

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Auditors,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 1869.

LOWELL:

STONE & HUSE, PRINTERS, VOX POPULI OFFICE, 21 CENTRAL STREET.

1869

REPORT.

AGREEABLE to a vote of the Town of Pelham, passed March, 1866, the undersigned Selectmen of said town respectfully submit the following report :

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Daniel Marshall, 35 days' services as selectman during the year ending March, 1868, at \$2,.....	\$70 00	
For cash paid for books, stationery, stamps, &c.,	8 84	
Use of horse during the year,.....	12 00	
Writing orders, receipts, &c.,.....	10 00	
		\$100 84
Warren Sherburn, 3 days' services as selectman during the year, ending March, 1868, at \$2,.....	6 00	
		6 00
William G. Butler, 15 days' services as selectman during the year, ending March, 1868, at \$2,.....	30 00	
Use of horse during the year,.....	5 00	
		35 00
Joshua Atwood, services as Town Clerk, during the year, ending March, 1868,..	30 00	
		30 00
Jesse Gibson, services as Town Treasurer during the year, ending March, 1868,..	30 00	
		30 00
Augustus Berry, services as Superintending School Committee during the year, ending March, 1868,.....	30 75	
		30 75
Nathan Gage, services as Collector of Taxes for the year, ending March, 1868,.....	96 00	
		96 00

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid W. W. Herbert, for breaking roads during the winter of 1867 and 1868,.....	\$ 5 45	
William H. Allen, breaking roads, 1868,...	3 15	
Davis Butler, " " 1868,...	10 20	
Norris Emerson, " " 1868,...	6 30	
S. D. Fox, " " 1868,...	7 65	
Moses Runnels, half of bridge stringer,....	3 00	
" " 504 feet bridge plank,	10 08	
Thaddeus Hardy, breaking snow paths, to March, 1868,.....	21 90	
Moses Runnels, three bridge railings and labor,.....	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$70 73

TOWN HOUSE.

Amount received during the year, ending March 1, 1869,	43 00
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EXPENSES.

Paid John Seavey, opening hall five times,.....	\$1 50	
" " clearing hall three times,...	6 50	
" " labor on blinds and glass, &c.,	1 00	
John Woodbury, opening hall six times,...	1 50	
" " 14 gallons kerosene,.....	7 86	
" " 9 lamp chimneys,.....	1 04	
" " " wicks,.....	0 37	
" " 1 broom,.....	0 42	
" " 3 lights, glass and putty,..	0 42	
" " cleaning hall,.....	2 00	
" " 2 feet wood,.....	0 75	
	<hr/>	23 36
Total income,.....		\$19 64

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Calvin A. Keyes, Poll Tax, for 1867,.....	\$ 3 66	
W. J. Bright, " " "	3 66	
G. D. Butler, " " "	3 66	
M. J. Coburn, " " "	3 66	
J. S. Everett, " " "	3 66	
J. C. Herbert, " " "	3 66	
J. E. McCoy, " " "	3 66	
Charles Wilson, " " "	3 66	
J. G. Knight, " " "	3 66	
G. B. Steele, " " "	3 66	
Non-resident Highway Tax paid in labor, 1867,.	47 11	
Mrs. Gilbert Coburn, Dog Tax, 1867,.....	1 00	
Daniel P. Corliss, a part of Tax, 1867,.....	1 07	
Orten Moore, part of " " 1868,.....	6 40	
Samuel K. Gage, Poll Tax, for 1868,.....	2 40	
	<hr/>	\$94 58

SCHOOL MONEY.

District No. 1—			
	Town appropriation for 1867-8,	\$234 62	
	Dog Fund, 1868,	32 50	
	Literary Fund, 1867-8,	18 01	
		<hr/>	\$280 13
No. 2—Town appropriation for 1867-8, . . .		286 28	
	Dog Fund for 1867-8,	32 50	
	Literary Fund "	13 11	
		<hr/>	331 89
No. 3—Town appropriation for 1866-7, . . .		148 20	
	Dog Fund for 1868,	32 50	
	Literary Fund "	6 17	
		<hr/>	186 87
No. 4—Town appropriation for 1867-8, . . .		189 76	
	Dog Fund for 1868,	32 50	
	Literary Fund "	7 40	
		<hr/>	229 66
No. 5—Town appropriation for 1867-8, . . .		142 47	
	Dog Fund for 1868,	32 50	
	Literary Fund "	3 15	
		<hr/>	178 12
No. 6—Town appropriation for 1868,		77 84	
	Dog Fund for 1868,	32 50	
	Literary Fund "	2 30	
		<hr/>	112 64
School money due Districts No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5,			619 65

TOWN PAUPERS.

Paid W. G. Searles, for board and clothing of Oliva Searles, ending November 2nd, 1868, at \$2,		\$78 00	
County of Hillsborough, for board of Salome Keyes, ending September 1st, 1868, at \$2.25,		78 43	
		<hr/>	156 43
County of Hillsborough, for board of S. P. White, ending March 23rd, 1868, at \$2.00 per week,		20 00	
J. A. Foster for board of S. P. White,		1 50	
for clothing of S. P. White,		15 75	
John Woodbury, for goods and groceries for same,		4 54	
		<hr/>	41 79
T. F. Goodspeed, for the board of Hans- comb Goodspeed, ending October, 24, 1868, at \$1.75 per week,		89 25	
John Woodbury, for flannel for same,		3 20	
		<hr/>	92 45

Paid Reuben P. Smith, for the board of Rachael McCoy, ending May 9th, 1868, at \$3.00 per week,	\$30 00	
A. Goodwin, ending March 1st, 1869, at \$2.00 per week,	84 00	
	<hr/>	\$114 00
H. W. Humphrey, for the board of Mary Knight, ending March 30th, 1868, at \$1.50 per week,	7 50	
John Harwood, for the board of Mary Knight, ending October 12th, 1868, at \$1.50 per week,	42 00	
Clothing for same during said time,	8 00	
	<hr/>	57 50
F. Farrell, for sawing wood for Anna Beard during the winter of 1867,		3 00
A. D. Greeley, for labor on A. Beard's land,	5 00	
G. B. Currier, for 10½ cords of wood delivered Anna Beard,	49 49	
T. Thompson for sawing the same,	15 37	
	<hr/>	69 86
for relief of A. Champaugh,		5 00
John Woodbury, for goods furnished O. C. Libby, as follows.		
July 22, 1868, ½ barrel of flour,	6 50	
“ “ 10 lbs. Cod Fish,	0 80	
“ “ 5 lbs. sugar,	0 70	
“ “ 1 lb. Oolong tea,	1 00	
“ “ 1 lb. soda,	0 12	
“ “ ¼ lb. ginger,	0 13	
“ “ 1 gallon molasses,	0 75	
“ “ 5½ lbs. lard,	1 19	
Nov. 9, “ 4 ³ / ₈ lbs. “	1 00	
“ 12, “ 2½ lbs. pork,	0 43	
“ “ “ 7 lbs. flour,	0 50	
“ 14, “ 1 lb. tea,	1 00	
“ 16, “ 14½ lbs. sugar,	1 07	
“ “ “ ½ barrel flour,	5 75	
“ “ “ 10½ lbs. pork,	2 11	
“ “ “ 2 quarts molasses,	0 38	
	<hr/>	23 43
W. Sherburn, for hay furnished Margaret Kent, February, 1868,	4 00	
G. B. Currier, for labor on Mrs. Kent's farm,	4 00	
G. B. Currier, for meal for same,	5 56	
Jona. Atwood, for wood for same,	3 00	
John Woodbury, for 3 ¹ / ₃ barrels flour,	46 00	
“ “ 8 gallons molasses,	5 75	
“ “ 2 pairs boots,	7 75	

Paid Charles Kent, for 44½ lbs. pork,	\$ 8 80	
“ “ 12 lbs. lard,	2 64	
“ “ 1 ton hay,	13 00	
Asa Kent, for cutting three cords of wood for same,	3 00	
Joshua Atwood, Jr., for 90½ lbs. meat,	15 41	
	<hr/>	118 91
John Woodbury, for goods and merchandise delivered M. Dolan, March 1868,		5 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid J. C. Whitehouse, for repair of plow,	8 00	
Moses Runnels, for building hearse house, ..	125 00	
C. Carlton's estate, for teaming stone for hearse house,	2 00	
E. Burt, for labor setting stone,	2 00	
J. Woodbury, “ “	2 00	
J. Woodbury, painting hearse house,	4 00	
W. A. Couilliard, for iron fastenings,	0 60	
	<hr/>	143 60
C. B. Coburn & Co., July 8th, 1868, for oil and lead used on town and hearse houses,	110 88	
C. Hayward, for painting on town house, ..	64 75	
O. Burt, for painting on town house,	28 50	
M. C. Pratt, for repairing blinds,	6 00	
J. Woodbury, for services on town house, ..	10 00	
	<hr/>	220 13
Stone & Huse, for printing town reports. February, 1868,		33 75
Interest on sundry notes held against said town,		<hr/> \$1070 15

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Amount of notes due from said town, March 1, 1869, ...	\$20,570 00
Interest due on same, about,	800 00
Tax due the town from Derry Bank for the years 1867-8,	46 88

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED

State tax for 1868,	\$2,862 50	
County “ “	978 20	
Town “ “	2,934 60	
School “ “	1,145 00	
Dog “ “	47 00	
	<hr/>	7,967 30

DANIEL MARSHALL, }
JOHN WOODBURY, } Selectmen
GRANVILLE B. CURRIER. } of
Pelham.

February 27th, 1869.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

He charges himself, as follows:

March 10th, 1868,—Cash in hands of Treasurer,.....	\$403 05
April, " Outstanding taxes for 1867,.....	860 00
May 19th, 1868,—Received of Agent of Town Hall for the past year,.....	30 50
Received for three lots in burying ground,.....	2 25
Sept. 26th,—Received of the Selectmen the legacy be- queathed by Gen. S. M. Richardson to said town,.....	500 00
" " Received of the Selectmen, the Nashua Bank Tax amounting to.....	32 00
" " Received of the Selectmen from the County of Hillsborough,.....	21 70
Feb. 26, 1869,—Received of the State Treasurer, Savings Bank dividend,.....	234 62
Received of the same Rail Road tax,....	189 17
" " " U. S. bounties,....	240 00
" of the Selectmen for use of Town Hall the last year,.....	48 00
Received of the Collector for 1868,.....	3,033 00
	\$5,589 29

The Treasurer discharges himself, as follows:

February 27, 1869,—For cash paid on sundry orders drawn by the Selectmen the past year, in favor of sundry persons amount- ing to.....	3,822 50
Leaving a balance of cash in the treasury of.....	\$1,766 78
Outstanding taxes now remaining in the hands of Collector,.....	\$1,097 44

DOG FUND.

March 10, 1868,—Unappropriated in the treasury,	\$195 00	
Paid sundry orders in favor of the several Prudential Com- mittees,	195 00	
	<hr/>	
February 27, 1869,—Cash in treasury,		\$47 00

LITERARY FUND.

February 29, 1868,—Cash in treasury,		47 66
" 26, 1869,—Received from the State Treasurer, ..		37 62
		<hr/>
		\$85 28
Credit claimed, as follows:		
To sundry drafts of Selectmen drawn in favor of Pruden- tial S. Committees,		45 14
		<hr/>
Balance in treasury unappropriated,		\$40 14

The undersigned Auditors of the town of Pelham have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the past financial year, and find them properly kept, correctly cast and vouched.

ABEL GAGE, MARK H. WEBSTER, NATHAN GAGE,	} Auditors.
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Pelham, February 27th, 1869.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM,

For the Year ending March 9th, 1869.

THE Superintendent is happy in reporting the success of the schools the past year. This has been relative, varying with the education, the experience and the diverse elements in the characters of Teachers. All have done well; none have been below the average merit of common schools in New England, while some, in all the elements of successful teaching, would challenge a comparison with schools anywhere. Before noticing individual schools, the Superintendent would offer a few general remarks.

TEACHERS.

Teaching is an art, a profession, and experience is as important in this as in any art or profession. The artist becomes more skilful the longer he practices his art; the professional man becomes wiser as he grows older; so will the true teacher become better by experience.

The true teacher must have the power of awakening thought, kindling enthusiasm, and making scholars learn. Many who impart instruction well, utterly fail in this. The recitations are lifeless, the studious learn, but the dull and idle ones make no progress.

In a live school, the teacher is ever inventing something out of the common routine, that will take the attention of the idle, arouse the stupid, and freshen the interest of the studious. Such as exercises in Geography upon out-line maps, or if the school has no maps, in drawing some; the little ones employed in writing or drawing upon the slate, paper, or the black-board; while the more diligent collect practical questions that challenge the research of their mates in finding an answer. Teachers often think they have no time for such exercises, but they really make time.

A teacher needs to comprehend something of the philosophy of mind in selecting studies and assigning tasks to different ages and grades of mind.

STUDIES.

Our schools suffer from an imperfect classification. The parent should feel that what the child studies is not of so much importance as how he is classed.

Writing is a branch that needs a word of remark. In a few of our schools there is an interest in this, and the improvement is very gratifying, while in others it is greatly neglected,—children manifest a disinclination to attend to it.

Reading is an exercise that is often conducted to but little advantage, but in some of the schools the past year it has been finely taught.

DICTIONARIES.

All the schools need to be refurnished with Webster unabridged, and besides, scholars are sadly in need of the Academic edition. I do not know of a single instance of a scholar that has a dictionary. Every scholar in school, advanced so as to look up a definition, should have a dictionary of his own. This is his most important text book. It should be understood that some old edition does not meet the wants of this day. Let parents furnish their children with a dictionary at once.

SUPERVISION.

Schools need a thorough supervision. Merely a visit at the commencement and close, does not do this. Many things escape the observation of the best teacher. There are points about which the teacher desires advice. There are suggestions that can be made by the superintendent. Some screw is getting loose, or some rope slack, and a timely word from him may set it right. A proper supervision demands a visit from the superintendent so frequently, and so much time, as will enable him to know fully what the school is doing.

TEACHERS RETAINED.

It is very important to retain the services of a faithful teacher in the same school. Aside from the fact that a change is an experiment, there is the time that a teacher must spend in forming the acquaintance of a new school. Every teacher has methods of his own: he never can adjust these to those of his predecessor. There is much in the whole work of the school that must be commenced anew, when the former teacher could have gone on where he left it.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Books are the implements of education. It is of the first importance in this particular to have our schools furnished up with the times. A change of geographies is now a necessity. Two of the schools have been furnished the past year with Warrin's charts of political geography. No. 2 needs a new set of out-line maps,—the ones that it has were good in their day, but that has passed, and it is to be hoped that this public-spirited district will be satisfied with nothing short of the thorough repair of their house.

REPORT OF SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT No. 1. Augustus Berry, Prudential Committee.

This school has been favored with rare instruction the past year. There is a mistake in supposing that ripe experience and varied culture are not needful even in a school of little children. Miss Richardson seeks to find the measure of her scholars, and has a plan of what she wishes to do for each. A peculiarity of her teaching is the uniform attention she gives all branches and classes, and the interest she awakens in each. She is ever inventing something to interest her scholars and employ their time. In this way the school was taught writing. The little ones were employed in copying their spellings on the slate, paper or black-board. The older ones in writing their exercises in grammar or questions to be proposed in the class. Spelling, beside the regular lesson, was taught in connection with the reading. The reading lessons were spelt. The thought of the pupil, in all his studies, was taken beyond the text book. The mind was thus expanded and the principle received a practical application. The labor was not to transfer the text book to the mind of the pupil, but to bring out the powers of the mind. Instruction in every branch was thorough. *Reading, spelling, and writing,* were taught in a most emphatic sense. In the Summer term botany was taught to a class of young ladies with the teacher's passionate love of flowers and thorough acquaintance with the science. This class, under the teacher's direction, executed a series of botanical drawings. In the Winter term there was a good class in surveying. The Winter term was full with a live interest. In the eighth week the teacher was prostrated by acute sickness and the school was suspended two and a half weeks. Before it was even prudent, the teacher resumed her duties and taught three weeks. Two or three of the older boys, having become engaged in other duties, did not return. The school did not lose its interest by the suspension.

The examinations at the close of each term were thorough and finished. The classes not merely recited well but showed that they could reason and think. They had clear ideas and expressed them with definiteness. The class in algebra, of three young ladies that have been together the three past terms, was a model in many senses. There are several scholars whose propriety of deportment and fine scholarship I should like to notice. Of these I would name Bennie Batchelder and Charley Stickney. The recitations of the little ones were full of interest. Each term there was a class of little ones taught geography orally that recited finely. All the classes in geography were familiar with the outline maps. A class in Warrin's geography in the winter term was well drilled in the scientific facts of geography. The life and interest of the entire school was noticeable. A result of this teacher's labors has been the discovery of mental gems and the setting free of angel powers. Her devoted labors have a value that can be measured only by the enduring nature of mind, the worth and possibilities of character.

DISTRICT No. 2. Alonzo D. Greeley, Prudential Committee.

This school has had three terms, taught by Miss Jenny R. Stickney, of Dracut, Mass. Miss Stickney is a young lady every way worthy of commendation. She teaches well, and has a salutary influence upon her schools. The superintendent has always observed her to be self-possessed, and never to use a word or expression that he would not have children imitate; and he has felt that if she brought nothing more to the school-room than her decided principles and christian spirit, she would be very useful there.

In the first and second terms, Miss Stickney labored under great disadvantages. In the first term there was so much sickness as to nearly close the school, and rendered an examination impracticable. The second term was brief, and suffered from absences and a very difficult classification. There were, however, pleasant features in the examination: one was the admirable manner in which some of the little ones recited select pieces.

In the Winter term, though the school was large and hard, the teacher was able to secure such a classification as to make her labors tell. Of the classes that we would especially notice, were those in geography, that showed labor on the part of the teacher and many of the scholars. The classes in arithmetic had been well drilled. The first class that had completed Eaton's and reviewed it, deserve especial commendation. The classes in grammar had been well instructed. The one in analysis did finely.

The singing, which the teacher is so competent to conduct, was an interesting feature in this school. There are many lovely children in the school—children of native refinement, dutiful hearts and becoming deportment. In the first class, to which might be added several from the lower classes, are attractive and interesting young persons. May no blight come upon the promise that they now give! The teacher won largely upon the affection of her scholars, and the beauty of the closing exercises of the examination was the presentation to her of a writing desk, as a testimonial of her fidelity to them and their affection for her.

DISTRICT No. 3. William McNamara, Prudential Committee.

This school had one term in the Spring and another in the Autumn, each taught by Miss Hattie A. Chase, of this town. The school was fortunate in every particular. In the prudential committee, who was a model in the discharge of his duties; in the seasons of the year that the school was taught, and the punctual attendance of the scholars; and in a teacher of such experience, efficiency and skill. In past years Miss Chase has rendered valuable service in the schools of the town; but she is always improving, and she brought home the acquisitions of the year's absence from us. She found the school in a very crude state, backward and without habits of study; but she soon reduced it to order, secured attention to study, and caused beauty to shine in her school-room. She labored hard, the long days of her terms, in giving her scholars a thorough drill in their studies, equally, from the largest to the smallest, the oldest to the youngest; and she rendered a most invaluable service to this school. Miss Chase is a live teacher: she makes her scholars work, and permits them to advance only as this is thorough. The school, though different from many that Miss Chase has taught so successfully, had many features of especial interest, and she must ever have pleasant memories of her labors here. At her suggestion, a set of Warrin's charts of political geography were procured for the school, which she rendered useful in interesting her classes, and even the entire school, in the subject of geography. At each of the examinations the pupils recited with scarcely an inaccuracy; and they were numerously attended, though the last occurred on a very stormy day. Where an entire school did so well, it is difficult to individualize. Writing received attention in this school; so did reading and spelling. All the classes had thoroughly learned the lessons they had read. The first class deserve a remark for the attention they had given the rules, and

the modulation of the voice in reading. The spelling lessons had been most thoroughly committed. The progress of the smaller members of the school was remarkable. We think all were impressed with this in the case of Charlie Butler and Newell Herbert. The classes in arithmetic, both mental and written, had been accurately taught and recited well. A class in algebra recited finely through quadratics, and there was a good class in physical geography. It was a matter of especial commendation to the teacher, that, while not a singer, she should have secured so much practice in her little ones that they should have sung two pieces at the examination so much to the gratification of all.

DISTRICT No. 4. Thomas Worcester, Prudential Committee.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Mary E. Rogers, of Oldtown, Me., a graduate of the Framingham Normal School. Miss Rogers had many good ideas about teaching. Perhaps she did not understand adapting herself altogether to her patrons, and failed in making an intense impression upon her school. Still, the superintendent believes that she did a good work for the school. The examination was hardly a fair exhibition of what the school had done. Some of the classes showed plainly good instruction; such was the case with the classes in Colburn's arithmetic, the classes in geography, and some of the smaller classes in reading and spelling. The register was very neatly kept and accurately filled. By the public spirit and energy of Mr. Worcester, the school was furnished with Warren's charts of political geography.

The Winter term was taught by Rev. N. C. Lothrop, of this town. Mr. Lothrop entered into his duties with all his heart,—gave them all his strength, and rendered the school valuable service. It was not strange that he won not merely the respect but love of his pupils, when his spirit was so uniformly in subjection to the highest principle, his heart so full of love to his pupils, and his time so constantly employed in cheerful labor for them. This is a large and interesting school; there are many very bright scholars, and there has always been some quite advanced; but the school as a whole has lacked life, but Mr. Lothrop succeeded in infusing much life into it. And there are schools that a teacher performs a great and an invaluable work in, if, in a terms' labors, he creates life in them. The superintendent never has seen this school so thoroughly alive as it has been this winter. Mr. Lothrop was quite successful in expedients to stimulate his pupils and call out a spirit of emulation. The examina-

tion showed that the teacher had clear ideas of the subjects taught, and there were several exercises deserving of especial commendation. The small classes in reading and spelling did well; and though they made some mistakes, they were wide awake. The classes in geography had been well drilled on the charts. The classes in arithmetic showed that the teacher had labored to familiarise them with principles. Grammar was taught well. A pleasant part of the exercises was singing, in which both teacher and pupils engaged with heart and soul. A delightful impression that the school made, was that good influences had been about it the past term, and the expression of frankness and self-respect seemed to be on every countenance.

An interesting select school was taught in this district by Miss Ella L. Jackman, during the Autumn.

DISTRICT No. 5. A. R. Hobbs, Prudential Committee.

This interesting little school has been instructed the past year by Miss Alice A. Woodbury, of this town. Miss Woodbury is a young lady of intrinsic worth. Her refined and gentle presence has its salutary influence upon her pupils. She enters fully into the sympathies of children: appreciates their trials and difficulties, and has a kind and encouraging word for them. She is accurate in her scholarship; and imparts instruction with simplicity and clearness. She labored with all fidelity during the year. In the winter term she was able to perfect what she commenced in the summer. The examination, void of every semblance of display, was highly satisfactory. The scholars were remarkably self-possessed and gave but few random answers. They seemed to know what they were about. There was not a class that did not recite well, and several that recited with scarcely a mistake. The classes in Colburn's arithmetic were prompt, and gave the process of reasoning methodically and clearly. The recitation of Allen Lewis especially attracted the attention of the committee. There was no listlessness in the recitations. Every mind seemed to be active and every one trying to do well; and the tear that started in the eye of some of the little ones as they failed to call up some answers that they had laid up in memory, showed how anxious they were to do well. The reading and spelling was good; several of the smaller ones deserved particular commendation. The lessons in geography had been remarkably well committed. A number of texts of scripture were recited with accuracy and distinctness by nearly every member of the school. It was obvious that the scholars were interested in their school. The register showed that Lizzie and Ellen

Carr, and Orlando Wilson, had neither been tardy or absent during the term.

This is the only school in town destitute of wall maps. In the summer term the scholars made a very persevering effort to collect money to purchase some. The superintendent thinks that if their importance could be understood, that there are several gentlemen of means and public spirit in the district, who would esteem it a privilege to present the school with a set.

DISTRICT No. 6. Jonas Keyes, Prudential Committee.

This pretty little school, on the other side of the mountain, was taught in the Summer by Miss Sarah E. Fox, of this town. The term was short, and the number of scholars five. Miss Fox was not idle, and did a good work for these few little ones.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Susan M. Smith, of this town. This was a successful term of school. This district has with reason a partiality for Miss Smith. The number of scholars was such as to make the school interesting. There has been a great change in this school within a year or two, and there is above the ordinary amount of mind for the number of scholars. Miss Smith labored faithfully, and the school showed her good instruction. The writing books showed that this branch had received attention. A class in history and astronomy that recited by topics, was worthy of commendation. The classes in geography did well on the outline maps. The spelling was very good: the smaller classes had memorized their words, three hundred in number. Miss Smith secured the respect and affection of her pupils, maintained excellent order, and evinced her tact and ability as a teacher.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The blessing of our common schools, offering as they do the facilities of education to the poorest as well as the most favored of community, cannot be measured. And it is a sad fact that the community is so unmindful of this, as mankind ever are of their richest but most common blessings. The citizens of this town may be justly proud of their schools and their teachers, but their interest in them should be more active. School houses should be repaired, beautified and furnished with all the modern implements of education. Our valuable young teachers need advantages abroad, and no opportunity of attending educational gatherings should be missed by them.

The superintendent, in the discharge of his duties, has in nothing approached his ideal of a superintendent; nor has he accomplished for the schools what he hoped to show when the year began. His labor in them has been one of love. If in any respect he has helped the teachers or benefitted the schools, his satisfaction is great.

STATISTICS.

DISTRICT NO. 1. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$25.00; whole number of scholars, 30; average, 26. Length of Winter Term, 10½ weeks; wages of Teacher, \$40.00; whole number of scholars, 40; average, 34.

DISTRICT NO. 2. Length of first Term, 10 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 31; average, 23. Length of second Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 41; average, 34. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$36.00; whole number of scholars, 40; average, 34.

DISTRICT NO. 3. Length of first Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$24.00; whole number of scholars, 30; average, 24. Length of second Term, 13 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$30.00; whole number of scholars, 33; average, 30.

DISTRICT NO. 4. Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 40; average, 34. Length of Winter Term, 13 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$40.00; whole number of scholars, 40; average, 35.

DISTRICT NO. 5. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$20.00; whole number of scholars, 20; average, 15. Length of Winter Term, 13 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$30.00; whole number of scholars, 22; average, 17.

DISTRICT NO. 6. Length of Summer Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$16.00; whole number of scholars, 5; average, 4. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 14; average, 13.

REMARK. The wages of the Teacher is per month and includes board.

AUGUSTUS BERRY,

Superintending School Committee.

PELHAM, March 9, 1869.