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Annual Report

OF THE

AUDITORS,

OVERSEER OF THE POOR,

AND

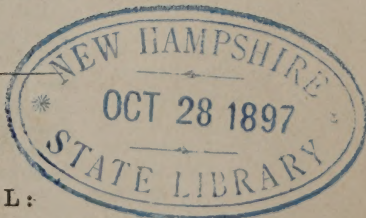
SUPERINTENDING

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1860.



HAVERHILL:

E. G. FROTHINGHAM, PRINTER.

1860.

Annual Report

ADDITIONAL REPORT OF THE BOARD

REPORT

Presented to the Board of Trustees of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
at its annual meeting held at the
State House, Boston, on the
15th day of June, 1880.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

JOHN C. MARSHALL

REPORT

Presented to the Board of Trustees of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
at its annual meeting held at the
State House, Boston, on the
15th day of June, 1880.

JOHN C. MARSHALL

REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Received of the Town Treasurer for 1858,	\$27 19
“ Literary Fund,	58 24
“ Railroad Tax,	57 86
“ of County for support of Paupers,	121 78
“ of Ebenezer Hoyt, for outstanding taxes for 1858,	216 02
“ of W. T. Bragdon, do do 1856-7,	395 00
“ of do as Liquor Agent for 1858,	26 20
“ of do balance for wood sold by him in collecting tax against William Clark, <i>et als.</i> ,	8 45
“ Interest on Parsonage Fund,	36 00
“ for bricks, old windows, &c., sold at auction,	6 33
“ of Committee on New Burying Ground,	81 36
“ of C. Moulton, for grass on do,	3 50
“ of C. Moulton, money not expended on Bury- ing Ground in 1858,	1 55
“ for the use of Town Hall,	17 00
Hired money for the use of the town,	200 00
Received Henry Putnam's receipt for pay for windows furnished in 1856, for the Town House,	84 50
Assessed State, County, Town and School Tax, in- cluding eight hundred dollars to defray town charges, one hundred and seventy-five dollars for support of schools, fifty dollars to complete the wall, &c., about the bury- ing ground at the center of the town, thirty dollars to build a fence at the burying ground in the westerly part of the town, fifty dol- lars to finish a room in the easterly porch of the Town House, and seventy-five dollars for lamps and seats for the Town Hall, amounting to	2467 58
“ Non-resident Highway Tax,	48 57
Due from Ebenezer Hoyt, for outstanding taxes for 1858,	183 98

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State Tax,		186 20
" County Tax,		466 06
" Non-resident Highway receipts,		29 50
" Teachers' Institute,		10 64
" School District No. 1,	132 93	
" " " 2,	195 17	
" " " 3,	92 19	
" " " 4,	145 46	
" " " 5,	62 85	
" " " 6,	81 02	
" " " 7,	68 02	
" " " 8,	23 60	
		<u>801 24</u>

PAID NOTES AND INTEREST.

William Johnson's note and interest,	150 60	
Interest on Parsonage Note,	36 00	
		<u>186 60</u>

UNDERTAKERS.

Paid S. S. Shannon, for opening and filling 10 graves,	15 00	
" Pardon Tabor, " " 1 "	1 50	
" Wm. Clayton, " " 1 "	1 50	
		<u>18 00</u>

REPAIRS ON BROWN HILL ROAD.

Paid Bruce Moulton,	13 62	
" Wm. Clark,	2 50	
" Lyman Pillsbury,	3 50	
" Thomas M. Arnold,	3 75	
" Luther Johnson,	2 00	
" James Hadley,	2 50	
" William Clayton,	2 07	
" L. D. Johnson,	1 75	
" Aaron Johnson,	1 37	
" B. A. Moody,	5 36	
" L. L. Tobyne,	3 62	
" Chas. Clough,	2 00	
" Jacob Collins,	75	
		<u>44 79</u>

SMITH ROAD.

Paid John Ordway,	6 37	
" T. K. Little,	1 88	
" Daniel Gile,	1 25	
" Abial Ordway,	60	
" D. H. Emerson,	1 25	
		<u>\$11 35</u>

BRICKETT ROAD.

Paid Tristram Little,	14 85	
" F. V. Dow,	62	
		<u>\$15 47</u>

SNOW BILLS.

Paid District No. 1,	2 00	
“ “ “ 2,	3 39	
“ “ “ 3,	3 11	
“ “ “ 4,	3 00	
“ “ “ 5,	2 12	
“ “ “ 6, for 1859 and '60,	12 98	
“ “ “ 7,	3 39	
“ “ “ 8,	2 62	
“ “ “ 9,	5 68	
“ “ “ 10,	2 65	
“ Brown Hill Road,	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$41 94
Paid Committee on New Burying Ground,	33 62	
“ J. J. Calef and J. E. Eastman, Committee to fence the Burying Ground in the West part of the town,	30 00	
	<hr/>	\$63 62

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Abated on Wm. T. Bragdon's book for 1857, of Daniel Gile's Tax,	38	
“ on Charles H. Shannon's book for 1859, Heirs of Ezra Davis, over taxed Real Estate,	1 50	\$1 88
Paid Overseer of the Poor for support of Paupers,		\$397 16

EXPENSES OF LAWSUIT.

Paid Wm. T. Bragdon, Collector of Taxes for the year 1855,
for costs, expenses and damages incurred by him in the
action brought against him by Wm. Clark and others.

As follows :

John Porter, advice,	2 00	
M. N. Collins, taking Depositions,	6 00	
Gilman Marston, fees and services,	60 00	
Thomas Smith, taking depositions,	2 11	
Sheriff, serving notices,	1 79	
Witness fees,	73 61	
Wm. T. Bragdon's time and traveling expenses,	71 62	
C. G. Conner, Clerk of Court, copy,	75	
	<hr/>	\$217 88

Costs allowed Plaintiff, as paid by Bragdon to
A. Wood,

As follows :

Writ, entry and service,	6 18
Cost of Court of Common Pleas, 7 terms,	30 35
“ “ Supreme Judicial Court, 3 terms,	15 50
Attorney fees and affidavit,	2 00
Taking depositions,	16 06
Witnesses, Horatio Emerson,	9 30
Philip Carmere,	7 88
James H. Emerson,	9 32
David Little,	13 85
George Clayton,	5 50

Witnesses, D. C. Girdler,	2	93	
Matthew H. Taylor,	20	95	
Joshua F. Noyes,	11	40	
Luther Webber,	11	80	
Bruce Moulton,	6	80	
Moses Clark,	6	63	
Summoning witnesses,	3	00	
Damages,	39	91	
			437 24
Defendant's Cost of first term, deducted,	6	02	
Whole amount paid Bragdon,	\$431	22	431 22

TOWN HOUSE.

Paid Hall & Emerson, Bill for Lumber,	4	64	
" I. & R. C. Smith, for Nails, Lock, &c.	2	89	
" M. Bradley, for Windows and Glass,	6	56	
" D. D. & A. W. Chase, for Lime, Laths, Hair, &c.	5	25	
" D. H. Emerson's bill for Lumber, Work, &c.	26	48	
" R. K. Brickett, do Work,	6	75	
" S. S. Hill, do Bricks,	7	20	
" Henry Noyes, do Mason Work,	10	00	
" L. L. Tobyne, do Tending Mason,	1	25	
" James Whittier, do do	2	00	
" B. A. Moody, do do	2	50	
" Benj. Sawyer's do Work,	4	81	
			80 33

SETTEES AND LAMPS.

Paid Jacob Nichols for 160 feet of Settees,	60	00	
" J. D. Ordway, for Lamps, Chimneys, &c.	8	55	
			68 55

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Henry Putnam by Town Note for Windows furnished in 1856, for Town House,	84	50	
" Express Bills,		67	
" Francis Grant for blank book,	1	75	
" For Stationery,—		1 13	
" Insurance on Town House,		14 00	
" Wm. T. Bragdon, for ringing the bell,	30	00	
" C. B. Le Bosquet, for stove and funnel,	15	60	
" E. H. Safford, for printing Report of 1858,	8	00	
" Daniel Emerson for hauling sand,	1	75	
Freight on Lumber,	1	00	
Five hours work,		62	
For Wood,	2	00	
Sawing Wood,		62	
			5 99
" Simon Merrill, for Wood,		4	00
" Hall & Emerson, for drawing brick,	4	00	
" do Post for Guide Boards,		75	
			4 75
" T. M. Arnold, do do			75

AUDITORS' REPORT.

7

Paid Calvin Eastman, for making Guide Boards,	1 00	
" For putting up Guide Posts and Boards,	2 00	
" T. R. Wheeler, for keeping public watering place,	3 00	
" Amos Atwood, do do do	1 50	
" I. H. Marshall, do do do	1 50	
" F. A. Pike, do do do	1 50	
" Joseph Morse, do do do	1 50	
" Wm. Jones, bill for painting,	4 00	
" J. D. Ordway, for gallon of Oil for Institute,	1 25	
" I. & R. C. Smith, for Oil for the Hearse,	25	
" J. J. Calef, for mowing burying ground,	1 50	
" James Hadley, do do	1 25	
" D. H. Emerson, for gate for burying ground,	5 00	
" Amos Buck, for 1 table,	45	
" C. H. Shannon, for postage and stationery,	2 00	
" B. A. Moody, for going to Lowell and Lawrence, to engage Settees,	1 50	
" Wm. Clark, for horse and wagon to Lowell and Lawrence,	2 00	
	<hr/>	3 50
" Expense of getting Settees from Lowell,	6 50	
" D. H. Emerson, for setting up Stoves and building cupboard in Town Hall,	2 25	
" B. A. Moody, Horse hire,	3 35	
" D. H. Emerson, do	2 00	
" J. W. Garland, do	3 00	
	<hr/>	219 44

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid F. V. Dow, services as Moderator,	2 00	
" Oscar H. Brown, as committee on Burying ground, for 1858,	2 00	
" J. J. Calef, as committee to fence "	2 00	
" Caleb Moulton, services as Superintending School Committee,	20 00	
" C. H. Shannon, services as Town Clerk,	10 00	
" R. K. Brickett, time and expenses as Overseer of the Poor,	14 60	
" C. H. Shannon, for collecting taxes,	37 74	
" " settling with Selectmen,	1 00	
" Luther Webber, services as Constable,	2 50	
" B. A. Moody " Town Treasurer,	8 00	
" " " Selectman,	38 99	
" D. H. Emerson, " " "	34 50	
" J. W. Garland, " " "	32 25	
" C. H. Shannon, for paying County tax,	3 00	
" " " State tax,	4 00	
" Auditors, for auditing accounts of 1859,	3 00	
" Auditors expenses,	3 00	
	<hr/>	218 58

Due from Ebenezer Hoyt, for outstanding taxes for 1858,	183 98	
" C. H. Shannon, outstanding taxes for 1859,	509 42	
	<hr/>	693 40
Cash on hand,		55 14
		<hr/>
		748 54

4041 11

RECAPITULATION.

Receipts, sum total,		4041 11
Expenditure, State Tax,	186 20	
County Tax,	466 06	
Non resident highway receipts,	29 50	
Teachers' Institute,	10 64	
Notes and interest,	186 60	
Support of schools,	801 24	
Undertakers,	18 00	
Support of roads,	71 61	
Snow bills	41 94	
On burying grounds,	63 62	
Abatement on taxes,	1 88	
Support of paupers,	397 16	
Expenses of law suit,	431 22	
On town house,	80 33	
For settees and lamps,	68 55	
Miscellaneous,	219 44	
Town officers,	218 58	
Outstanding taxes,	693 40	
Cash on hand,	55 14	
	<hr/>	4041 11

NOTES PAYABLE.

Joseph Chase, Note and interest,	289 07	
A. W. Perley, "	282 25	
Sophia Moulton, "	89 89	
Samuel Eaton, "	168 54	
Geo. W. Eastman, "	212 00	
Joseph Noyes, "	212 00	
A. G. Merrill, "	212 00	
" "	106 00	
" "	200 00	
Mary Putnam, "	106 00	
Henry Putnam, "	89 57	
	<hr/>	1967 32

DUE THE TOWN.

For support of County paupers,	147 03	
For outstanding taxes,	693 40	
Cash on hand,	55 14	
Balance, being amount of town debt,	1071 75	
	<hr/>	1967 32

Upon examination of the foregoing accounts, as presented to us by the Selectmen, we find them correctly cast, and satisfactory vouchers corresponding with the same.

N. C. SMITH,
EBENEZER HOYT, } *Auditors.*
AMOS BUCK.

OVERSEERS' REPORT.

9

REPORT OF R. K. BRICKETT, OVERSEER OF THE POOR.

Received of the Town Treasurer, \$397 16

PAID OUT AS FOLLOWS, FOR SUPPORT OF

NATHANIEL MERRICK, JR.

Paid J. J. Calef, for board one year ending March 16th, 1860,	94 12	
“ for making one pair of Shirts,	50	
“ I & R. C. Smith, for 1 pair of Shoes,	1 25	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Hose,	33	
“ “ “ 6 yards Sheetin ^g ,	60	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Pants,	1 50	
“ “ “ 1 Vest,	1 17	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Suspenders,	17	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Feeting,	35	
	<hr/>	\$99 99

JAMES WHITTIER.

Paid O. R. Braggs, for board one year ending March 16th 1860,	72 80	
“ For mending clothes,	50	
“ I. & R. C. Smith, for 1 pair Shoes,	1 58	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Overalls,	46	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Feeting,	40	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Overalls,	60	
“ “ “ 1 pair of Feeting,	35	
“ “ “ 1 Sack Coat,	3 50	
	<hr/>	\$80 19

NANCY KEEZER.

Paid Mary J. Keezer, for board one year ending March 16th, 1860,	\$57 20
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JOSEPH BURROUGHS.

Paid Daniel T. Emerson, for board one year ending March 16th, 1860,	104 00	
“ For mending clothes,	50	
“ For 2 pair of Feeting,	74	
	<hr/>	\$105 24

JAMES SMITH, 3D.

Paid L. L. C. Little, for board eleven weeks and four days, ending March 16th, 1860,	20 25	
“ For making Shirts,	50	
	<hr/>	\$20 75

ELLEN SMITH.

Paid David B. Hinds, for board twenty-six weeks, ending March 16th, 1860,	\$19 50
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OVERSEERS' REPORT.

STEPHEN MERRICK.

Paid Tappan S. Carter, for supplies, \$4 29

JONATHAN S. KIMBALL.

Paid Samuel Eaton, for 2 cords of wood, \$7 00

JEREMIAH JOHNSON.

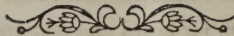
Paid L. & R. C. Smith, for supplies, \$1 00

Paid for support of transient paupers, 2 00

RECAPITULATION.

Received, 397 16

Expended for support of Nathaniel Merrick, Jr.,	99 99
“ “ “ James Whittier,	80 19
“ “ “ Nancy Keezer,	57 20
“ “ “ Joseph Burroughs,	105 24
“ “ “ James Smith, 3d,	20 75
“ “ “ Ellen Smith,	19 50
“ “ “ Stephen Merrick,	4 29
“ “ “ Jonathan S. Kimball,	7 00
“ “ “ Jeremiah Johnson,	1 00
“ “ “ Transient paupers,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$397 16



REPORT
OF THE
Superintending School Committee,
OF HAMPSTEAD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1860.

.....

The Superintending School Committee of Hampstead, would respectfully submit the following

REPORT.

.....

There have been in attendance at all of our District Schools, during the past year, 226 pupils. In District No. 1, 37; No. 2, 50; No. 3, 33; No. 4, 28; No. 5, 13; No. 6, 28; No. 7, 21; No. 8, 16.

The whole amount of money appropriated for District Schools, \$801 24.

Average amount for each scholar in town, \$3 54.

The whole amount in District No 1, was \$132 93; No. 2, \$195 17; No. 3, \$92 19; No. 4, \$145 46; No. 5, \$62 85; No. 6, \$81 02; No. 7, \$68 02; No. 8, \$23 60.

The increase of pupils from last year, 18.

Increase of School money, \$154 49.

Amount for each scholar above last year, 44 cents.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

THOMAS R. WHEELER, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Summer and Winter, Miss C. Augusta Clement.

Whole number of Scholars,—Summer, 31; Winter, 37.

Average attendance,—Summer, 80; Winter, 34.

Length of school,—Summer, 12 weeks; Winter, 13 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, Summer, \$18 00; Winter, \$22.

The Summer term of this school commenced May 23, and closed August 12. The school was well governed and faithfully taught. Every scholar was present at the last examination, and the average attendance was good, although the instances of tardiness during the term numbered 246. Moral Deportment, habits of study, and rank as scholars well reported.

The Winter term commenced November 1st, and closed February 3d. At the concluding examination, there was a good degree of interest manifested in all the exercises. It was evident that Miss Clement had been thorough in her instruction—sparing no pains on her part to make the school what it should be. There was great improvement in *spelling*, and considerable in *reading*. A class of 13 had been through Colburn's arithmetic, and appeared to understand it very well. A large number of writing-books were examined with satisfaction. Singing was practised during the term, and tended to enliven the concluding performances. The parents frequently visited the school, cheerfully co-operated with the teacher, and the result was what might reasonably be expected. The teacher remarks: "In closing my report of this term, I cannot forbear giving expression to the feelings of *interest* and *satisfaction* which the good conduct and manifest improvement of my pupils has awakened within me. The close application to study, and the evident thoughtfulness and desire they have evinced, not only to secure their own improvement, but the good will of their teacher, has truly been wonderful in children so young."

DISTRICT NO. 2.

GEORGE O. JENNES, *Prudential Committee*.

Teacher, Summer and Winter, Miss Mehitable C. Patten.

Whole number of Scholars,—Summer, 38; Winter, 50.

Average attendance,—Summer, 34; Winter, 40.

Length of school,—Summer, 12 weeks; Winter, 12½ weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$26.

The Summer term commenced May 4th, and closed July 29th. Miss Patten is an accomplished, experienced, and very successful teacher. Her faculty to govern and aptness to teach were shown in the happy result of her efforts. Nearly every scholar was present at the examination, and there was visible improvement in nearly all the classes. The reading and spelling exercises were particularly good. It was gratifying to find in this school, nearly twenty scholars, who were well versed in one of the best books in school—Colburn's Arithmetic. Declamations and compositions were properly attended to, during the school, of which some good specimens were exhibited. Order and promptness characterized all the exercises. The Prudential Committee very judiciously employed the same teacher for the Winter term. Miss Patten again entered upon her duties with spirit and energy. This term continued 12½ weeks, when, on account

of the illness of several scholars, it was closed abruptly, without a public examination. Your Committee visited this school several times, during the term, and has no hesitation in saying that the interest of the past term was fully sustained during this. Moral deportment, habits of study, and rank as scholars, correctly reported. The teacher in her last report, remarks as follows: "On reviewing the past year, we feel that while we have had some of the trials and discouragements incident to the life of every teacher, we have experienced many of its pleasures. We have found our scholars generally well disposed; and their errors have arisen more from thoughtlessness than from a wish to occasion trouble. We hope in the future more effort may be made to banish whispering from this school, as this has been one great evil here, since our acquaintance with its members. If the parents have not heartily co-operated with us, they have at least kindly left us to pursue such a course as we deemed best."

DISTRICT NO. 3.

WILLIAM SANBORN, *Prudential Committee.*

Teachers, Summer, Miss Mary L. Cotton; Winter, Miss Sophia Moulton.

Whole number of Scholars,—Summer, 29; Winter, 33.

Average attendance,—Summer, 28; Winter, 28.

Length of school,—Summer, 8 weeks; Winter, 13 weeks.

Wages of teachers per month, including board, Summer, \$17; Winter, \$23.

The Summer term commenced May 2d, and closed July 14th. Moral deportment, habits of study, and rank as scholars, not very favorably reported. Miss Cotton was an experienced teacher, but she seemed to labor under some disadvantage, and did not succeed quite so well as some had anticipated. The 220 tardy marks noted, considering the length of the term, appear large. At the last examination, the reading and spelling classes evinced considerable improvement. Every scholar should learn to be *punctual*; and in this branch every *parent* can give lessons. The teacher, in her report remarks: "I have tried at all times to instil into the minds of my pupils the importance of thoroughly learning their lessons, from day to day. Most of them have been studious and attentive—a few indolent and idle. They have generally been kind and courteous to me, and I shall ever remember them with affection. The parents have manifested some interest in the school, but not so much as I could wish and desire."

The Winter school, taught by Miss Moulton, who has long been known as a systematic and faithful teacher, was quite satisfactory to the district. The term closed January 6th. The good discipline and correct teaching received this term, it is hoped will prove of much value to all the scholars. The teacher manifested much anxiety for the welfare of all; and all those who applied themselves diligently to study, made commendable

progress. It was manifest at the final examination, that the teacher had been unremitting in her labors to advance her scholars in all the branches of study in school. There was a quiet movement among all the scholars in taking their stands upon the floor, and at the black-board, which favorably impressed us. A good degree of progress was noticed in reading and spelling, and the recitations generally evinced marked improvement. The moral department, and habits of study are well reported by the teacher. The globe, and outline maps were used here with good success throughout the term.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

JAMES SMITH, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Summer and Winter, Miss Fanny L. Keay.

Whole number of Scholars,—Summer, 24; Winter, 17.

Length of school,—Summer, 13 weeks; Winter, 9 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$17.

Miss Keay has proved herself an admirable instructress. By her kindness of disposition, she won the confidence of all her pupils. At every examination, the scholars were quiet and orderly. Moral deportment, habits of study, and rank as scholars, very favorably reported. The school during both terms was well attended, and a commendable proficiency was made in the various branches of study. The Summer term commenced May 16th, and closed August 13th; Winter term commenced September 12th, and closed January 20th.

The large number of parents and friends present at the last examination must have been very agreeably entertained with such exercises. The teacher remarks: "The school has been throughout the whole, a pleasant one. My pupils have manifested not only a willingness to receive instruction, but a disposition to labor *themselves*, and have been universally kind and obliging, always ready to obey, cheerfully, my slightest requests. I feel assured I have had the sympathy and co-operation of every parent."

DISTRICT NO. 5.

CAPT. WILLIAM JOHNSON, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Miss Elvira L. Johnson. Whole number of Scholars, 13.

Average attendance, 8. Length of school, 14 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$18.

There was but one term of school in this district, which commenced May 16th, and closed August 22d. This was Miss Johnson's first attempt at teaching. At the first examination the scholars were very quiet, but promptness and energy seemed to attend every action of both teacher and scholar. There was uncommon interest for so small a school. The number present at the last examination was exceedingly small, but the same interest was apparent, to some extent. In *reading*, and in several

other exercises, the scholars appeared to have advanced considerably. The writing-books had been well kept, and showed good improvement. In moral deportment, habits of study, and rank as scholars, nearly every scholar is marked above mediocrity. There was some trouble in the district, which probably occasioned the falling off in this school, near the close of the term. In order to have a good school, a unanimity of feeling in the district is not only essential but indispensable.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

EBENEZER HOYT, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Miss Sarah J. French.

Whole number of Scholars,—Summer, 28 ; Autumn, 24.

Average attendance,—Summer, 27 ; Autumn, 23.

Length of school,—Summer, 10 weeks : Autumn, 6 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20.

The Summer term commenced April 18th, and closed June 24th ; Autumn term, August 15th, closed September 17th. Both terms were well attended. Only 11 instances of tardiness noted by the teacher, and quite a large number reported as not having been absent one half-day. Moral deportment, and habits of study well reported both terms. Miss French is an experienced teacher. She had won for herself a good reputation in District No. 4, in this town, the two years previous. The order of this school was good, and progress to some extent, was noticed in almost everything exhibited at the closing examination. The classes in Arithmetic and Geography answered promptly nearly every question. Grammar received considerable attention, and Colburn's Arithmetic was not at all neglected during the whole school. A few very good compositions were read, but the number was quite too small. Fair improvement was made in writing. Considerable interest was, of course, manifested on the part of the parents, for nearly one hundred visits were made to the school-room, by citizens and others. The teacher, in her report, remarks as follows : " With much pleasure I can speak of this school as having been very pleasant to me. I have endeavored to do justice to all ; and how well I have succeeded, is left to the good judgment of the parents and friends to decide. Thanks to those who have manifested a co-operation so pleasing, by frequently visiting us in the school-room, thereby encouraging us to persevere with renewed energy."

DISTRICT NO. 7.

J. C. MERRICK, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Miss Sophia Moulton. Whole number of Scholars, 21.

Average attendance, 16. Length of school, 17 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16.

The term of this school commenced April 25th, and closed August 26th.

There were 17 scholars present at the first visit, and the order of the school was very good. The spelling was rather poor, and lowness of voice and sameness of tone attended most of the reading lessons. The school continued to improve during the whole of this long term, and at the close there appeared to be much more spirit and energy, on the part of the scholars, and a visible improvement in the various exercises. Fair progress was made in all the branches attended to in the school. The great evil of irregular attendance, which seriously affected the school the past year was overcome, and the teacher having instilled into the minds of her scholars, the very great importance of attention and close application to study, they were enabled to progress more rapidly and with better success than usual. It is sufficient to say that during the teacher's long years of experience in teaching, she has, perhaps, never been more successful in a school like this. The teacher remarks: "On entering this school, I found no discordant elements to harmonize. I endeavored to lead the pupils in the path of wisdom, and we found it, truly, a pleasant way. The intellectual advancement, and the moral improvement, has been all that the most sanguine teacher could reasonably expect."

DISTRICT NO. 8.

JONATHAN S. KIMBALL, *Prudential Committee.*

Teacher, Miss M. A. Pillsbury. Whole number of Scholars, 16.

Average attendance, 12. Length of school, 10 weeks.

Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$12.

The term commenced June 13th, and closed August 20th. This school was small in numbers, but larger than usual this term. At the first examination, idleness and want of interest, on the part of some, was too apparent to escape notice. The *reading* was hardly passable, and the recitations generally but little better. The teacher labored hard and succeeded well under the circumstances. The appearance of the school at the closing examination was much improved. Every scholar seemed to have improved in reading, and the writing-books though few in number, bore marks of decided advancement. Moral deportment was favorably noted by the teacher. This was Miss Pillsbury's first school. In justice to her it may be said that she succeeded better, all things considered, than your Committee had reason to expect. She has proved herself to be fully competent to teach a much larger and more advanced school. In scholarship this school is considerably below the average, in our town; and with the present amount of school-money (\$23 60) the future prospects are not very flattering.

In the Autumn, a select school at the center of the town, was taught by J. D. Bartley, a graduate, and son of Rev. J. M. C. Bartley, then of this town. Length of term, 10 weeks. The whole number of pupils was about 40, and the average attendance very good. Your Committee was unable

to be present at the examination, therefore, a particular report cannot be given. The opinion of a large number of citizens who were present, was very favorable. Mr. Bartley's intellectual attainments, and his moral and religious influence, were too well known here to need remarks. Would that all our young men might profit by his good example.

Having given the foregoing particular report of the several schools in town, your Committee deemed it advisable to subjoin the following

REMARKS.

During the past year, more than ordinary care has been observed in the *examination of teachers*. All who were not known to possess the requisite qualifications, were critically and thoroughly examined by your Committee, in the various branches to be taught in our schools. Several of our teachers were much experienced in teaching—some several years in this town—and their labors in almost every instance, were crowned with success.

Due importance has been given to the duty of *visiting* the schools. All the schools, summer and winter, were visited twice, and some of them frequently. Such visits were made, not so much to be entertained, as to inspect department, examine progress, and to make such suggestions, and impart such advice as would be likely to promote the interests of the schools. The evils of vulgarity and profanity, have been portrayed, and the great importance of sound morality, urged upon all.

In *recommending books*, but few changes have been made. Eaton's Arithmetic, and Weld, and Quackenboss' Grammar, are all the new books introduced during the year. There are too many books used in all of our schools, which is a great evil; but parents are in many cases so unwilling to have a book laid aside until it is worn out, that it is difficult to exclude the old books by introducing new ones. We ought not to be too arbitrary in this matter, but as the Committee is expected to comply with the laws of our State, in this particular, there is no good reason why parents should not, also, and provide such books as shall from time to time be recommended by the Committee. These duties are defined in the Statutes, as follows: "The Superintending School Committee shall determine and direct the class books to be used in the district schools of the town; and the parents, masters or guardian of the scholars attending such schools shall supply said scholars with the books so directed to be used."

In most respects our schools have perhaps never been better than during the past year. None but female teachers have been employed. This has tended to lengthen the schools considerably, in several of the districts. And when we consider that our teachers were not inferior to male teachers, we must conclude that something has been saved, and can but give our preference to such teachers.

Although our schools have been good, and are regarded by all as being in a prosperous condition, still they are defective in some particulars. *Reading and spelling* have not as yet received in our schools, that degree of attention which their importance demands. If these branches have become *unfashionable*, they are still *useful and ornamental*, and "no other mental attainments are of greater importance to every individual, whatever may be his walk in life." Our teachers, with few exceptions, have reported nearly all of their pupils as having made reading a study. We mean to cast no reflections by saying that every pupil should make reading a *study* in the true sense of the term. To do this, pupils should be required to be as thoroughly prepared in their reading lessons, as in Geography, Grammar or any other study; and every teacher should be qualified to give the proper *elementary instruction* in reading. Their pupils should be required "to give each letter and syllable its distinct sound; when this is done, there is a *force and meaning* in the word which is never felt when *half uttered*." Pupils should also be required to understand what they read, "to read in a *natural conversational tone of voice*, and to read often." Considerable more attention has been given to *spelling* during the year past, but there is room for much improvement. The method of conducting this exercise in some of our schools, to some extent, by writing the words upon the blackboard, is calculated to awaken a lively interest in this branch, and to improve the penmanship at the same time.

No fears need be entertained that our teachers will in the future overestimate the importance of this branch of study, or that they will give too much attention to spelling in any of our schools.

Writing has been better attended to than usual. Books containing a system of Penmanship have been introduced to some extent, and with good success. It is hoped this course will be continued, and that all pupils will acquire a regular system by being thus governed by established principles. Good penmanship is of too much importance to be neglected. Every scholar on leaving school, ought to be able at least, to write a fair legible hand.

Proper care and attention should be given to every branch of study taught in our schools. Our present limits will admit of only a few hints in relation to some of the most important branches; and as

"All knowledge, both human and divine,
Which thought can reach, or science can define;"

cannot be acquired in our district schools, every teacher should look well to those things which are of the greatest importance to each and every pupil.

Allow your Committee to call your attention to the subject of *school houses*, as this deserves to be continually presented. Some of our school houses are convenient and suitable abiding places for our children, and

will answer well for the present. What are others but "old dilapidated insufficient ruins of former days?" Compare them with our dwellings, our *barns* if you please, and will any one say they are not a disgrace to the districts to which they belong and to the town? Will not the parents in those districts take this matter into consideration? One district is moving in the right direction, and will not others follow? *Be not extravagant* but build *good buildings*. Let every new school house be pleasantly located, with ample play ground—substantially built, neatly finished, and furnished at least with a globe and outline maps. Wood-houses, &c., should not be forgotten, as these are necessary appurtenances. Every school room should be well *ventilated*, as pure air is always needed to sustain health. Horace Mann once said: "People who shudder at a flesh wound and a trickle of blood, will confine their children like convicts, and compel them, month after month, to breathe quantities of poison. It would less impair the mental and physical constitutions of children, gradually to draw an ounce of blood from their veins, during the same length of time, than to send them to breathe, for six hours in a day, the lifeless and poisonous air of some of our school rooms. Let any man who votes for confining children in small rooms, and keeping them on stagnant air, try the experiment of breathing his own breath only four times over, and if medical aid be not on hand, the children will never be endangered by his vote afterward."

The Teachers' Institute held in this town, in November last, through the kindness of H. L. Boltwood, our County School Commissioner, was well attended by our teachers and citizens, and served to awaken a fresh and more general impulse in favor of popular education. Its salutary influence will, we trust, long be felt in our community.

Notwithstanding our schools are in some respects defective, on reviewing the past year there is much to be found to encourage us. The amount of money raised and expended, was considerable larger than usual. Most of our teachers were good—some of them were of a high order. Our schools were generally well attended, and the proficiency made in all the various branches of study, is worthy of much commendation. The visits of parents and citizens to the school room, have been more frequent and numerous than usual, and there seems to be an increase of interest among the people generally, on the subject of education. More has been done for the general interests of education in our town, than in most years past, and as a whole, our schools will compare very favorably with those of any previous year.

Considering the prosperous condition of our schools the past year, we are constrained to look forward with much encouragement and pleasure. But, though our present prospects may be flattering, our anticipations will not be fully realized in the future, without the aid of our united efforts in advancing the cause of common school education.



Upon this subject, Prof. Sanborn truly says, that "all classes and ages are concerned—the child and the man of grey hairs, both are interested—the child, that his physical, moral and intellectual constitution may be developed and matured; the man of age is interested, that his declining years may not be dishonored by the ignorance and vices of his children."

In order to raise our schools to the proper standard and have them what they ought to be, we all have important duties to perform. The town should be liberal in appropriating money for the support of schools; and the districts should select good men to expend the money, who will see that every dollar is expended to the best advantage. Parents should visit the schools frequently, cheerfully co-operate with the teachers, and render proper assistance at all times. None but good and well qualified teachers should be employed, and every teacher should discharge his duties faithfully, never forgetting, among other duties, that our laws direct, that "It shall be the duty of all persons entrusted with or engaged in the instruction of the young, diligently to impress upon their minds the principles of piety and justice, a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society, and endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of the tendency of all such virtues to preserve and perfect a republican form of government."

In educating our children we should never forget the very great importance of cultivating their *physical* as well as their *mental* and *moral faculties*. Some one has well said, that "No keenness or culture of intellect that does not embrace the preservation of the physical system from all deterioration, and its cultivation to the highest perfection, will ever last long. No nation or people will ever preserve the weight of influence to which they were naturally entitled, among others, without manliness of development as the only reliability of character."

Finally you will pardon your Committee for closing these remarks with the words of the "Father of his Country," which may not be considered as wholly inapplicable: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity."

CALEB MOULTON,

Superintending School Committee.