

352.0742B

P683

0.2

Dmp

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FINANCES

OF THE

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD,

FROM MARCH 1, 1876, TO MARCH 1, 1877:

WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

PITTSFIELD, N. H.

PRINTED BY JOHN C. CASHMAN.

1877.

14

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

H. W. OSGOOD, PHOTOGRAPHER.

Pictures taken in Cloudy Weather. Old Pictures Copied and finished in Water Colors, India Ink, or Oil. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

DANIELS & COMPANY,

MANCHESTER, N. H.,

Invite all who are purchasing goods in this line to visit their store, No. 1 Patten's Block.

SPRAGUE MOWERS,

WHEEL RAKES, PURE GROUND BONE, PHOSPHATES,

FARMING IMPLEMENTS, SEEDS,

Buildings, Hardware of every description, Paints, Oils, Glass, Brushes, Cordage, &c., for sale on as favorable terms as at any place in the State.

THE LARGEST HARDWARE STORE IN THE STATE.

JOHN B. VARICK, Dealer in HARDWARE, IRON & STEEL,

Agricultural Implements and Seeds, Paints, Oils, and Glass, Leather and Rubber Belting, &c., &c.,

Having nearly doubled the size of his store, is better able than ever to accommodate his customers and friends. Among the many articles in his store are to be found a large stock of Carriage Bodies, Wheels, Shafts, Rims, Spokes, and Axles, Marbleized Slate Mantles and Shelves, Rustic Chairs and Hanging Baskets, Masury's Colors in Oil and Japan, R. R. Colors, Salem Lead, &c., &c. Also, a large stock of Bradley's X L Phosphate, Bone and Animal Fertilizers, at low prices. Buying strictly for cash, is enabled to meet any and all competition. The public are invited to call and inspect his large stock.

JOHN B. VARICK, 809, 811, and 813 Elm St., Manchester, N. H.

AGENT FOR FAIRBANKS'S SCALES.

CARL C. SHEPARD,

Paper-Hangings, Decorations,

Crochets, Glass-Ware, &c.,

84 ELM STREET, Manchester, N. H.

H. W. OSGOOD,

Furniture!

CHAMBER SETS,

EXTENSION TABLES,

PARLOR SUITS,

MIRRORS, &c.

FURNITURE REPAIRED.

PITTSFIELD.

REPORT.

In compliance with the law, the following report of the treasurer of the town of Pittsfield, for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1877, is respectfully submitted.

RECEIPTS.

From town treasurer of 1875,	\$2,345.61
Benjamin R. Muncey, to restore right of suffrage,	4.00
Reuben E. Cram, to restore right of suffrage,	6.91
Timothy W. Welch, to restore right of suffrage,	2.00
Joseph Stiles, to restore right of suffrage,	13.00
James M. Drew and others, for use of town hall,	36.00
F. W. Blake, collector for 1873,	19.00
Francis Peaslee, collector for 1874,	147.74
1875,	3,399.00
1876,	11,910.62
state treasurer, savings bank tax,	1,659.54
literary fund,	158.85
railroad tax,	50.58
insurance tax,	7.50
county, for support of poor,	1,532.94
various persons on town notes,	40,612.39
sale of town bonds,	9,050.00
interest on the same,	246.21
Total receipts,	\$71,201.89

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid auditors, 1875,	\$8.00
T. Norris, constable,	5.00
A. J. Ranlett, constable,	6.00
F. E. Cram, selectman, balance of services, 1876,	16.00
D. K. Foster, selectman, balance of services, 1876,	20.00
C. S. French, selectman, balance of services, 1876,	16.00
J. A. Walker, selectman, balance of ser- vices, 1876,	83.00
J. P. Watson, selectman, balance of ser- vices, 1876,	101.00
J. E. Shaw, selectman, balance of services, 1876,	130.00
C. H. Brock, police,	40.00
J. C. Kaime, “	4.00
A. P. Marden, “	2.50
J. A. Jacobs, “	17.50
J. E. Shaw, town treasurer,	100.00
C. E. Tucker, town-clerk,	70.00
F. E. Randall, supt. school committee,	100.00
J. M. Tucker, overseer of poor,	51.25
F. W. Blake, collector, 1873,	2.00
Francis Peaslee, collector, 1875,	40.00
1876,	150.00

FIRE DISTRICT.

Paid W. H. Berry, treasurer, 1876,	\$800.00
------------------------------------	----------

DAMAGE BY DOGS.

Paid S. F. Ring,	\$30.00
J. Peaslee,	5.00
C. H. Carpenter,	21.00

BREAKING ROADS.

District No. 1, S. H. Sargënt,	\$20.75
2, S. H. French and others,	4.05
3, S. F. Ring,	13.62
4, David L. Greene,	10.20
5, B. M. Rogers,	25.76
6, John Smith,	15.96
7, I. N. Carr,	21.39
9, W. Shaw,	26.09
10, W. Perkins,	15.24
11, F. E. Cram,	19.47
12, J. P. Lang,	6.35
13, N. B. Berry and others,	6.58
14, C. R. Lang,	11.91
15, S. S. Jenness,	25.51
16 and 21, Daniel Watson,	13.70
17, J. P. Watson,	26.85
18, S. J. Winslow,	28.17
19, R. B. Batchelder,	20.69
20, R. T. Leavitt,	15.90
22, J. S. Parks,	19.48
24, J. H. Barton,	18.07
25, J. C. Berry and others,	17.25
26, E. W. French,	25.40
27, J. A. Walker,	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$411.39

CURRENT EXPENSES.

D. T. Neal, printing annual report,	\$44.00
Trueworthy Norris, as per bill,	3.00
A. G. H. Ring, as per bill,	11.00
George W. Roby, "	5.00
J. A. Jacobs, for Weston Guards,	55.13
D. T. Neal, printing assessors' reports,	12.00
D. W. C. Scates, per bill,	4.00
E. L. Carr, certificate births and deaths,	8.25
A. G. H. Ring, setting glass town hall,	.50

C. H. Weston, watching fire,	\$3.00
True N. Johnson, watching fire,	6.00
N. W. Adams, “	3.00
G. H. Green, “	3.00
G. M. Ring, “	3.00
O. S. Nutter, “	3.00
Peter King, sawing wood,	.50
A. C. Watson, damage to wagon,	5.00
I. S. French, printing,	1.05
W. A. Mack, blank book,	2.00
J. T. Hill, bond-box,	1.25
Almira Sargent, wood,	3.00
B. W. Sanborn, books and stationery,	27.20
J. T. Hill, oil,	.67
Webster, Green & Co., water-pails,	2.40
Jeremiah Brown, damage to sleigh,	6.00
David Marden, watering-tub,	3.00
R. L. French, lots in cemetery,	30.00
Sargent & Chase, advice,	10.00
Morrill & Silsby, printing bonds,	27.50
John A. Walker, watering-tub,	3.00
David Goodwin, repairing hooks,	1.00
J. A. Whitcher, services, exchanging bonds,	6.00
H. J. Pillsbury, watering-tub,	3.00
C. T. Cram, damage to horse,	25.00
D. K. Foster, school books,	6.69
W. A. Mack, “	.50
G. M. Moore, damage to sleigh,	10.00
J. C. Foss, watering-tub, two years,	4.50
R. L. French, watering-tub,	3.00
S. J. Winslow, issuing bonds,	7.50
J. L. French, “	8.25
F. C. Nutter, watching fire,	3.00
J. P. Jones, watering-tub, two years,	4.00
G. W. Johnson, damage to wagon,	1.50
O. A. Dennett, damage to sleigh,	8.00
W. W. Gould, watching fire,	3.00
Foss Brothers, powder and fuse,	2.19
Simeon E. Berry, damage to sleigh,	5.00
C. W. Dinsmore, “	4.00

J. P. Watson, car fare,	\$1.70
J. T. Hill, oil,	1.10
J. M. Drew, care of town hall,	14.60
J. E. Shaw, horse hire,	13.00
	<hr/>
	\$422.98

ABATEMENTS.

In favor of Francis Peaslee, collector, 1872,	\$14.99
Francis W. Blake, collector, 1873,	7.00
Francis Peaslee, " 1874,	85.23
" " 1875,	276.81
" " 1876,	323.84

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1, paid E. W. French,	\$154.38
2, paid C. B. Prescott,	92.47
3, paid D. B. S. Adams,	252.58
4, paid H. F. Tuttle,	362.34
5, paid W. H. Berry,	1,222.88
6, paid J. Harvey,	78.53
7, paid D. M. Philbrick,	180.30
8, paid R. T. Leavitt,	149.00
9, paid S. J. Winslow,	186.44
10, paid A. P. James,	89.80
Joseph C. Osborn, Barnstead,	11.72
J. P. Brown, Chichester,	2.02
Republican school district,	820.12

REPAIRING ROADS AND BRIDGES.

District No. 1, Andrew Young,	\$246.55
2, O. L. Perkins,	127.25
3, S. F. Ring,	46.00
4, D. L. Greene,	32.00
5, Russell Hodgdon,	51.20
6, F. E. Randall,	72.00
7, I. N. Carr,	36.00

District No. 8, T. L. Norris,	\$232.11
9, William Sanders,	36.25
10, Worthen Perkins,	31.00
11, Jonathan Cram,	72.20
12, S. D. Davis,	83.25
13, J. H. Thompson,	136.60
14, C. R. Lang,	36.45
15, J. S. Gilman,	43.00
16, Willis Moses,	52.16
17, J. G. Kelley,	62.76
18, J. G. Morrill,	56.00
19, C. D. Berry,	18.04
20, E. K. Stockman,	52.74
21, E. H. Twombly,	43.45
22, John Doe,	54.50
23, Francis Peaslee,	62.00
24, Josiah Barton,	55.95
25, S. J. Clark,	52.50
26, E. W. French,	78.00
27, J. A. Walker,	47.00
28, J. O. Tasker,	71.35
29, S. N. Lougee,	529.90
30, A. R. Greene,	180.39
J. A. Walker, labor on bridge,	9.75
J. E. Shaw, “	8.15
Francis Peaslee, per bill,	9.28
John S. Berry, “	14.71
William R. Greene, per bill,	6.75
Lane, Adams & Co., bridge plank,	12.02
W. H. Berry, “	13.82
S. J. Winslow, “	6.00
J. E. Smith, “	32.94
J. P. Lang, per bill,	10.00
George W. Warren, repair bridge,	12.24
Hutchings & Hartwell, bridge plank,	137.46
J. W. Dennett, per bill,	.60
Samuel Drew, per bill,	2.00
R. L. French, bridge plank,	38.23
Henry Demangue, per bill,	6.00
F. B. Berry, land damage,	30.00

R. L. French, per bill,	\$3.62
J. A. Walker, repair highway,	22.25
S. H. Sargent, repair highway, 1875,	35.75
John E. Shaw, per bill,	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,122.12

ASSETS.

Balance in hands of treasurer,	\$1,674.75
Due from Frank E. Cram, collector 1871,	63.63
Francis W. Blake, collector 1873,	29.42
Francis Peaslee, collector 1875,	1,217.82
Francis Peaslee, collector 1876,	7,070.67
J. A. Jacobs, for use of town hall,	21.00
Concord Railroad Corporation,	12.00
Republican school district No. 7,	513.50
	<hr/>
	\$10,602.79

DEBT.

March 1, 1877.	
Outstanding notes and interest,	\$69,659.83
bonds and interest,	9,210.42

*Report of the Overseer of the Poor of the Town of Pittsfield,
for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1877.*

RECEIPTS.

Received of John E. Shaw, town treasurer,	\$2,005.00
the town of Epsom, aid rendered Alonzo Lake's family for year ending March 1, 1875,	10.00
the town of Epsom, aid rendered Alonzo Lake's family for year ending March 1, 1877,	61.31
	<hr/>
Total receipts,	\$2,076.31

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for relief of county paupers—	
Sally Chase,	\$65.00
Joseph Stiles,	52.00
Henry S. Pickering,	63.00
David H. Coombs,	36.87
Charles W. Reynolds and wife,	69.89
Reuben E. Cram,	74.59
James M. Jones and family,	88.68
John Brock and family,	414.24
Thomas P. Woodman and family,	107.34
Elsie W. Doorway and family,	93.03
Otis F. Hill and family,	38.00
Charles E. Moody and family,	66.35
Benjamin R. Muncey and family,	72.07
C. W. & L. W. Muncey,	134.50
Miranda Shellan,	22.00
Mary Mathews,	62.25
Elizabeth Dennett,	43.00
Abigail Clark,	26.00
	<hr/>
Total expenditures for county poor,	\$1,528.81

Expenses for Town Paupers.

Paid for Alonzo Lake's family,	\$61.31
Mary White,	192.50
Lucina Brock,	78.00
Samuel Brooks and wife,	36.45
John F. Locke,	40.00
Mrs. Clarence W. Muncey,	23.22
transient poor,	42.25
incidental expenses,	6.02
	<hr/>
Total expenses of town poor,	\$479.75
Less sum received from town of Epsom,	61.31
	<hr/>
Total expense to town of Pittsfield for support of poor,	\$418.44

Total pauper expenses,	\$2,008.56
Total receipts,	2,076.31
	<hr/>
Balance in my hands March 1, 1877,	\$67.75

JOHN M. TUCKER,
Overseer of the Poor.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

From town treasurer of 1875,	\$2,345.61
Benjamin R. Muncey, to restore right of suffrage,	4.00
Reuben E. Cram, to restore right of suffrage,	6.91
Timothy M. Welch, to restore right of suffrage,	2.00
Joseph Stiles, to restore right of suffrage,	13.00
James M. Drew and others, for use of town hall,	36.00
F. W. Blake, collector for 1873,	19.00
Francis Peaslee, " 1874,	147.74
" " 1875,	3,399.00
" " 1876,	11,910.62
State Treasurer—savings bank tax,	1,659.54
" literary fund,	158.85
" railroad tax,	50.58
" insurance tax,	7.50
County, for support of poor,	1,532.94
various persons, on town notes,	40,612.39
sale of town bonds,	9,050.00
interest on same,	246.21
	<hr/>
Total receipts,	\$71,201.89

EXPENDITURES.

Paid notes, interest, and endorsements,	\$53,354.98
interest on town bonds,	312.50

Paid state tax,	\$2,036.00
county tax,	1,737.47
for repairing roads and bridges,	3,122.12
for breaking roads,	411.39
W. H. Berry, treasurer of fire district,	800.00
town officers,	958.25
current expenses,	422.98
John M. Tucker, overseer of the poor,	2,005.00
to prudential committees,	3,602.58
damage by dogs,	56.00
abatements allowed,	707.87
	<hr/>
Total expenditures,	\$69,527.14
Cash in hands of treasurer,	1,674.75
	<hr/>
	\$71,201.89

ASSETS.

Due from F. E. Cram, collector for 1871,	\$63.63
F. W. Blake, " " 1873,	29.42
Francis Peaslee, " " 1875,	1,217.82
Francis Peaslee, " " 1876,	7,070.67
J. A. Jacobs for use of town hall,	21.00
Concord Railroad Corporation,	12.00
Republican School District No. 7,	513.50
Cash in hands of treasurer,	1,674.75
	<hr/>
	\$10,602.79

LIABILITIES.

Notes outstanding March 1, 1877, with accrued interest,	\$69,659.83
Pittsfield town bonds and accrued interest,	9,210.42
	<hr/>
	\$78,870.25
Less assets,	10,602.79
	<hr/>
Indebtedness of town, March 1, 1877,	\$68,267.46

The undersigned having examined the accounts of the town treasurer for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1877, report the above receipts and expenditures properly vouched, except abatements of taxes. During the year notes amounting to some more than twenty thousand dollars, some bearing interest at 6 per cent. and some at 7, 8-10 per cent., have been taken up, and notes issued and bonds sold to the same amount, bearing interest at 5 per cent.

ELIPH. W. FRENCH, }
 S. N. LOUGEE, } *Auditors.*
 DAVID W. C. SCATES, }

PITTSFIELD, March 7, 1877.

TABLE.

No. of District.	No. of Terms.	Name of Teacher.	No. of Scholars.	Amount per scholar for the year.	No. studying Arithmetic.	No. studying Grammar.	No. studying Geography.	Attending to Penmanship.	Reading.	Spelling.	No. between 5 and 15 not attending.	No. weeks school.
1	First.	Lydia B. Judkins.....	19	\$7.71	14	3	7	12	19	19	1	8
	Second.	Geo. W. Nutter.....	20		15	6	10		20	20	3	10
2	First.	J. Orren Harvey.....	5	13.21	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	3
	Second.	Russell A. Hodgdon.....	7		7	7	7	7	7	7		12
3	First.	Addie A. Paige.....	37	6.64	20	9	14	12	37	37		8
	Second.	Estella Spalding.....	33		20	7	11	11	33	33	9	8
4	Third.	Mary F. French.....	38		25	7	13	16	38	38	4	11
	First.	Geo. F. Muncy.....	45	7.87	34	18	18	24	45	45		10
4	Second.	F. E. Randall.....	46		30	15	19	25	46	46		10
	Third.	F. E. Randall.....	45		29	14	21	25	45	45	1	12
4	First.	Ella F. Dow.....	37		12		8	22	37	37		8
	Second.	Ella F. Dow.....	43		15		15	30	43	43	3	7
4	Third.	Ella F. Dow.....	45		15		15	30	45	45		8
	Fourth.	Ella F. Dow.....	43		30		15	30	43	43	2	7
5	First.	Myra L. Foss.....	31	12.00	31		31	31	31	31		10
	Second.	Myra L. Foss.....	31		31	31	31	31	31	31	2	8
5	Third.	Myra L. Foss.....	36		36	36	36	36	36	36		8
	Fourth.	Myra L. Foss.....	31		31	31	31	31	31	31	2	7
5	First.	D. W. C. Scates.....	36		30	36	8	36	36	36		10
	Second.	D. W. C. Scates.....	17		15	5	5	17	17	17		8
5	Third.	D. W. C. Scates.....	26		24	20	8	26	26	26		8
	Fourth.	D. W. C. Scates.....	15		14	13	5	15	15	15		7
6	First.	Phena E. Berry.....	7	11.22	4	3	4	4	7	7		9
	Second.	Phena E. Berry.....	6		3	3	3	6	6	6		6
7	First.	W. F. Wallace.....	46	3.92	36	15	20	20	46	46	4	12
	Second.	W. F. Wallace.....	39		18	12	20	20	39	39	4	5
8	First.	Nellie J. Towle.....	17	8.76	10		7	6	17	17		7
	Second.	Nellie J. Towle.....	17		10		8	9	17	13		11
9	First.	Clara A. Stevens.....	6	16.95	4	3	4	4	6	6		8
	Second.	Cora A. Emerson.....	8		7	5	5	6	8	8	1	10
10	Third.	Cora A. Emerson.....	11		9	7	8	9	11	11		10
	First.	Ella Blanchard.....	16	4.73	9	3	3	8	16	16	3	7
10	Second.	Lizzie M. Caswell.....	19		8	6	7	9	19	19		16

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF PITTSFIELD FOR THE YEAR 1876-7.

The provisions of the statutes of New Hampshire make it the duty of the superintending school committee of each town to submit to the annual meeting of its citizens certain statistical items, and to make such suggestions respecting the schools as he may deem useful.

In this report we shall take the liberty to digress from the ordinary form of giving brief biographical sketches of the several teachers employed in town, minute descriptions of its educational edifices, and the relative shrewdness manifested by prudential committees in securing at low rates, or by high salaries, the services of the several teachers employed, preferring that especially the last matter may be developed by the district agents in their annual statements made to the parties whom they were chosen to serve.

Prefacing this report, we have condensed a tabulated statement of those facts legally required, some of which may be of interest to the general public, as showing the relative standing

of the several districts in those particulars to which the table makes allusion. Following this we design to give an unbiased expression of the views we entertain respecting some of the more important educational topics, to which the notice of the public may properly be invited.

APPROPRIATIONS.

It has been the sad misfortune of former years that our schools have suffered from inadequate appropriations,—a result founded doubtless not so much on indifference to the requirements of the masses to be educated, as in a reasonable desire to economize in all the departments of public expenditure, owing to the very natural timidity occasioned by the magnitude of our general indebtedness as a town.

Under such circumstances the terms of school were necessarily short, and the highest qualification sought in our teachers was “modesty in point of wages.” It is the opinion of the committee that our present appropriation is abundant under our present school system.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

This expression, found in these two simple words, it seems to us, contains a world of meaning;—not used, as some might suppose at the first glance, to distinguish them from the opposite class, uncommon schools, but rather in that wider and more significant sense of general schools—schools for the masses, schools in which all may be educated, with certain restrictions, and in which must stand on a common level, in point of privilege, the pauper and the prince.

The wisdom of the fathers is concentrated in our common schools, and upon it rest all the greatness and magnificence of American institutions. So generous are its provisions, that whosoever will may come and freely enjoy its fullest benefits; and no property qualification, or severe religious test, says to the rich and reverential, “You may,” or to the poor and humble, “You may not.”

No nicely-drawn local discriminations or geographical diversities can affect the breadth of its application or the impartiality of its charities; but wherever a free flag recognizes a system of free schools, its opportunities are free alike to all.

In order to ascertain who shall pay for educational benefits, it will be necessary to exhibit who are especially benefited by our common schools. Education prevents crime and diminishes pauperism—two of the greatest evils with which states or municipalities are afflicted. Hence in many states the state government assumes control of the school system by appropriating funds, establishing normal schools and boards of education, recognizing it to be a duty, as much as to provide for criminals, orphans, or the insane, in their various institutions. In New Hampshire the appropriations are made by the towns under direction of state law, on the pure principle that all the property in the town shall be taxed to educate all the children in the town, devoid of all local distinctions; and we apprehend that in this view of the case no one would question that a dollar expended in district No. 1 of our own town would beneficially affect society and morality in every other district in town.

HOW SHALL THE MONEY BE DIVIDED?

From the conclusions already reached, we think it will not fail to be apparent to any considerate person that careful scrutiny should be exercised to the end that in the distribution of the money appropriated by the town no favoritism be shown, no private considerations rule, but that, on the contrary, we as citizens should be moved by no motive or consideration inconsistent with the broadest principles of equity and justice to all persons whom our legislation may affect.

It may be found impossible to conduct this apportionment so as to give a mathematical assurance of its perfect equality in all respects; and yet the wisdom of the people manifested after careful investigation, united with the instructions of the statutes, are sufficient to settle this matter in a manner to give

general satisfaction to the people directly concerned, and at the same time serve the interests of all for whose especial advantage such appropriations are made.

In regard to the legal manner in which the money for school purposes shall be applied, we will consult chapter 77 of the General Statutes, which reads as follows :

“The selectmen shall assign to each district a proportion of the money thus assessed, according to the valuation of the district for the year, or in such other manner as the town at the annual meeting shall direct, and pay the same over to the prudential committee of the district.”

The law also states that the money is not that of the district, nor is the district entitled to the custody of it. The language of the law in this particular is so plain, it seems, as not easily to be misunderstood. The town is to appropriate a certain sum for the purpose of general education ; they are at liberty, under the strict language of the law, to apply their own money as they deem expedient and proper ; the selectmen are agents of the people, chosen to carry into effect the expressed will of the people, while the several districts appoint their agents to receive and expend such sums as may be theirs by the voice of the town.

At our last annual meeting the town voted a sum of money considered ample for the present necessities under our school system, and wisely, we think, under the circumstances, voted to give to each district the sum of forty dollars, the remainder to be applied on the basis of the valuation.

We had no doubt of the legality of this proceeding, as it is so abundantly supported by precedent as well as by law ; and it was a matter of supreme surprise when we learned that so plain a law contained a private provision to the effect that the town might expend its own money, provided no citizen was found who imagined he could expend it more judiciously, in which event said person could go into a committee of the whole, and reverse the sagacious decision of the entire population.

At this particular period of time we are in a measure pre-

pared to believe that almost anything is or is not law ; but we think it would hardly be complimentary to our wise law-makers to suppose they would frame and enact a law of such startling latitude and bewildering uncertainty as this law under the new version.

In this connection, it will be remembered that there is another law enabling towns to abolish the old district system, and that a few years ago our schools were conducted under a different system. At that time we have the impression that district No. 10 enjoyed twenty-seven weeks of instruction, and no one raised the point that the people of that section were being illegally educated. If, then, the money of the town could be applied in so general a manner without violation of law, the same ruling may reasonably apply at the present time.

The chief objection to the division, as ordered by the town, came, it seems, from district No. 5. A reasonable comparison of figures and facts will tend to show whether there was any design or attempt to rob this district of its due share of school funds. By glancing at the table, it will be seen that district No. 5 has for the year about \$12 per scholar, and the number of weeks of school, adding the three grades, would be ninety-six. District No. 7 has \$3.92 per scholar, with seventeen weeks of school. It will not, of course, be expected that No. 7 will rightfully receive as much of the public money as No. 5 ; and yet, remembering that the privileges of the academy are so especially at the command of this district (No. 5), it would seem that she needs no special legislation or care in educational respects.

One more comparison of figures, and we will be content to leave this matter of education, based upon property valuation. District No. 9, with eleven scholars, has \$16.95 per scholar, and twenty-eight weeks of school. District No. 3, with thirty-eight scholars, has \$6.64 per scholar, and only twenty-seven weeks of school.

The committee desires to say, that in reaching these conclu-

sions he has been led by no personal considerations or feelings, but moved rather by a desire to place this matter in its true light; and if, in concluding on this point, we venture to express the belief that only two grades are needed in district No. 5, we trust no suspicion of inability on the part of any of the teachers will attach to the suggestion,—for a desire to do justice would compel us, if we spoke specifically, to accord to them all the largest measure of praise.

WHAT SHALL WE TEACH IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS?

Edward Everett said,—“I hold that to read the English language with intelligence, feeling, and effect, to be able to write with dispatch a neat, handsome, legible hand, and to be master of the rules of arithmetic, so as to dispose of the questions of figures that come up in practical life, is a good education; and if you add the ability to write pure, grammatical English, I call it an excellent education.”

To many, the above-named accomplishments would seem to form a very meagre education, in view of the many adornments which usually are expected to follow a knowledge of the lower branches; and yet, the statement contains much truth, for it is a fact not easily disguised, that many of our common school graduates, if put to the severe test of expressing common thoughts with elegance, through the medium of even the mother tongue, would be compelled to admit that they had ciphered too extensively, and to lament that, through the aid of Rickard and Orcutt, they had torn into fragments too many of the sentences of others, and had not built up a sufficient number of their own.

We have the impression that the first business of the common school is to give to pupils a fund of knowledge relating to the performance of the most practical duties of human life: to read, write, spell, compute, and, as has been suggested, to gain such a knowledge of our own language as to be able to clothe suitably every idea or thought,—not necessarily stopping

here, but to make this the foundation, the nucleus, to which we may add indefinitely.

IRREGULARITY OF ATTENDANCE.

This evil is the bane of life to all good, earnest teachers; for no teacher answering the above description can look over his school each morning, and notice the vacant seats of absentees, without painfully realizing the demoralizing results of such persistent irregularity, not only to those who are absent, but to the general usefulness of the school.

The remedy is partially furnished by an inquiring disposition on the part of the teacher, who must scrupulously require that all cases be covered by a proper excuse. The remainder of the responsibility lies with the parents, who should harden their hearts against all importunities on the part of the pupils for permissions for absence, except in extreme cases.

PHYSICAL COMFORT IN SCHOOL.

Every well-balanced teacher will be able to recognize the fact that scholars are not all mind, but largely matter; and hence a vast amount of discretion is required to conserve as much as possible to the physical happiness of pupils, as well as to the unfolding of their plastic intellects. We attempted last spring to induce several prudential committees to regulate the heat of their school-rooms by the aid of thermometers. We failed to do this, but are somewhat comforted by the reflection that the thermometers are saved from those fearful expansions of mercury which they must have been subjected to if placed as we suggested.

Poorly ventilated rooms, filled with overheated, poisonous air, are bad places in which to huddle forty or fifty children, with their delicate physical organizations, requiring, as we think, the very purest air, water, and food; and we hardly wonder that the roses are driven from their cheeks and the elasticity from their lives, and only feel surprised that, providentially, we are visited by so few epidemics and disorders.

TEACHERS.

Without desiring to underrate the value of the services of prudential committees, whose duty it is to secure teachers for the several schools, we must be permitted to say that, in our judgment, this prerogative ought properly to be left with the superintending committee, or to the board of education, as the case may be, because they have certainly a more extended acquaintance among teachers, and are better acquainted with the wants and necessities of the several schools in town, and could therefore, in many cases, make more judicious selections, and assign the right person to the right school.

It is a duty, it seems, also, to discontinue, as far as possible, the pernicious practice of changing teachers at every new term, unless from facts of inefficiency or unworthiness. It is a large part of the work of a teacher in a single term to learn the disposition of the various pupils, and to measure their capacity for work; and it is plain that if this be the labor of every term, as necessitated by a constant change of teachers, much valuable time is lost. Again: a great share of the time is lost in this respect because every new teacher must exhaust much time in ascertaining where the time of the pupil can be most advantageously used in his special line of studies.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

The committee cannot refrain from expressing the belief that among all the studies of the common school, history receives too little attention. The study of it is especially valuable in two essential respects: It is a very pleasant assistant in developing the power of memory, and it gives to the pupil such an accumulation of facts, touching the record of the past, as to enable him to live in two eras,—the present and the past. And when Patrick Henry said, "I have no way of judging of the future but by the past," he said in effect that all persons should be tolerably familiar, at least, with the more important facts in the history of their own country.

We hope that in the future of our schools a suitable amount of time and attention may be devoted to this study, as we believe it will have a direct tendency to round up and give symmetry to what is otherwise a defective education.

SCHOOL-ROOMS.

Too much care cannot be exercised by those having the matter in charge to the end that our school-rooms may be made attractive and agreeable places, in which so large a proportion of the time of the children is spent, and which are usually so unattractive and plain. It may not be possible in all cases to adorn and beautify such rooms so elaborately as the rooms at home, and yet, as these places are the homes of the children in a sense, it is proper that they may be cheaply but tastefully decorated. There should be a generous profusion of pictures, plants, and flowers, not forgetting those annual applications of paint and whitewash, which contribute alike to beauty and health.

No one will question the propriety of a small annual outlay of money for the achievement of these ends, and none will fail to be assured that the true conception of the beautiful will, by means of them, enter largely into the character of the child, who, instead of gazing upon bare and dirty walls, is cheered by beautiful pictures, and invigorated by the fragrance of sweet flowers.

MIGRATION.

School district boundaries are established, we think, with a design to locate a certain number of pupils in a particular locality, so that they may thereby receive greater benefits than in a consolidated mass. Forgetting this feature, a custom has become widely prevalent of allowing pupils to migrate from one district to another, as fancy may seem to dictate, or the desire for more congenial associations may suggest. The amount of privilege in this respect is optional with prudential committees, and by them fully controlled. The cases are rare,

in our judgment, in which this should be allowed. If there be no school in a particular district, and one is in session in an adjacent district, it may sometimes be allowable; but in all cases of dissatisfaction with a teacher, or any purpose resulting from ungrounded prejudice, it should be promptly and rigidly vetoed by those having the matter in charge.

HIGH SCHOOL.

We are more than ever convinced of the necessity of some arrangement for a higher department, in which the more advanced pupils of the village districts may enjoy the benefit of larger opportunities than they have at present. How this may best be accomplished, and in what manner, and by whom such school shall be controlled, is a matter upon which the people will soon have an opportunity to act. Ultimately the several districts will be compelled to unite for purposes of building a suitable building for the accommodation of schools of such grades as the village would naturally furnish. At present we can only suggest the necessities and demands of the case, leaving the final perfection of such arrangements to the general public, when they may be called to act, feeling assured that a matter of so grave importance and moment will not be lightly regarded, or hastily dismissed.

SUMMARY.

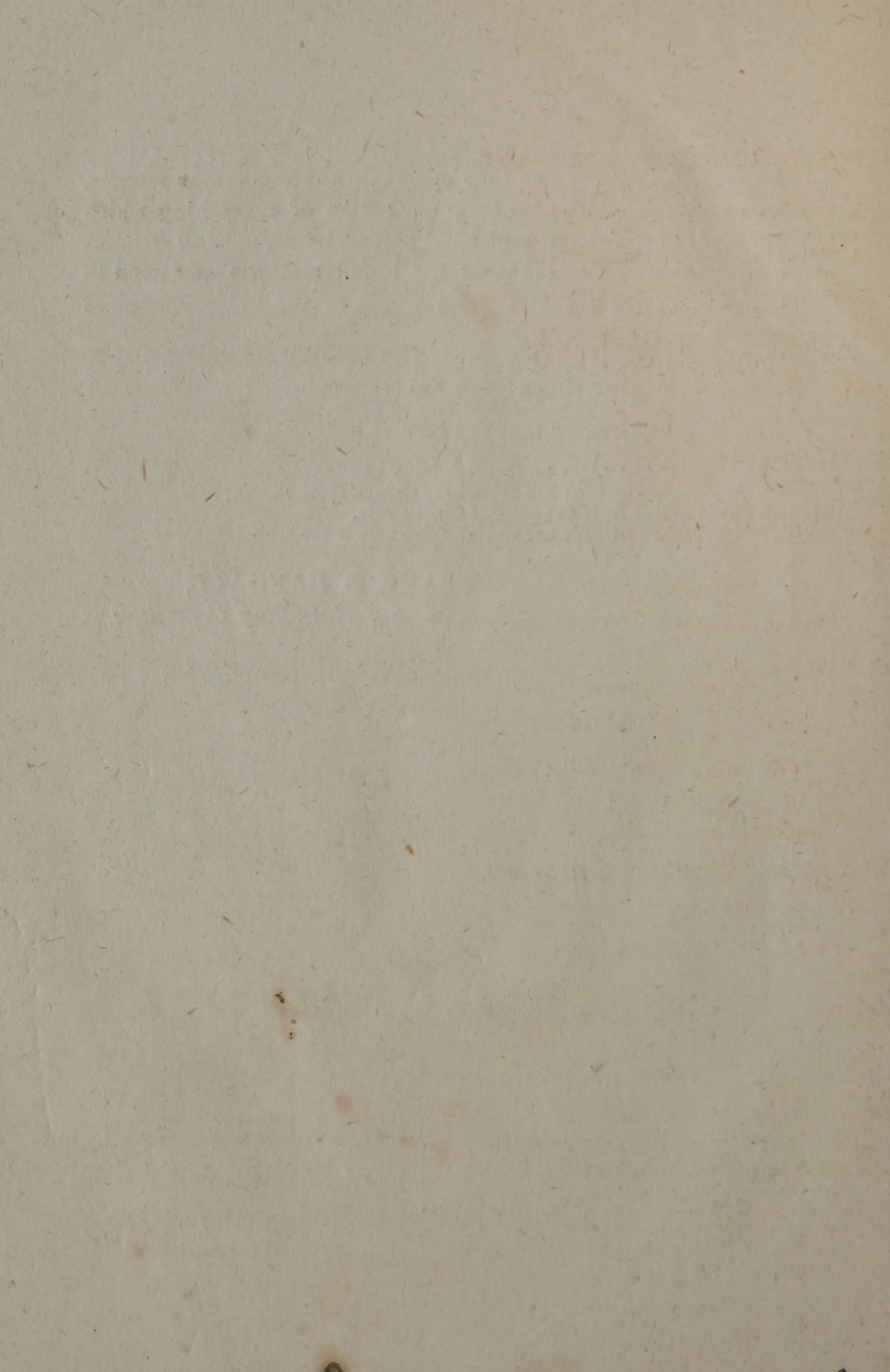
The whole number of pupils for the year, as returned by the selectmen, is 299, of which there are of girls 143, of boys 156. In regard to the general usefulness and value of the schools, as compared with the standard of former years, the committee modestly believe that they are not on the retrograde; and, although many things might be suggested by way of improvement, yet, with our present outlay, we can hardly do more. We are thoroughly impressed with the fact that it is vastly easy to criticise our present usefulness, as regards our school system, while it is not easy to originate anything better which the people are ready to accept at the present time.

In regard to all those matters which directly affect the rising generation, inasmuch as they appertain to the common schools, let us with religious care strip our action of everything which partakes of selfishness and blind political zeal, uniting without distinction or difference upon the broad platform of "good to all," taking for our motto the words of the noble American poet,—

"The riches of the commonwealth
Are free, strong minds, and hearts of health ;
And more to her than gold or grain,
The cunning hand and cultured brain.

"She needs no skeptic's puny hands,
While near her school the church spire stands ;
Nor fears the blinded bigot's rule,
While near her church spire stands the school."

FRANK E. RANDALL,
Superintending Committee.



NEAL & ROBINSON,
DEALERS IN

Groceries, Crockery, &c.

A large stock of

Superphosphates, Plaster, and Grass Seed
on hand. Also, the best Teas and Tobacco in the market

HILL'S BLOCK, PITTSFIELD.

Pay me that little bill before April 1st,
and save cost. I sell

RANGES, TIN-WARE, &C.,

Opposite Foss's Store, - - - Pittsfield.

J. T. HILL.

SHATTUCK & EMERSON,

Auctioneers and Appraisers,

AND DEALERS IN

New and Second-Hand Furniture.

Furnishing Goods of every description. Cash paid
for all kinds of Housekeeping Goods.

Five doors north }
Phenix Hotel, }

CONCORD, N. H.

J. B. McCRILLIS & SON,

MANCHESTER, N. H.,

Are the largest manufacturers of

Fine Carriages

In the State, and they sell at the lowest prices.

GEO. E. FOSS,

Practical Hair-Dresser & Barber,

Foss's Building, Bank St., PITTSFIELD.

OSGOOD & DAVIS,

CARRIAGE MANUFACTURERS,
AND REPAIR SHOP.

First class workmanship guaranteed. At Nat. Tilton's
old stand,

PITTSFIELD.

H. A. TUTTLE & CO.,

DEALERS IN

Ready-Made Clothing,

CLOTHS, TRIMMINGS,

Hats, Caps, Furs, and Gents' Furnishing Goods.

GARMENTS MADE TO ORDER.

Tuttle's Building, - - - Main Street.

PITTSFIELD.

J. D. STEVENS,

DEALER IN

Flour, Teas, Molasses, Spices, Tobacco, Cigars, Crock-
ery, Glass-Ware, Paper Hangings, Dry Goods,
Boots, Shoes, and Rubbers,

CONFECTIONERY, FRUIT, &c., &c.,

PITTSFIELD.

J. B. HOOK'S

Restaurant and Oyster Saloon.

MEALS SERVED EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES.

Stickney's North Block, - Concord, N. H.

D. W. MAY,

The Old Standard Barber,

IN THE WASHINGTON HOTEL,
PITTSFIELD.

DR. G. W. EMERSON,

DENTIST,

ROOMS IN UNION BLOCK,
PITTSFIELD.

APPLY TO D. L. GUERNSEY, CONCORD, N. H.,

for anything in the publishing line: MAPS, BOOKS, and
myriads of useful articles in endless varieties.

Bibles, and the Career of **Woody and Sankey.**

SPECIALTIES.

Twenty-sixth Annual Statement of the Phoenix Mutual Life Ins. Co., of Hartford, Conn., ending Dec. 30, 1876.

Net Assets Dec. 21, 1875, \$9,991,190.90

RECEIVED IN 1876.
 For premiums, \$2,025,348.25
 For interest and rents, 672,262.98
 \$2,697,611.23

DISBURSED IN 1876:

To Policy Holders:
 For claims by death and matured endowments, \$765,192.47
 Dividends to policy holders, 511,208.43
 Lapsed and surrendered policies, 482,930.16

Total paid policy holders, \$1,759,331.06
 Taxes, 71,830.76

Expenses:
 Commissions and other compensation to ag'ts, \$191,518.00
 Medical examiners' fees, 8,421.50
 Office Expenses:
 Printing, advertising, rent, postage, exchange, and all other expenditures, 136,402.48
 \$336,341.98

Balance Net Assets, December 30, 1876, \$10,521,298.33
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS.

Loans on first mortgages of real estate, \$6,195,955.05
 Loans secured by collaterals, 48,050.00
 Bills receivable, 58,285.83
 Premium notes on policies in force, 2,982,685.09
 Cost of real estate owned by the company, 257,883.16
 Cost of United States bonds, 263,464.00

Cost of city and municipal bonds, \$137,230.00
 Cost of bank stocks, 158,384.00
 Cash on hand and in bank, 413,217.98
 Balances due from agents, secured, 6,143.31

Ad: \$10,521,298.33

Interest accrued and due, \$224,037.59
 Market value of stocks and bonds over cost, 8,149.50
 Furniture and fixtures (one third of cost), 9,839.60
 Premiums in course of collections, \$7,248.40
 Deferred quarterly and semi-annual premiums, 91,953.08

\$99,201.48
 Less 25 per cent. for collection, \$24,800.37
 \$74,401.11

\$316,427.80

Gross Assets, December 30, \$10,837,726.13

LIABILITIES.

Re-insurance reserve at four per cent., \$10,289,694.00
 Claims by death outstanding, 317,737.00
 Premiums paid in advance, 21,185.08
 Other liabilities, 2,231.83
 \$10,630,847.91

Surplus at 4 per cent., \$206,878.22

Re-insurance reserve at 4½ per cent. (New York standard), \$0,544,650.00

Surplus at 4 1-2 per cent., \$951,922.22

AARON C. GOODMAN, President.
 JONATHAN B. BUNCE, Vice-President.
 JOHN M. HOLCOMBE, Secretary.

C. W. MOORE, Gen'l Ag't, Concord, N. H.

One good agent wanted.

HUMPHREY, DODGE & CO.,

CONCORD, N. H.,

HAVE THE AGENCY FOR SALE OF THE CELEBRATED

Stockbridge Manures.

We shall have them constantly on hand. Directions for using, and other information in regard to them, furnished on application. Also,

Darling's Pure Ground Bone, and Bradley's Superphosphate,
 IN ANY QUANTITY.

As heretofore, we shall continue to be head-quarters for all articles usually found in a stock of Hardware, Iron, and Steel, Concord Axles and Springs, Spokes and Rims, House-Building Hardware, Carpenters' Tools, Agricultural Tools, Cucumber Wood Pumps, &c., &c.

We wish it distinctly understood that we will not be undersold by any one. We want your trade, and think it will be to your advantage to try us. **ORDERS BY MAIL OR EXPRESS PROMPTLY FILLED.**