has not fallen into the too prevalent mistake of talking to his scholars a great deal. Many teachers exhaust all the sanctions of law by constant talking. Mr. Allen has kept something in reserve and so has maintained order with but little *apparent* effort.

The upper school has been under the care of Miss Anderson, and has been remarkably successful. She has brought order out of chaos, and reduced the confused elements to harmony. The change effected by her efforts has been in the highest degree satisfactory.

The lower school has been kept by Miss Wilcox during the year. This school has always been more orderly than the upper one, and in the matter of discipline has not so much to show. The teacher has sought to be faithful and has met with commendable success.

District No. 4.

Summer school taught by Miss H. M. Parks. Length of school, 8 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 29. Average attendance, 24. Instances of tardiness, 8. Sophia J. Allen, Flora J. Hasham, Phebe Hasham, Mary J. Hunt, Mary E. Milliken, Sarah C. Parks, Mary E. Putnam, Lucy D. Putnam, have no marks of absence or tardiness.

Winter term taught by Mr. Thomas Hiland. Length of school, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 42; average attendance, 39; instances of tardiness, 96. Addie Cornwall, Arvilla L. Dodge, Eliza Willard, Flora Hasham, Phebe Hasham, Hannah Labaree, Kate Labaree, Richard Cornwall, George Cornwall, were neither absent nor tardy. Sophia Allen and Rosie Allen have no marks except for absence on account of sickness. The school has maintained its previous high character and added to it. Both of the teachers are acquainted with the branches to be taught, and they know how to impart instruction.

District No. 5.

The summer term was taught by Miss Katie Whipple. It was her first school, and her success augurs well for the future. Her appearance in the school room was very satisfactory. While she was genial in her bearing towards her scholars, she was firm in her government, and appeared to be successful in maintaining order.

The winter school is not yet finished, but under the skillful teaching of Miss Helen M. Richardson, the best success is expected.

District No. 6.

The school in this district is the largest in town. It requires a firm disciplinarian to succeed well in it. The Summer term was taught by Miss M. A. Farwell. Length of school, 13 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 31; average attendance, 20; instances of tardiness, 312. This school was very much disarranged by sickness. Miss Farwell is a good teacher, and is deserving of great praise for the strong efforts she makes to aid those who are placed under her care.

Winter School kept by Miss Fannie L. Cram. Miss Cram is a teacher of experience, and a very excellent one to impart instruction. It is therefore very much to be regretted that some perverse scholars should have conducted themselves in a way to deprive the school of the use of her services. Few persons are better fitted to *teach*,—few would be of so much service to a class of scholars themselves desirous to learn. In the government alone does she fail.

I should be sorry to have our school-rooms become arenas for physical contests; but I am strongly inclined to think that the regulations of the school sometimes need the sanction of the rod. I approve of using other means first, but when they have been exhausted, and the regulations are still set at defiance, it is necessary that the question should be settled whether order is to be maintained or anarchy and misrule to be triumphant. The teacher, if judicious, will be as mild as possible, but when corporal punishment must be resorted to, let it be *felt* to be enough to secure the desired result.

Length of school 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 53; average attendance, 45; instances of tardiness, 126.

District No. 7.

Summer term kept by Miss Sarah A. Garfield. Length of term, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 15.

Winter term taught by Miss H. Eliza Breed. The school has not been as harmonious and prosperous as it might and ought to have been. The teacher reports that while the parents desire to have order maintained and the children punished if necessary to secure it, they are generally sure, in case of disturbance, that other children, not theirs, are in fault; and are not willing to have their children punished for *this* offence. Whatever grounds of complaint there might be against the teacher, the difficulty is not lessened by rendering the discipline more difficult. If the teacher does not give satisfaction, there is a proper course to be pursued, and nothing is gained by trying to annoy her. It ought to be said, that while her preliminary examination was unusually satisfactory, I was disappointed in her methods of instruction.

District No. 8.

The Summer School was taught by Miss Lizzie Warner. This was her first experiment, and quite successful. Length of school, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars,—a part of whom came from district No. 9—19; average attendance, 16; instances of tardiness, 148.

The Winter School was kept by Miss Garfield. The children made excellent progress under her care. In order to succeed in most of our schools, it will be necessary for her to bestow more attention upon the matter of discipline. Length of school, 8 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 14; instances of tardiness, 77. William Rupp and Charles Rupp have no marks of tardiness or absence.

District No. 9.

This District, supposed to be dead, has shown sure signs of returning life. A few of the ladies feeling the importance of having a school for their children, "moved" to have one, and they secured their object. They thus evinced an interest that is worthy of great praise. Having been successful in this movement, I trust they will be encouraged to go on and "move" now to have a new school-house. They will be sure to accomplish it; and unless they do move, I greatly fear that nothing will be done.

The school was taught by Miss Parks. Length of school, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 18; average attendance, 13; instances of tardiness, 30. The following scholars have no marks of absence or tardiness:—Martha A. Burton, Helen F. Clark, Hannah J. Clark, Anna Haywood, Henry J. Burton, Willard Z. Burton, William Daggit, Albert Haywood.

Districts No. 10 and No. 15 have had no school.

District No. 11.

The Summer School was taught by Miss Helen A. Evans. The teacher labored faithfully, and was in the highest degree successful. Length of school, 8 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 9; instances of tardiness, 5—of dismissal, 2. Henry A. Peasley has no mark of absence, tardiness nor demerit. Emily, Amanda and Louisa Simonds have no marks except for one half-day's absence, for reasons good and sufficient. I venture to say that few schools in the County can present so good a record of attendance as this. The teacher reports, that the scholars were studious and obedient.

I can make no report of the Winter School, for the Register has not yet been handed to me.

District No. 12.

The Summer School was taught by Miss Helen M. Richardson. I was especially pleased with the attention bestowed upon the study of the Geography of New Hampshire. The examination showed

that the map had been used to good purpose. Reading was also under careful training, and commendable progress was made.

The Winter School was undertaken by Miss Helen M. Holbrook, who was compelled to resign on account of sickness. This was much to be regretted, because she appeared to be doing exceedingly well. The school is now under the care of Miss Garfield.

District No. 13.

Summer School taught by Miss Emelia A. Marsh. Length of school, 8 weeks. Number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 9; instances of tardiness, 26.

Winter School taught by Mr. M. J. Gilman. Whole number of scholars, 15. In consequence of a prevailing sickness in this district, the attendance was very irregular, and the usefulness of the school much impaired. This, of course, was a matter beyond the control of Mr. Gilman, who is a very successful teacher.

District No. 14.

Summer School kept by Miss Dodge. Length of school, 10 weeks. As the Register was not accurately kept, it is difficult to report the statistics of the school. Mary Jane Nash appears to have been present every day and in good season.

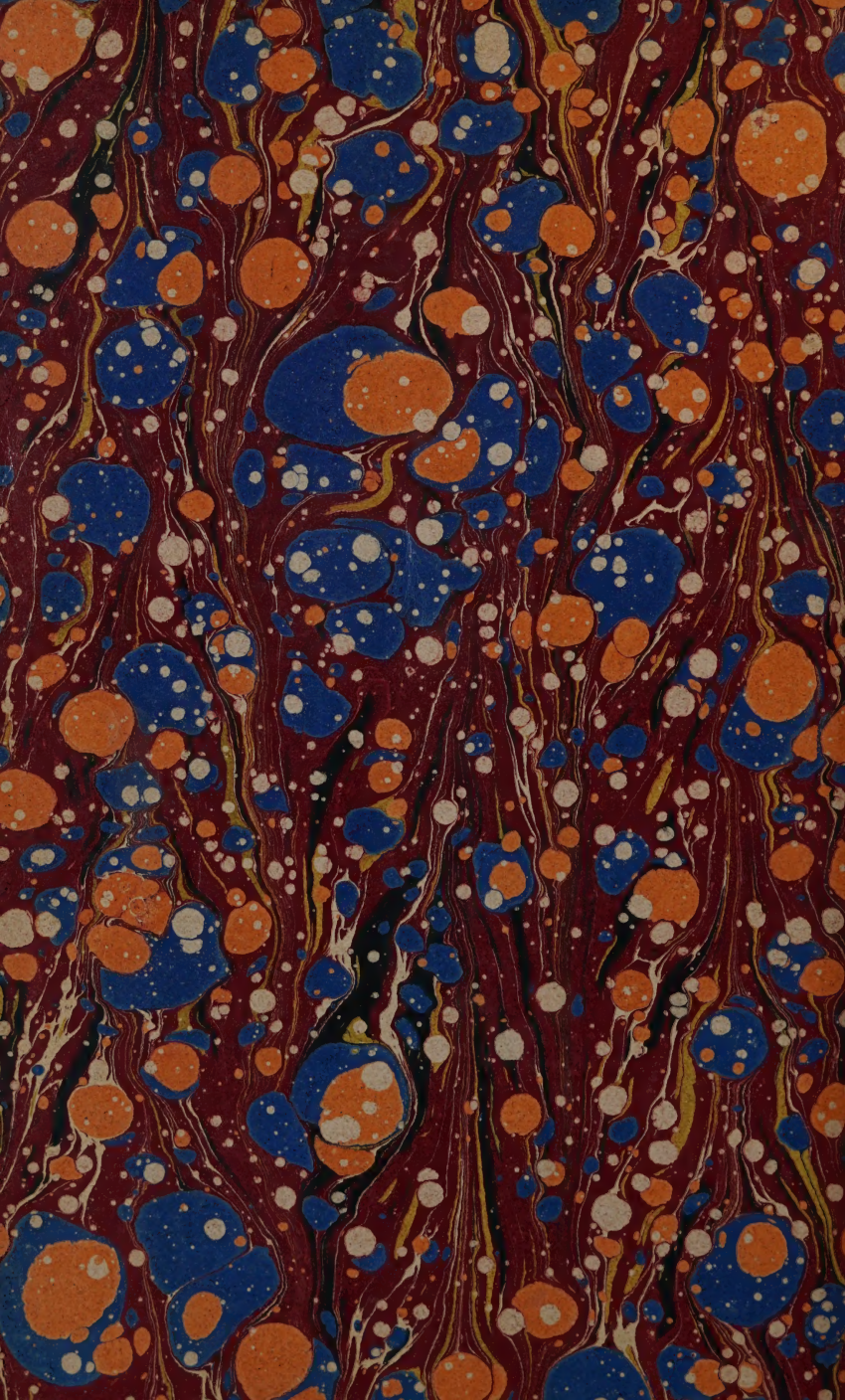
Winter School taught by Mr. Garfield. Length of school, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 22; average attendance, $15\frac{2}{3}$; instances of tardiness, 128. Mary E. Leathers has no mark of absence or tardiness.

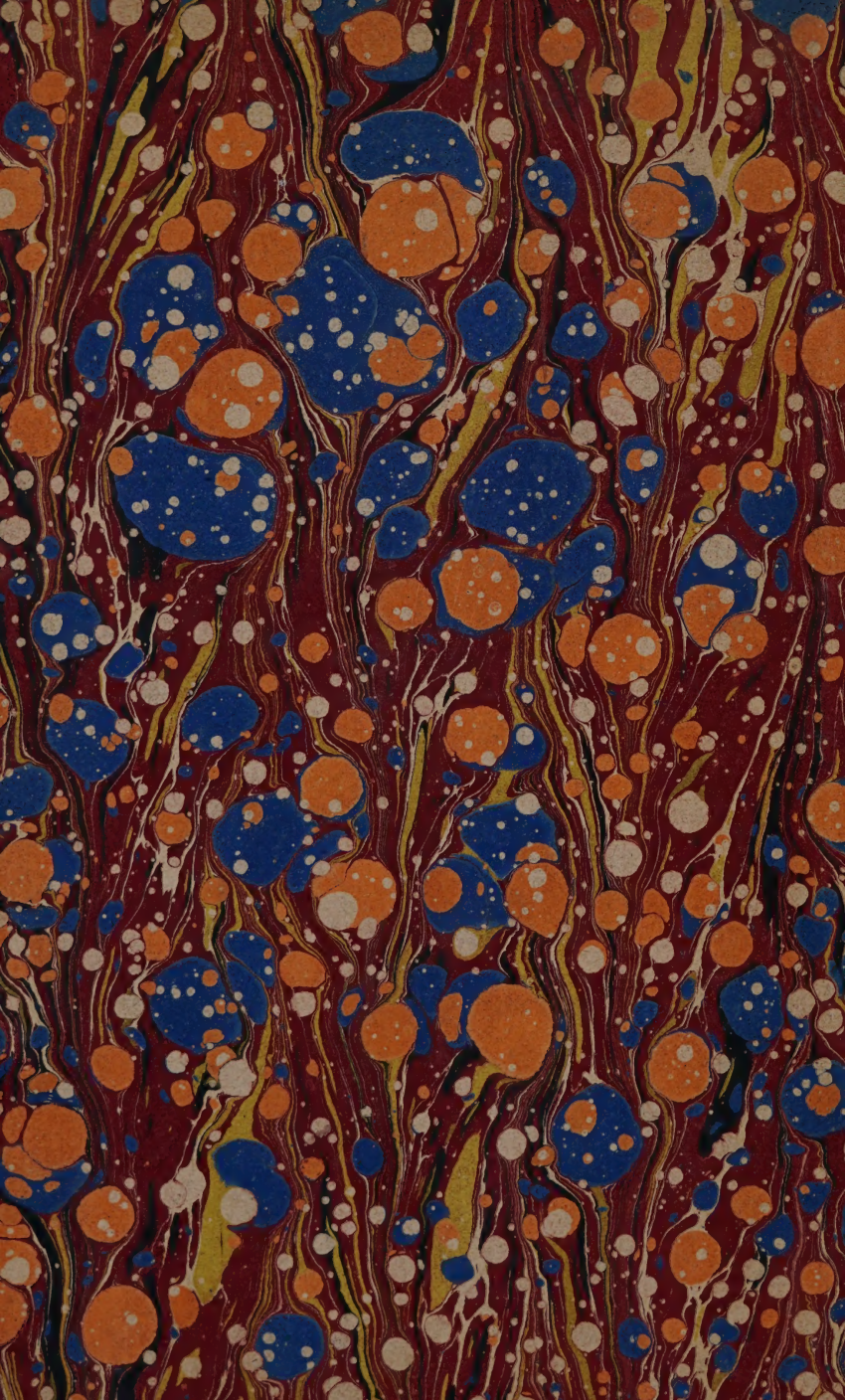
I have sought to discharge my duty faithfully, and have here frankly given my opinion of the condition of the Schools in town. I suppose that you want to know the facts, and I have attempted to set them before you. You contribute quite generously to the support of schools, and have a right to know if the money be well expended. I have given you my opinion. It is far better, however, that you should visit the schools, and by *personal* inspection satisfy yourselves of the actual workings of our Common School System. It depends upon your interest and care to determine the measure of good they shall accomplish.

ADAMS AYER,

Superintending School Committee.

CHARLESTOWN, N. H., March 1, 1859.





New Hampshire State Library



3 4677 00338322 6

