

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

LOWELL, MASS.:

STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK PRINTERS, No. 150 CENTRAL STREET.

1878.

REPORT.

The Selectmen of Pelham respectfully submit the following report:—

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid William G. Butler, bill for services as selectman, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	\$53	00
Luther C. Richardson, bill for services as selectman, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	40	00
Charles W. Hobbs, bill for services as selectman, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	40	00
John Woodbury, bill for services as town treasurer, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	40	00
Amos Bachelder, bill for services as town clerk, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	30	00
Augustus Berry, bill for services as superintending school committee, for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	40	00
George H. Currier, bill for services as collector of taxes, for the year 1876.....	75	00
	\$318	00

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Paid N. H. Asylum for the Insane, for board and other expenses of Abbie W. Bean	\$84	92
Hillsboro' County Farm, for board of same, from June 12, 1877, to January 1, 1878, 29 weeks, at \$3.00.....	87	00
L. C. Richardson, expenses, removing the same from Asylum to County Farm.	4	50
John Woodbury, bill for goods furnished Woodward family, county paupers.	31	91
Dr. Amos Bachelder, for medical attendance on same.....	11	00
Mrs. Thomas Gage, for milk for same...	1	40
D. N. Atwood, for meat furnished same.	2	44
L. C. Richardson, for provisions and aid furnished the same.....	17	97
C. W. Hobbs, for aid furnished Charles Whitefield		*64 72
		*10 00
<i>Amount carried forward.....</i>	\$251	14

*This amount has been repaid by the County of Hillsboro'.

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$251 14
Paid John Woodbury, for goods furnished Hardy Smith.....	\$ 5 66	
L. C. Richardson, for wood and provisions furnished same.....	4 35	*10 01
John Woodbury, for goods furnished Orendal Burt, county pauper.....	23 32	
Eben Burt, provisions for same.....	3 50	
L. C. Richardson, wood for same.....	7 00	33 82
L. C. Richardson, for board and lodging tramps, for the year ending March 1, 1878	41 00	
E. C. Gage, for the same.....	8 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for the same.....	8 00	57 00
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		\$351 97

HIGHWAYS.

Paid G. S. Butler, for labor on highway in District No. 3		\$43 77
A. S. Smith, for gravel used on highway during the year 1877		5 00
John Carr, labor on highway.....		6 19
Nelson Webster, labor on highway in March, 1876..		5 00
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		\$59 96

SNOW BILLS.

Paid Nelson Webster, for breaking snow paths in April, 1876.....		\$5 00
J. Cluff, for breaking snow paths in the winter of 1876-7.....		9 30
G. W. Hamm, for breaking snow paths in the winter of 1876-7.....		2 10
Jesse Wilson, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		7 12
G. B. Carrier, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		1 86
W. A. Giles, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		3 00
Geo. S. Butler, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		5 82
Abner Kittredge, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		6 15
Milton Titcomb, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		5 35
Daniel Marshall, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		3 68
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		\$49 88

*This is due from the town of Hudson.

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of town appropriation for 1876.....	\$121 32	
Part of town appropriation for 1877.....	105 88	
Literary fund.....	16 80	
	<hr/>	\$244 00
Paid District No. 2, balance of town appropriation for 1876.....	\$185 01	
Part of town appropriation for 1877.....	106 14	
Literary fund.....	18 60	
	<hr/>	309 75
Paid District No. 3, balance of town appropriation for 1875.....	\$ 27 85	
Town appropriation for 1876.....	263 09	
Part of town appropriation for 1877.....	34 71	
Literary fund.....	10 80	
	<hr/>	336 45
Paid District No. 4, balance of town appropriation for 1876.....	\$175 78	
Part of town appropriation for 1877.....	94 20	
Literary fund.....	13 80	
	<hr/>	283 78
Paid District No. 5, balance of town appropriation for 1875.....	\$ 18 72	
Town appropriation for 1876.....	263 09	
Part of town appropriation for 1877.....	72 04	
Literary fund.....	14 40	
	<hr/>	*368 25
Paid Dist. No. 6, town appropriation for 1877	\$89 87	
Literary fund.....	2 10	
	<hr/>	91 97
Total.....		<hr/> <u>\$1,634 20</u>
Balance due School District No. 1.....		\$142 84
2.....		142 58
3.....		†214 01
4.....		154 52
5.....		176 68
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Total.....		\$830 63

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for the use of town house for the year ending March 1, 1878.....		\$56 50
Paid C. W. Hobbs, for care of town hall.....	\$15 75	
“ “ articles furnished town hall.....	12 91	
John Woodbury, goods “ “ “.....	7 75	36 41
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Net income.....		\$20 09

* \$102.75 of this amount was expended in the winter of 1876-7.

† The amount due this district last year was \$290.94 instead of \$390.94, as reported.

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Non-resident highway tax paid in labor for the year 1877	\$94 43
David O. Black, for watering trough.....	3 00
L. H. Grosvenor, tax of 1875.....	3 91
Samuel Rollins, " ".....	1 20
B. B. Titcomb, " ".....	1 28
Asa W. Kent, " ".....	1 20
George R. Davis, tax of 1876.....	78
Charles Lezott, " ".....	78
Geo. R. Newton, " ".....	78
Geo. L. Webster, " ".....	78
Chas. E. Emerson, " ".....	78
W. A. Underwood, " ".....	78
Thos. Mosseau, " ".....	78
John J. Hunt, " ".....	78
Henry Richardson, " ".....	83
W. W. Perkins, " ".....	3 13
S. Rollins, " ".....	78
Geo. K. Ranlett, " ".....	78
Orton Moore, part of tax of 1877.....	6 00

 \$122 78

BOUNTY ON FOXES.

Paid Henry Lewis, bounty on five foxes.....	\$2 50
L. J. Lewis, bounty on one fox.....	50

 \$3 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid D. M. Gould, for $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood furnished town house in 1876.....	\$ 1 75
Daniel Coburn, for work done in east graveyard....	1 50
Tobias Foss, for insurance assessment on Libby House	1 04
John Richardson, for digging and filling grave for Ezra D. Boober, in 1875.....	4 00
John Woodbury, for agency of town house for the year ending March 13, 1877.....	5 00
Stone, Huse & Co., for printing town reports for the year ending March 1, 1877.....	24 50
John Woodbury, for driving hearse for the year end- ing March 1, 1878.....	37 50
John Woodbury, dinners for selectmen and auditors	5 00
" " expenses paying State and County taxes.....	5 90
John Woodbury, for nails for fence at Libby place..	20
County of Hillsborough, for tax.....	868 57
State tax.....	1524 00
L. C. Richardson, cash paid for books, stationery, postage, etc., for the year ending March 1, 1878	13 04

 \$2492 00

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED FOR 1877.

State tax	\$1,524 00
County tax	868 57
School tax	1,333 50
For town expenses	500 00
Highway tax	1,500 00
For payment of town debt	2,500 00
Dog tax	88 00
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	\$8,314 07

Percentage upon \$1000, \$12 (not including highway tax).

LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,
CHARLES W. HOBBS,
EZEKIEL C. GAGE,

Pelham, March 1, 1878.

Selectmen of Pelham.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1878.

March 1, 1877. Amount of cash in the treasury	\$1,895 84
Aug. 17, 1877. Received of George H. Currier, the out- standing taxes for the year 1876	909 52
Interest received on the same	10 83
Nov. 15, 1877. Received of the State Treasurer the sav- ings bank tax, amounting to	426 63
Received the railroad tax of the same	132 16
Received of Martin L. Jones, Wm. P. Clark and E. A. Woodbury, for graveyard lots	2 25
Received of George H. Currier, collector of taxes, during the year ending March 1, 1878.	3,875 00
Received of L. C. Richardson, from the County of Hills- borough	104 32
Received from the agent, for the use of the town hall dur- ing the year ending March 1, 1878.	56 50
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Whole amount on hand and received during the year end- ing March 1, 1878	\$7,413 05
The treasurer charges the town with the following dis- bursements as ordered by the Selectmen, during the year ending March 1, 1878	
	\$4,991 60

LITERARY FUND.

March 1, 1878. Amount on hand and unappropriated. . .	\$73 96
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DOG TAX FUND.

The amount reported March 1, 1877.....	\$85 00
Part of which has been appropriated as follows: To J. L. Cambridge.....	10 00
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Balance.....	\$75 00
March 1, 1878. Received of the collector the taxes from dogs, for the year 1877.....	88 00
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	\$163 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Whole amount of town debt at the present time.....	\$3,519 11
Amount of cash now in the hands of the treasurer.....	2,421 45
Outstanding taxes now unpaid or in the hands of the col- lector.....	3,177 98

JOHN WOODBURY,

Treasurer.

The subscribers, having been appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the town of Pelham, for the year ending March 1, 1878, report that we find all orders issued by the Selectmen duly vouched and receipted for, and the Treasurer's accounts correctly kept, accurately cast and properly vouched.

DANIEL MARSHALL,

GEO. S. BUTLER,

Auditors.

PELHAM, March 1, 1878.

REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 12, 1878.

The design of a School Report is to inform the citizen in regard to the schools, but he can not have a correct idea of the public school, what it is, what is its design and what it may become, without careful examination and patient study.

The citizen who never visits the school, or if he does, very infrequently, can not be a judge of the work or methods of the teacher. In order that he may be competent for this, he must read upon the subject of education, keep himself abreast of the age on educational topics, make himself thoroughly acquainted with the schools of his own community, visit schools in other places, and put himself in communication with teachers and educational men and women wherever he can.

It is very necessary that the citizen understand the true place and importance of the common school; all higher institutions depend upon it. It stamps its own character upon these; they are impossible without it. The common school may live without these, but these can not live without the common school. The common school may supply, in a large measure, the need of these, but these can not supply the need of the common school. If the common school is defective, that defect runs into these higher institutions. The common school demands the best talent; the supposition that any grade of efficiency will answer for it, that limited intellectual acquisitions, inexperience and cheap labor will do, is a great mistake.

TEACHERS.

The bane of our public school system is "*nepotism*," a term that has become familiar to the people in the last few years, in connection with appointments in the civil service of our government.

The common school is too valuable, too sacred, too many vital interests are involved in it, for the favoritism of families to be allowed any expression in its management. The preferences of families and the interests of individuals are nothing compared with the welfare of the school. Thorough qualification, professional training, obtained either in the Normal School, or by successful experience, and aptness for the work, must be deemed indispensable in the teacher. The teacher should be selected with a wise regard to the wants of the school and his personal adaptation to it. It is not enough that a district *ought* to be satisfied with a teacher, but *will* they be? A teacher may do excellent work in one district and still fail in another. There is always risk in a change of teachers, and ordinarily when a teacher has fair success, it is best to retain that teacher a few terms.

STUDIES.

The usefulness of our schools is greatly impaired from a want of a wise arrangement of the studies. There must be uniformity in classification and regard to the fullest development of the child's faculties, and the largest acquisition of practical knowledge. Much time is lost, and great harm is done the child, by putting him to studies for which he is not sufficiently mature. There are studies, which, when the pupil has been over them with a measure of thoroughness, it is better that he should leave for a term or two, taking something else; then he can return to them for review, and find a fresh interest in them, and review them with a thoroughness

that he might not have attained, if all the intervening time had been spent on them.

Neither parents nor scholars must determine the studies; these must be left entirely with the school authorities, both for the school and its individual members. The good of the school and the individual pupil demands that the course be uniform, and it be understood that the scholar must take this course, that he can pass the successive stages of it only by thorough examinations — if from idleness, absence or any cause he fails to pass these examinations, then he must fall back a class. This would be a spur to the scholar to be punctual and studious, a powerful motive to the parent to earnestly co-operate in securing these ends. It is a gratifying fact that there is a growth of such a sentiment in our schools. Scholars and parents are coming to understand that the school authorities must determine the studies and classification.

A proper course of study in our schools would give the scholars an education, in a certain sense, liberal and finished. In some of the schools there is an approximation to such a course, classes have gone through the elementary text-books of several of the sciences. Such a course might and should be established, in the school system of the town.

MENTAL DISCIPLINE.

This is the end of education, the prime and indispensable thing in a good school. The scholar must not be permitted to shirk this; every scholar must work. It is too generally the case that scholars seek to avoid work, and are unwilling to take any study demanding hard labor.

METHODS OF THE SCHOOL-ROOM.

There should be many methods. This is necessary, not only for the largest efficiency of the school, but to

render it interesting and pleasant. A school, day after day with the same unvarying routine of exercises, run in the same ruts, is as dull and uninviting as a treadmill, and almost as barren of profit.

The methods of the school-room are very faulty, if the blackboard is not used much. The instruction is very narrow if it is confined to the text-book, and it should be said with emphasis, that the teacher is unfit to enter a school-room who can not teach without the text-book, who does not impart much knowledge not found in the text-books. Portions of time should be assigned for general exercises, the calling of the attention to present events, and the imparting information upon practical subjects and matters of common observation.

Book-keeping is a study upon which much time is wasted in the schools. Scholars seem to select it as a means of escape from mental labor. Some knowledge of the art of keeping accounts should be imparted in the schools, but it should be in the way of a general exercise.

There are lessons upon the proprieties of life, upon manners and morals, that never should be neglected in the school-room. If the instruction of the school does not tend to form the true gentleman and lady, if it does not foster and nurture purity in moral action, then the school becomes a deadly curse, and is in no sense a blessing.

DRAWING.

This should have a permanent place in the instruction of our schools. It has received attention in most of the schools the past year. The work of the scholars in this department has been interesting and commendable, in some cases showing even a talent for design.

GENERAL EXERCISES.

Compositions and declamations should be required of every scholar, and a portion of a day each week devoted to them. Attention has been given to them in all the schools the past year, but not to the degree, or in the systematic manner, that it should be. In this connection vocal culture may be considered, something that is greatly needed in our schools.

SINGING.

In a portion of the schools this has received attention the past year, and formed an interesting and profitable feature in their exercises. If its importance were properly appreciated, there would be some arrangement whereby it could be an exercise in all the schools.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.

These officers have discharged their duties with efficiency and fidelity the past year. The Superintendent of Public Instruction now requires a report of all their expenditures. I would suggest that it might be for the general good, if a detailed report of these expenditures were made at the annual meeting of the district.

THE DUTIES OF PARENTS TO THE TEACHER.

The success of a school will always be much affected by the idea entertained of these duties, and the manner in which they are discharged.

1. The parent, at the earliest opportunity, should make the acquaintance of the teacher, and extend to him the courtesies due his position and the relation he now sustains to the parent.

2. The parent should visit the school. He owes the teacher and school an expression of that much interest.

3. The parent never should speak disparagingly of the teacher. If the teacher is open to criticism, suppress

it till the school is finished. If the teacher is not in all things the parent's ideal, let him remember that it would be impossible for every one in the district to have a teacher exactly to his liking, and there must be forbearance and concession. I have rarely known the term of school that, with the full co-operation of parents, might not have been profitable.

THE PAST YEAR.

The schools, as a whole, have been a great success — with a single exception, a perfect success. The teachers have been persons qualified by experience and professional training, and their work has been thorough and finished. They have been enthusiastic, introduced new methods, imparted varied instruction, established good order, and made the school-rooms of the town beautiful spots — centres from which the best of influences have emanated every day.

In two of the schools, the same teachers taught the entire year, with the most advantageous results. Five of the schools had three terms each. The second term of No. 1 was brought to an abrupt termination by the sudden sickness of the teacher. She did most excellent work in the school the past year, as well as in several previous years. All were saddened, that the teacher was compelled thus suddenly to leave her school; the tenderest of sympathies have flowed to her suffering chamber, and fervent prayers ever ascend for her speedy recovery.

THE ADVANCE.

It is a great pleasure to be able to report a manifest advance in the character of the schools, and also a growth in the intellectual spirit of the town, as indicated by the disposition to procure for the home, books of substantial worth. It is an interesting fact that there are several private libraries in town, of choice selections, and very

substantial additions have been made to these the past year, while in other instances, the nucleus of a library has been formed. When the home is getting for itself encyclopedias of universal knowledge, the complete works of standard historians and poets, it is an indication of true intellectual life—a bright omen of educational progress.

THE SCHOOL MONEY.

From a careful study of the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, I feel that our schools compare favorably with those of the State. Not many towns have better schools, if as good. This town makes a large expenditure for schools, and reaps a great benefit. This, though, is far short of what it ought to be, and it is important to notice some of the ways in which the money is wasted:

1. Tardiness of scholars.
2. Absence of scholars.
3. The many outside things permitted to divert the attention of scholars during the terms of school.
4. Nepotism.
5. A want of co-operation on the part of parents.
6. A want of system and classification in the schools.

I am glad that I can see a decrease in these evils, and hope that the time will soon come when they will disappear.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The encomium of the public school system amounts to but little, though that system can not be too highly praised: It is not merely the glory of our land, but the life of our free institutions; it has blessed all our past, and made us what we are, but the possibility of the public school has not been conceived. There is no comprehension of the education and culture that it may impart. Let the people know that the public schools are the

fountains of their intellectual life, the palladiums of their liberties. Let them vigilantly guard these fountains, beautify them, and keep them pure.

STATISTICS.

District No. 1.—Mr. Cyrus C. Perkins, Prudential Committee. Miss Eliza H. Woodbury, Teacher of 1st and 2nd terms; 1st term, 9 weeks; No. scholars, 29; 2nd term, 6 weeks; No. scholars, 27. Wages, \$32. Miss Annie E. Hills, of Windham, Teacher of 3rd term, 12 weeks. No. scholars, 26. Wages, \$35. Miscellaneous expenses, \$19. Whole No. scholars, 36; boys, 20; girls, 16.

District No. 2.—Mr. Henry A. Jones, Prudential Committee. Mrs. Rebecca A. Spear, Teacher of 1st and 2nd terms; 1st term, 10 weeks; No. scholars, 26; 2nd term, 9 weeks; No. scholars, 37. Wages, \$32. Mr. A. S. Oliver, of Lowell, Mass., Teacher of 3rd term, 12 weeks. No. scholars, 28. Wages, \$48. Miscellaneous expenses, \$17.25. Whole No. scholars, 38; boys, 23; girls, 15.

District No. 3.—Mr. A. M. Hamblet, Prudential Committee. Miss Susan H. Emery, of Chester, Teacher of 1st term, 10 weeks; No. scholars, 20. Wages, \$30. Miss Annie E. Hills, of Windham, Teacher of 2nd term, 11 weeks. No. scholars, 27. Wages, \$30. Mrs. Rebecca A. Spear, Teacher of 3rd term, 12 weeks. No. scholars, 25. Wages, \$48. Miscellaneous expenses, \$42.45. Whole No. scholars, 33; boys, 18; girls, 15.

District No. 4.—Mr. Norris Emerson, Prudential Committee. Miss Carrie E. Thom, of Salem, Teacher for the year; 1st and 2nd terms, 9 weeks each; No. scholars, 24 and 26. Wages, \$34. Third term, 12 weeks; No. scholars, 30. Wages, \$36. Miscellaneous expenses, \$24.20. Whole No. scholars, 31; boys, 17; girls, 14.

District No. 5. Mr. Eliphalet Woods, Prudential Committee. Miss M. Amanda Cloyd, Teacher for the year. 1st term, 9 weeks. No. scholars, 24. 2nd term, 8 weeks. No. scholars, 27. Wages, \$32. Third term, 12 weeks. No. scholars, 27. Wages, \$40. Miscellaneous expenses, \$9.50. Whole No. scholars, 28; boys, 17; girls, 11.

District No. 6.—Mr. Warren Sherburne, Prudential Committee. Miss Jennie K. Marshall, of Tyngsborough, Mass., Teacher 1st term, 7 weeks. No. scholars, 3. Wages, \$16. Miss Alice Gould, Teacher 2nd term, 10 weeks. No. scholars, 3. Wages, \$22. Miscellaneous expenses, \$5.00, a donation. Whole No. scholars, 3; boy, 1; girls, 2.

The wages of Teachers are per month, and include board. The Teachers, when not otherwise designated, are of this town. The whole number of scholars means the number of different scholars that have attended school in the district during the year. The number of children in town between the ages of 5 and 15, enumerated by the selectmen in April, 145. Males, 74. Females, 71. The number that have attended school during the year, 169. Males, 96. Females, 73.

There has been expended for the support of schools the past year, \$1,533.92. District No. 1, \$244, for 27 weeks of school. District No. 2, \$318.25, for 31 weeks of school. District No. 3, \$343.95, for 33 weeks of school. District No. 4, \$285.22, for 30 weeks of school. District No. 5, \$264.50, for 29 weeks of school. District No. 6, \$83, for 17 weeks of school. The amount raised by tax this year, \$1,338.50. Literary Fund, \$76.50. Total, \$1,410.

These remarks and statistics I most respectfully submit.

AUGUSTUS. BERRY,

PELHAM, March 12, 1878.

Superintending School Committee.