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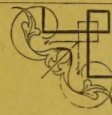
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REPORTS  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN,  
TREASURER,  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
AND  
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF HARRISVILLE,  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st,  
1878.



KEENE:  
PRINTED AT THE CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN OFFICE.  
1878.



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
STATE LIBRARY





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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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The Selectmen would respectfully submit the following report of the financial affairs of the town :

Total valuation, April, 1877,	\$334,040 00
Reduced valuation, April, 1877,	1,670 20
Amount of money tax assessed,	3517 61
Number of dogs 45, tax assessed,	47 00

### LIABILITIES.

Outstanding notes and interest,	\$1849 87
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### ASSETS.

Outstanding taxes, 1876,	\$ 10 83
"    "    1877,	275 00
Cash value of Liquor belonging to town,	20 00
"    "    of Land fund,	1417 39
Cash balance in treasury,	392 44
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
	\$2115 66
Cash balance in favor of town,	\$265 79

The town has the following fund to be applied to the support of schools the ensuing year :

Literary fund,	\$ 75 25
Interest on school fund,	42 55
Dog tax,	36 00
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
	\$153 85

We would recommend to be raised by tax the ensuing year the following sums :

To pay State tax,	\$924 00
To pay County tax,	750 00
For the support of schools,	850 00
To defray town charges,	500 00
For breaktng roads in winter,	400 00
To repair highways in summer,	800 00

SAMUEL D. BEMIS, } Selectmen  
 GEORGE F. TUFTS, } of  
 WINSLOW ROYCE, } Harrisville.



## REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

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1877.		
Oct. 18	Received of County Treasurer,	\$118 52
“	“      Town      “	358 37
		\$476 89

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### CR.

1877.		
April 14	By cash paid Mary Ann Yardly support of Martha Cobb,	\$30 90
“	26 Crackers for lockup,	1 12
May 15	John McWilliams keeping pauper,	14 00
July 21	City of Keene, assistance to Jonas Wight,	6 94
“	25 H. H. Smith, attendance upon pauper,	1 50
Oct. 10	F. Stratton, removing pauper,	3 00
“	10 Mary Ann Yardly, support of Martha Cobb,	39 38
“	20 Town Treasurer, money received for county paupers,	100 00
“	13 F. Stratton, coffin for Mrs. Philbrick,	14 00
Nov. 1	Wright & Davis, cooking stove for Jonas Wight,	10 00
“	1 S. D. Bemis, provisions for J. Wight,	4 00
“	1 W. B. Fitch, wood for J. Wight,	3 25
“	26 S. D. Bemis, assistance for J. Wight,	2 75
“	26 J. M. Barry, provisions for Levi Goseau,	5 00
Dec. 5	J. M. Barry, provisions for Levi Goseau,	2 55

Dec. 5	C. K. Towne, potatoes for Levi Goseau,	\$1 00
" 25	H. H. Smith medical services,	4 00
1878.		
Jan. 17	D. K. Healey, house rent for J. Wight.	24 00
" 17	W. B. Fitch, wood for J. Wight,	6 50
Feb. 9	John M. Farnum, provisions for J. Wight,	9 00
" 16	Town Treasurer, support of county paupers,	18 52
" 16	S. D. Bemis, wood for Jonas Wight,	6 00
" 11	F. Stratton, coffin for Joseph Roebuck,	11 50
" 25	William H. Jones, provisions for lockup,	28 43
" 95	John M. Barry, provisions for lockup,	6 03
" 25	William H. Jones, provisions for Mrs. Finney,	5 00
		<hr/>
		\$476 89

SAMUEL D. BEMIS, } Overseers  
 GEGERGE F. TUFTS, } of  
 WINSLOW ROYCE, } Poor.

HARRISVILLE, Feb. 28, 1878.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above account, and find it to be correctly cast and properly vouched.

CHARLES C. P. HARRIS, Auditor.



## REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

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*To the Selectmen of the Town of Harrisville :*

The undersigned Agents of the Selectmen to establish a Public Library and purchase books, submit the following report, viz. :

### RECEIPTS.

Nov. 19, 1877,	From Managers of Library Levee and Excelsior Club,	\$193 41
Dec. 7, 1877,	From Town Treasurer, appropriation,	250 00
		<hr/>
		\$443 41

### EXPENDITURES.

Nov. 27, 1877,	Paid A. W. Lovering, 42 volumes,	\$ 24 75
"	" Estes & Lauriat, bill in part,	168 66
Dec. 7, 1877,	" " " balance,	222 80
	" express charges,	1 50
	" railroad bill,	2 17
	" W. H. Spalter & Co., wrapping paper, &c.,	2 75
	" record books, cards, &c.,	10 00
	" bookcase,	4 00
		<hr/>
		\$436 63
Balance,		\$6 78
Number of volumes purchased,		445
" " Provincial and State papers,		13
" " presented,		17
		<hr/>
Total,		\$475
Number of persons who have signed regulations,		279
Number of volumes taken since opening, Dec. 15, 1877,		1312



Considering the difficulty in making a selection of books to suit all tastes, we are happy to believe that we have given satisfaction to all the patrons of the library. There is need of a further addition of books wanted by juvenile readers, also a select class of standard agricultural works, such as are adapted to popular use.

Deeming a public library to be one of the best agencies to instruct and give moral tone to the young and rising generation, we hope and trust it will be fostered and sustained by all who have the best interest of that class at heart.

Harrisville, March 1, 1878.

AARON SMITH,  
CYRUS H. HAYWARD, } Agents  
EDWIN P. HUNT, } of  
Selectmen.

## TOWN AGENT'S REPORT.

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March 20, 1877,	Received on note against town, interest,	\$45 32
Feb. 26, 1878,	“ in interest on Town Bonds, Marlboro’,	39 70
		\$85 02
Mar. 20, 1877,	Paid Town Treasurer, interest of school fund,	\$22 68
“	“ D. Willard, interest on ministry fund,	11 32
“	“ C. C. P. Harris, interest on ministry fund,	11 32
Feb. 27, 1878,	“ G. W. Mason for Baptist Society interest,	9 92
Feb. 28, 1878,	“ C. C. P. Harris for Congregational Society interest,	9 92
“	“ Town Treasurer, interest school fund,	19 86
		\$85 02

Harrisville, March 1, 1878.

AARON SMITH,  
*Town Agent.*

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HARRISVILLE, March 1, 1878.

We hereby certify that we find the accounts of the Town Agent correct, and the funds properly secured.

SAMUEL D. BEMIS, } Selectmen  
GEO. F. TUFTS,        } of  
WINSLOW ROYCE,     } Harrisville.



# TREASURER'S REPORT.

## RECEIPTS.

1877.			
March	1	Cash on hand in Treasury,	\$173 85
	6	of Selectmen, W. B. F. Rowe,	7 74
	20	of Interest on school fund, Aaron Smith,	22 68
April	26	of Island Cemetery for Lot,	12 00
	30	“ “ “	6 00
May	11	of Selectmen for use of the Town,	500 00
	17	“ “ “	100 00
	28	of Darius Farwell Collector Taxes 1876,	100 00
	30	“ “ “ “ 1877,	100 00
June	28	“ “ “ “	200 00
	30	of Island Cemetery for Lot,	8 00
July	20	of Darius Farwell Collector Taxes 1877,	100 00
Aug.	15	of Selectmen for use of the town,	100 00
Oct.	5	of Darius Farwell Collector Taxes,	100 00
	16	“ “ “ “	400 00
	17	“ “ “ “	100 00
	19	“ “ “ “	400 00
	31	of Dexter Derby,	8 40
Nov.	1	of Samuel D. Bemis, support of County Paupers,	100 00
	14	of State Treasurer, Savings Bank Tax,	756 29
	14	“ “ Literary Fund,	75 25
	16	of Darius Farwell, Collector of Taxes,	100 00
	17	“ “ “ “	100 00
	19	“ “ “ “	100 00
	23	“ “ Powers & Gowing, Non-res.	8 40
	27	“ “ George Woods,	13 80
	28	of Darius Farwell Collector of Taxes,	100 00
Dec.	6	“ “ “ “	200 00
	8	“ “ “ “	305 00
	14	“ “ “ “	200 00
	29	“ “ “ “	100 00

1878.			
Jan.	7	Received of Selectmen for use of Town,	\$300 00
	19	of Darius Farwell, Collector Taxes,	200 00
	30	“ “ “ “	200 00
Feb.	16	of Samuel D. Bemis, for support of County Paupers, balance due,	18 52
	12	of Ira Smith Estate, Lot Riverside Cemetery,	6 00
	21	of Darius Farwell, Collector of Taxes, In- terest on taxes for 1876,	14 61
	28	of Darius Farwell, Collector dog tax for 1876,	19 00
	28	of Darius Farwell, Collector taxes for 1876,	89 76
	28	“ “ “ dog taxes for 1877,	33 00
	28	of Aaron Smith, Interest on Land fund,	19 86
	28	of Darius Farwell Collector taxes for 1877,	221 01
	28	of Francis Stratton, grass in Cemetery,	6 00
			<u>\$5,725 17</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS.

## STATE AND COUNTY.

1877.			
Oct.	19	Paid County tax,	\$743 48
Nov.	14	State tax,	924 00
			<u>\$1,667 48</u>

## NOTES AND INTEREST.

1877.			
March	20	Paid Aaron Smith interest on note against the town,	\$ 45 35
June	29	Wellington Seaver, Interest,	18 09
Nov.	22	Amos Sargent, Interest,	18 00
	28	Darius Farwell, Interest,	6 00
1878.			
Jan.	10	Cheshire Provident Institution, Keene,	19 17
	7	“ “ “ Note,	300 00
			<u>\$406 61</u>



## SCHOOLS.

1877.			
June 29	Paid Merrill J. Russell, District No. 1,		\$150 00
Nov. 20	“ “ “ “		112 00
June 20	Coburn C. Farwell “ 3,		50 00
Oct. 10	“ “ “ “		50 00
June 26	Charles C. Smith “ 2,		100 00
Oct. 27	“ “ “ “		50 00
1878.			
Jan. 8	“ “ “ “		64 01
1877.			
June 27	Winslow Royce, “ 4,		50 00
Dec. 27	“ “ “ “		60 11
July 11	Charles C. Farwell “ 5,		40 00
22	“ “ “ “		30 00
1878.			
Jan. 22	“ “ “ “		58 91
1877.			
Dec. 17	Henry Adams, Dublin, “ 6,		41 50
Nov. 6	Eben C. Tolman, Nelson, “ 3,		6 37
July 9	Simeon Grow, “ 5,		3 44
1878.			
Jan. 25	Corbin C. Farwell, “ 3,		28 01
Feb. 22	Merrill J. Russell, “ 1,		134 20
			<u>\$1,028 55</u>

## SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

1878.			
Jan. 8	Charles J. Smith, District No. 2,		\$ 89 00
1877.			
Dec. 26	Charles C. Farwell, “ 5,		50 00
			<u>\$139 00</u>

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

1877.			
April	27	Merrill J. Russell, labor on highway,	\$ 7 85
May	11	Oren M. Bullard, Pottersville Bridge,	30 00
	15	George F. Tufts, cash paid for labor on highway,	29 52
	31	Oren M. Bullard, Pottersville Bridge,	73 70
June	30	Charles Bemis, gravel for highway,	4 00
July	26	Merrill J. Russell, railings for highway,	10 00
	30	Gilman Gilchrist, lumber for bridge,	35 44
Aug.	15	Wm. Halpin, labor on highway,	5 00
Oct.	5	Merrill J. Russell, railings for highway,	27 44
	16	Chauncey Barker, labor on highway,	5 59
	30	George Woods, " " "	9 72
Nov.	8	Joseph Eaves, " " "	78
Dec.	18	J. G. Lakin, railings for highway,	22 60
	22	Chauncey Barker, for highway railings and planks for bridges,	11 57
	22	G. W. Barker, labor on highway,	6 50
	22	Winslow Royce, labor on highway,	10 80
	26	Heirs of William Yardley, timber for railings,	3 15
1878.			
Jan.	3	Charles A. Bemis, sand for highway,	6 00
	26	Winslow Royce, railings for highway,	31 48
Feb.	21	David M. Townsend, railings for highway,	7 79
	28	Willard & Atwood, lumber for bridges,	16 16
	28	Joel F. Mason, labor on highway,	8 75
	28	Gilman Gilchrist, labor on highway,	6 50
			\$370 34

## BREAKING ROADS.

1877.			
April	7	Nelson Yardley, breaking roads,	\$ 12 15
	14	Oren Bullard,	15 00
May	15	Hugh Clark,	45 31
		Oren M. Bullard,	80 11
		Oren M. Bullard,	3 25
		Henry Adams,	15 17
		G. W. Barker,	39 50
		Edward E. Sargent,	45 81
		Darius Farwell,	5 07
		Chas. C. Seaver,	13 95



May	15	Everett C. Willard,	\$28 76
		Winslow Royce,	29 70
		Samuel D. Bemis,	2 47
		Cornelius K. Towne,	66 74
		Joel F. Mason,	29 70
	22	George Woods,	15 66
June	5	John F. Warren,	39 22
	16	Luther P. Eaton,	38 28
Aug.	31	George W. Seaver,	12 62
Oct.	16	William Halpin,	2 40
Dec.	8	Sherman Derby,	2 97
May	15	Walter B. F. Rowe,	5 04
Feb.	28	Reuben C. Philbrick,	5 08
			<hr/>
			\$553 96

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

1877.

April	14	Paid Mary Ann Yardly, board and clothing for Martha Cobb,	\$30 90
May	15	John McWilliams, keeping pauper,	14 00
July	9	R. N. Whitney, goods for Jonas Wight,	6 94
Nov.	1	Samuel D. Bemis, provisions for J. Wight,	4 00
	1	W. B. Fitch, wood for Jonas Wight,	3 25
	1	Wright & Davis, cooking stove for Jonas Wight,	10 00
	27	John M. Barry, provisions for Leon Goseau,	5 00
Dec.	6	Samuel D. Bemis, expenses for J. Wight,	2 75
	7	John M. Barry, provisions for Leon Goseau,	2 55
Oct.	19	Mary Ann Yardly, board and clothing for Martha Cobb,	39 38

1878.

Jan.	25	D. K. Healey, adm., house rent for Jonas Wight,	24 00
	25	W. B. Fitch, wood for Jonas Wight,	6 50
Feb.	6	C. K. Towne, potatoes for Leon Goseau,	1 00
	9	Samuel D. Bemis, provisions for Jonas Wight,	9 00
	16	" " wood " "	6 00
	28	Winslow Royce, pauper account,	3 50
	28	William H. Jones, provisions for Mrs. C. Finney,	5 00
			<hr/>
			\$173 77

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

1877.			
Mar.	15	Fred Colony for stationery, etc.,	\$ 2 11
April	23	G. H. Tilden & Co., for blank books, etc.,	5 19
	23	Julius N. Morse, printing reports,	25 00
	23	Francis A. Faulkner, retaining fee,	6 00
	27	Wm. Armstrong, crackers for lockup,	1 12
May	15	Joel F. Mason, working non-resident highway tax,	1 25
	22	Merrill J. Russell, taking care of lockup,	6 70
July	21	Samuel D. Bemis, expenses to Brattleboro',	5 45
	30	Gilman G. Gilchrist, working non-resident highway tax,	5 74
Aug.	7	Dr. H. M. Smith, attendance Chas. Anderson,	1 50
	14	Timothy Blodgett, over assessment,	7 51
	15	John L. Ray, Brattleboro', damage to team,	50 00
	15	Expenses of Selectmen to Brattleboro',	9 45
Oct.	16	Chauncey Barker, working non-resident highway tax,	1 50
	17	John W. Coolidge, surveying Town Line,	3 00
	16	Frank Stratton, for removing pauper,	3 00
	16	Frank Stratton, coffin for Mrs. Philbrick,	14 00
	24	George F. Tufts for answering telegram County Solicitor,	3 25
	24	Dr. George B. Twitchell, attendance Eliza Jennings, Brattleboro',	20 00
	30	George W. Woods, working non-resident highway tax,	1 58
Nov.	8	Joseph Eaves, working non-resident highway tax,	7 00
	27	Samuel D. Bemis, expenses in the Brattleboro' case,	4 00
Dec.	7	Aaron Smith, Town Library,	250 00
	18	J. G. Lakin, working non-resident highway tax,	4 56
	18	Fred Colony, expenses for settling State and County tax,	2 00
	22	Winslow Royce, bounty on hawks and foxes,	5 60
	22	G. W. Mason, collecting taxes for 1875,	4 10
	27	Henry M. Smith for medical services,	4 00
1878.			
Jan.	2	G. F. Starkweather, Coroner, services and fees,	11 50

1877.		
May 15	John C. Barry, damage to sleigh,	3 00
1878.		
Feb. 20	Francis Stratton, labor on cemeteries,	22 07
20	Francis Stratton, affair Joseph Roebuck,	14 50
21	David M. Townsend, working non resident highway tax,	3 19
23	Samuel E. Tuttle, services in Roebuck case,	1 78
28	George F. Tufts, bounty paid, Darius Farwell, collecting abatement for taxes for 1876,	90 2 86
	Darius Farwell, non resident highway survey- ors' receipts,	8 96
	Darius Farwell, abatement of taxes for 1877,	14 57
	Samuel D. Bemis, postage and blanks,	1 60
	Wm. H. Jones, provisions for lockup,	28 43
	Wm. H. Jones, use of hall,	30 00
	Samuel E. Tuttle, care of station house,	12 80
	Samuel E. Tuttle, hand cuffs,	4 25
	Wellington Seaver, damage done to sheep by dogs,	7 00
		<u>\$622 02</u>

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TOWN OFFICERS.

1878.		
Feb. 28	Paid George F. Tufts, Selectman,	\$44 50
	Samuel D Bemis,            “	74 00
	Winslow Royce,           “	37 00
	Darius Farwell, Collector of taxes, 1876,	5 00
	“           “           “           “           1877,	55 00
	Charles C. P. Harris, services as Auditor,	2 00
	Aaron Smith, Superintendent of schools,	30 00
	Fred Colony, services as Town Clerk and Treasurer,	50 00
	Samuel D. Bemis, Overseer of poor,	16 00
	Francis Stratton, services as Sexton,	57 50
		<u>\$371 00</u>



## RECAPITULATION.

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To Cash received,	\$5,725 17	
Paid County tax,		\$ 743 48
State tax,		924 00
for Schools,		1028 55
Schoolhouse tax,		139 00
Notes and Interest,		406 61
Highways and bridges,		370 34
Breaking roads,		553 96
Support of poor.		173 77
Miscellaneous expenses,		622 02
Town Officers' services,		371 00
Cash on hand in treasury,		392 44
	\$5,725 17	\$5,725 17

Respectfully submitted,

FRED COLONY,

*Town Treasurer.*

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HARRISVILLE, Feb. 28, 1878.

This certifies that I have examined the above Town Treasurer's account, and find it to be correctly cast and properly vouched.

CHAS. C. P. HARRIS,

*Auditor.*

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY  
NATHANIEL BENTLEY

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY  
J. B. ALLEN, 100 NASSAU ST. N. Y.

1857.

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

---

In compliance with the laws of the State, the following report of the schools of the town of Harrisville the past year is respectfully submitted.

The amount of money raised by taxation in 1877 for the support of schools was \$850.00, to which is to be added the Literary fund received from the State, \$81.00, and the interest of land fund, \$42.53, and the amount of dog tax, making the total amount available for school purposes the past year, \$1028.55

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#### PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.

		Division of money.
No. 1.	Merrill J. Russell,	\$396 20
“ 2.	Charles J. Smith,	214 01
“ 3.	Corburn C. Farwell,	128 01
“ 4.	Winslow Royce,	110 11
“ 5.	Charles C. Farwell,	128 91
“ 6.	Dublin,	41 50
“ 3.	Nelson,	6 37
“ 5.	Nelson,	3 44

Dist. No. 1. The spring and fall terms of the primary school were taught by Mrs. M. A. Tolman. This school has been fortun-



nate in retaining the services of Mrs. Tolman for several terms. As was observed last year, this school is somewhat difficult to teach, but her general influence over her pupils was such as to gain their good will and respect, consequently there was a mutual good feeling between teacher and pupils which resulted in success. We were much pleased with Mrs. Tolman's mode of instruction, using the Kindergarten mode which was happily adapted to this school.

The spring term of the Grammar School was taught by Mr. Charles E. Mason of Marlborough. Considering the room occupied by this school, Mr. M. had fair success. It is extremely difficult to preserve good order in so unfit place, so prejudicial to the health and comfort of teacher and pupils, also difficult for a scholar to make that progress which they otherwise would if located in a more suitable and convenient school room.

The winter term of the Grammar School was taught by Miss Eva A. Gilman of Goshen, N. H., a veteran of thirty-four terms. She has labored with great energy of purpose which gave very favorable results. The closing examination was highly satisfactory, which in a degree must be attributed to the large experience and the good judgment of the teacher, and the industry of the pupils. We were especially pleased with the deportment of the scholars, and the progress made in reading and mathematics. Beautiful specimens of map drawing were displayed. The district done wisely in arranging the terms of school so that the Grammar School could occupy the school-house. In order that the district can reap the full benefit of their schools, they must provide suitable accommodations; this with experienced teachers can make this a first-class school.

DIST. No. 2. The spring term was taught by Miss Mary L. Newhall. Miss N. fully sustained her former well earned reputation for thoroughness of instruction and discipline. The examination at the close was highly creditable.

The summer term was commenced by Miss Newhall and started with the promise of a success, as shown at the first examination, but the school closed abruptly the middle of the fifth week, by the resignation of the teacher. The balance of the term was taught by Mr. Charles E. Mason. The result of the summer term was as good as could be expected considering the circumstances.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Arthur P. French, of Warwick, Mass. The success attending Mr. French's efforts were very gratifying. He labored with great industry and zeal and

produced good results. The examination gave satisfaction to all present. The correctness, interest, intelligence and judgment on the part of the teacher, and the prompt, distinct and accurate recitations gave ample evidence of fidelity on the part of the teacher and of industry on the part of the pupils.

DIST. No. 3. The spring and fall terms were taught by Miss M. I. Gilbert of Keene. This was her first attempt at teaching. There seemed to be a lack of *vim*, which is so desirable, but still, she seemed to have the respect and confidence of her scholars, and a fair improvement was made. The closing examinations were quite satisfactory. The classes in Grammar and Geography made good progress.

The winter term was taught by Miss Amanda A. Farwell. She brought to the discharge of her duties an untiring industry and fidelity, and the progress made was commendable. We were particularly pleased that the habit of indistinctness of speech had been banished by the judicious efforts of the teacher. The closing examination gave evidence of thorough instruction.

DIST. No. 4. Both terms of school were taught by Miss Hattie E. Wood. Miss Wood is very thorough and accurate in her instruction, and all the recitations at the closing examination gave good evidence of fidelity on her part, and of study on the part of the pupils. The examination was attended by many parents of the district, (which shows a deep interest,) and it would have done credit to any district. We apprehend that the secret of the success and the high standing of this school, is the interest and co-operation of the parents and others of the district.

DIST. No. 5. The spring term was taught by Miss Clara R. Heath. Miss H. is a careful, thorough and energetic teacher and the results of her instruction showed a marked improvement. The promptness and energy displayed by the teacher was gratifying. Particular mention should be made of the fine progress in written arithmetic.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Charles E. Mason of Marlborough. The school commenced under favorable auspices and bid fair to be successful. We were disappointed in not attending the closing examination, in consequence of misunderstanding the time, but have the assurance of members of the district that it was a profitable and successful school.

Annexed and forming a part of this report, will be found a tabular statement which shows a small increase in the number of weeks of schooling over the last year.

## TEXT BOOKS.

We became fully satisfied there was not that interest taken in the study of spelling which it demanded, and for the purpose of increasing that interest, we decided to make a change in spellars. The N. A. Spelling Book is an excellent work but has been long in use and has done a noble work. Upon examination of several series, we decided to introduce two of Swinton's word book series. We are fully satisfied the change has been beneficial.

## READING.

We can see a very marked improvement in reading. Some new modes of teaching this branch have been introduced, more attention has been given to the study, single readings given by the scholars, altogether has made the study more interesting. It might be suggested that the practice of reading by scholars or teacher, some article which would interest the whole school, might be a valuable exercise. There is something in the art of hearing correctly, as well as in reading correctly. No doubt this exercise is practiced in many families to a good advantage, in reading books from the Public Library. We present in brief the ideas of a prominent educator, who says "in fixing his attention, in leading to exactness of apprehension, in power of bringing the pupils mind into a flexible adaptability to the thought presented to it, there is no exercise that will take the place of reading aloud. A person cannot read anything aloud well, with proper inflection and emphasis, without thoroughly understanding it. It is among the very best of educational disciplines."

## PENMANSHIP.

This branch of study is not pursued to that extent which its importance demands. In fact it is not pursued in any manner, or with any sort of system which can result in success. In our view it can be practiced by pupils of almost every age with profit. The great difficulty is the multiplicity of copy books. Some pupils are furnished with note paper, stitched, some with blank copy books, large scholars with primary numbers of the Spencerian system, and small scholars with the higher grade, etc. etc. With this *melange* there can be no interest neither with teacher or pupil. The number of those who have attended to penmanship the past winter as returned to me is 88, which is 53 per cent. of the scholars attending school. This state of things should not be, and we



know of no better way than that the S. S. Committee make a careful examination of the several systems of copy books, and make a selection, and throw out all copy books now in use, and introduce such system as meets their approbation. There are systems which commence with tracing books, which may be used with pen or pencil; thence as the pupil advances, take the different grades of the copy books. By this method there will be uniformity and every pupil can be a fair penman. We are satisfied that penmanship as now practiced in our schools, is practically failure.

#### DRAWING.

We wish there might be more attention paid to drawing, especially to the drawing of maps. As remarked before, beautiful specimens were shown in the No. 1 Grammar School, winter term. It takes the place of outline maps and is more useful, as it gives the pupil who draws, a better idea of the locality of places, and fixes in his mind the description more fully. The drawing of geometrical figures is a great assistance in working out problems, related to lines and angles in mathematics, and should be practiced.

In closing this report we would say, let us unite to keep up the standing of our common schools, for on these rest the foundations of our institutions of liberty and self government. We desire to extend our thanks to the several Prudential Committee, the teachers and pupils for their uniform kindness and courtesy during the past year.

AARON SMITH,

Superintending School Committee.

Harrisville, March 1, 1878.

## TABLE.

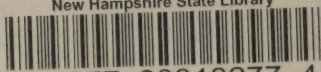
Districts.	Terms.	Length of School in weeks.	Teachers.	Number of Scholars attending 2 weeks.	Percentage of Attendance.	Number not absent.	Number of Tardy Marks.	No. in Arithmetic.	Algebra.	Grammar.	Geography.	History.	Book Keeping.	Composition.	Pennmanship.	Map Drawing.	Wages of Teacher per month.
1 Prim'y.	Summer.	9	Mrs. H. A. Tolman,	47	91	15	62	17		5	7		3		8		\$30 00
1 Gram.	Summer.	8.5	Mr. C. E. Mason,	28	93	5	16	28		11	24		3		13		32 00
1 Prim'y.	Winter.	12	Mrs. H. A. Tolman,	52	85	9	76	18		33			5		14		34 00
1 Gram.	Winter.	12	Miss E. A. Gilman,	42	83	17	85	42		10	33		2		33		32 00
2	Spring.	7	Miss M. L. Newhall,	28	95	11	14	22	2	13			2				
2	Fall.		"			No		port.									
2	Winter.	4	Mr. C. E. Mason,	28	94	8	1	23	1	6	13		2				32 00
2	Winter.	10	Mr. A. P. French,	33	89	9	50	29	1	9	16	3	8		19		42 00
3	Spring.	9	Miss M. I. Gilbert,	11	83	2	25	8	2	5	5		2		6		22 00
3	Fall.	7	"	12	92	3	23	8		2	5		5		5		22 00
3	Winter.	12	Miss A. A. Farwell,	12	83	1	9	9	1	3	6		4		11		26 00
4	Summer.	9	Miss H. E. Wood,	9	97	4	3	5	1	1	4	1	1		5		20 00
4	Winter.	11	"	10	97	6	7	7	1	3	4	1	1		5		24 00
5	Summer.	9	Miss Clara R. Heath,	18	83	7	9	11	1	4	6		2		13		37 00
5	Winter.	10	Mr. C. E. Mason,	16	84	5	19	13		4	6		2		5		32 00
		129.5		336	Av. 83.102	309	244	8	61	142	4	23	26	138	8		







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