

REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee,

AND

AUDITORS

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, MARCH 11, 1862.

LOWELL:
STONE & HUSE, BOOK PRINTERS, 21 CENTRAL ST.
1862.

SCHOOL REPORT.

THE Superintending School Committee of the Town of Pelham, in compliance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire, respectfully submits the following Report of the condition of the Schools in said town, the past year: —

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — WILLIAM A. COULLIARD.

Teacher, MISS MARY J. ATWOOD, of this Town. Wages of Teacher per month, including board, \$18. Length of term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars, 32, — all but one under 16 years of age; average attendance, 28; No. of instances of tardiness, 25; 16 not tardy once during the term; 2 pupils not absent one-half day; Physical Geography, Algebra, Geometry, Rhetoric, and Composition, the higher branches pursued.

Miss Atwood's merits as a teacher are too well known to need comment here. Suffice it to say that she fully sustained her previous high reputation as a *thorough, faithful, accomplished, and successful teacher.*

The improvement made during the term was highly commendable, evincing much labor and noble efforts, by both teacher and pupils.

The exercises in Reading and Spelling, at the closing examination, were better than I have witnessed in any other school in town, and better, I think, than I ever saw exhibited by scholars of their ages in any place. The Writing-Books exhibited were well written, and *very neatly kept*, during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — JEREMIAH FARMER.

Teacher, MISS REBECCA A. WHITEHOUSE, of this town. Wages, \$17 per month, including board. Length of Term, 15 weeks. No. of scholars, 39, — 2 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 34.4; No. of instances of tardiness, 19, 26 pupils not being tardy once during the term; 11 pupils not absent one-half day.

I will here give the names of 14 pupils who are reported, by their teacher, as not having whispered during the term: Sophia E. Cutter, Julia F. Cutter, Emeline Derbyshire, Sarah E. Fox, Ella E. Fox, Mary F. Gage, Lucella E. Goodspeed, Mary A. Goodspeed, Louisa Jones, Oreanna McCoy, Ida E. Seavey, Leora A. Seavey, Ann E. Tenney, Philena Whitehouse. A portion of the scholars attended to Geometry, the Science of Things Familiar, Composition and Drawing, in addition to those branches prescribed by law. The progress made during the term, by the pupils of this school, was very good indeed.

The closing examination was witnessed by a large number of parents and friends, and teacher

and scholars acquitted themselves with great credit. Some very fine specimens of Drawing, executed by the scholars, were exhibited, which showed great proficiency and much interest in that particular branch. The success of this term of school was such as to add to the already high reputation which Miss Whitehouse has sustained as one of our best teachers.

DISTRICT NO. 3 — *North School.*

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — JAMES M. HOBBS. :

MISS H. A. CHASE, of this town, Teacher. Wages, including board, \$11 per month. Length of term, 11 weeks. No. of scholars, 23, — 1 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 18; 38 instances of tardiness, 9 pupils not tardy once during the term; 4 pupils not absent one-half day. Miss Chase is an active, energetic teacher, and imparts a good degree of life and animation to her scholars. The exercises in Mental Arithmetic were of a very high order. The first class in Geography was also noticed as having made *unusual advancement* during the term.

NO. 3 — *South School.*

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — A. H. GILMAN.

Teacher, MISS MARY L. DUDLEY, of Lowell. Wages, including board, \$12 per month. Length of term, 11 weeks. No. of scholars, 10, — all under 16 years of age; average attendance, 8 1-2; 7 instances of tardiness; 6 pupils not tardy once during the term; 4 pupils present every one-half

ly. The improvement made by the scholars of this school was highly commendable. Miss Dudley was young and inexperienced as a teacher, but she evidently labored earnestly for the benefit of the pupils placed under her care, and to discharge faithfully and impartially the duties devolving upon her.

I was informed that one pupil left this school for the reason of being punished while there. In my opinion, parents should warmly second the efforts of the teacher, in maintaining the order and discipline of the school, and in strictly enforcing obedience from the pupils. Still, it is undoubtedly better to quietly withdraw a scholar from the school, than that he should remain only to create disturbance, or to render expulsion necessary.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — WILLIAM TITCOMB.

Teacher, MISS ELLEN H. GOWING, of Hudson. Wages, per month, including board, \$19.50. Length of term, 13 weeks. No. of scholars, 40, — one over 16 years of age; average attendance, 29; No. of instances of tardiness, 49; 16 pupils not tardy once during the term; 3 pupils not absent one-half day.

I visited this school at its commencement, and, in my opinion, there was every indication of a successful term of school. By reason of sickness, I was unable to be present at its close; I cannot, therefore, speak from my own observation of the improvement made; but so far as I can learn, the success and progress of the school was satisfactory to the people of the district.

From my own knowledge of the character, qualifications and faithfulness of the teacher, I have every reason to believe that she would do everything in her power to promote the advancement of her pupils.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — ALVIN F. CARLTON.

Teacher, MISS MARY ORNE MARSH, of Methuen. Wages, including board, \$19 per month. Length of term, 14 weeks. No. of scholars, 24, — all but one under 16 years of age; average attendance, 18 1-2; No. of instances of tardiness, 23; 13 pupils not tardy once during the term.

Miss Marsh is a teacher of much experience and high reputation. She appeared to labor assiduously and with effect. Under her instruction, the school made very commendable progress.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE — D. M. GOULD.

MISS MARIA L. CUTTER, of this town, Teacher. Wages, including board, \$12 per month. Length of term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars, 10, — all under 12 years of age; average attendance, 9.95 — wanting but the small fraction $\frac{1}{20}$ of being a constant attendance; 6 pupils not absent one-half day; 7 instances of tardiness; 8 pupils not tardy once during the term. This was Miss Cutter's first experience in teaching; but she entered upon her duties with an earnestness and entire devotedness to the interests of her school, which could not fail of

success. It was evident at the closing examination that the different branches had been taught in a thorough manner. No class had been over that which they did not thoroughly understand.

Some specimens of Drawing, executed by the pupils, were exhibited, which were quite creditable to the young pupils by whom they were executed.

In concluding the report of the Summer Schools, I would state that in several schools the writing of Compositions has been attended to by a good proportion of the scholars; and a collection of those Compositions, in the form of a paper, was read at the closing examinations of Districts Nos. 1, 2, and 3 North School, containing articles of more than ordinary literary merit. The Declamations also, in Districts Nos. 1 and 2, were deserving of high commendation.

Our Summer Schools have, in my opinion, been quite successful; and I hope that the same teachers, as far as possible, may be employed in the coming terms of our schools.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Mr. E. W. HOWE, Teacher. Wages of Teacher per month, including board, \$33. Length of term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars, 44, — 8 over 16 years of age; No. of instances of tardiness, 160; 7 pupils not tardy once during the term; 5 pupils present every half day.

Of the success of this term of school, I cannot speak so favorably as I would wish. There was in the school, at its commencement, in my opinion, the *material* for the best school in town. The teacher was possessed of high literary attainments; but he seemed to fail in interesting his scholars in their school or in their studies. The consequence was some twelve or fifteen, mostly of the older portion of the scholars, had left the school before the closing examination; — most of them some three or four weeks previous. In *some instances*, it might have been absolutely necessary for them to leave, but I have every reason to believe that by far the greater portion of them would have remained in school until its close, had they been in the least interested in the school or in their studies. Still, a portion of the scholars, who attended regularly during the term, exhibited a very fair degree of improvement. The want of sufficient volume of voice was a very prominent failing in this school, at the closing examination. Answers from a large proportion of the pupils were so very soft and low, as not to be audible across the school-room.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

NEHEMIAH H. GAGE, of Hudson, Teacher. Wages, \$28 per month, including board. Length of term, 13 weeks. No. of scholars, 53, — 12 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 50; 18 instances of tardiness; 46 pupils not tardy once during the term; 24 pupils not absent one-half day.

For regularity of attendance and punctuality of the scholars, this school is truly praiseworthy. In this respect it sets a good example to most of the other schools in town. A fair degree of improvement, in most of the branches pursued, was manifested at the closing examination. Mr. Gage evidently labored earnestly for the advancement of his pupils in their respective studies. Had he maintained a firm government, and brought his school under strict discipline, the success of the school would have been greatly augmented. Algebra, Geometry, Astronomy, Science of Things Familiar, and Composition, were the higher branches pursued.

DISTRICT NO. 3 — *North School.*

Teacher, MR. S. WARREN HOBBS. Wages, including board, \$22 per month. Length of term, 10 weeks. No. of scholars, 20, — 5 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 17 1-2; No. of instances of tardiness, 40; 5 pupils not tardy once during the term; 5 pupils not absent one-half day.

This term of school was short at the best, and a number of the scholars did not come in until the second or third week of school. Taking these disadvantages into consideration, the progress made during the term was as good as could be expected. The first class in Grammar appeared rather deficient, for, although they answered questions in the Grammar very readily, yet of the *application* of those principles in parsing, they seemed to have but

little knowledge. All other classes very good indeed.

NO. 3 — *South School.*

MISS LUCY A. BINGHAM, of Nashua, Teacher. Wages \$16 per month, including board. Length of term, 14 weeks. No. of scholars, 15, — 2 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 11.6; 56 instances of tardiness; 3 pupils not tardy once during the term; 2 pupils not absent one-half day. In my opinion, this was a very successful term of school. Miss Bingham appeared to have gained the esteem and affection of her pupils, and to have spared no pains to impart knowledge to the pupils of her charge.

Want of sufficient volume of voice, on the part of the scholars of this school, was almost a universal failing at the examination. The school would have made a very good appearance indeed, had it not been for this one failing.

DISTRICT NO. 4

Teacher, MR. EDWARD W. CROSS, of Methuen. Wages per month, including board, \$36. Length of term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars, 40, — 9 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 32 1-2; No. of instances of tardiness, 150; 8 pupils not tardy once during the term; 3 pupils not absent one-half day.

The improvement made during the term was very good indeed. The order and discipline of the school was excellent; for which praise is due both teacher and pupils.

Mr. Cross appeared to devote himself to the interests of his school, and everything within the school-room seemed to proceed in a cheerful, energetic, and orderly manner, without any apparent severity on the part of the teacher, or of cringing fear on the part of the pupils. The different classes in Mathematics were noticed as having made unusual progress during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Teacher, MR. MOSES G. PARKER, of Dracut. Wages, \$28 per month, including board. Length of term, 13 weeks. No. of scholars, 27, — 6 over 16 years of age; average attendance, 20 1-4; 64 instances of tardiness; 6 pupils not tardy once during the term; 1 pupil not absent one-half day. The names of 13 pupils were reported as not having whispered during the term, or during the time which they attended the school. The following is a list of those names: — Sarah A. Carr, Edwin M. Currier, Silas R. Coburn, Iza A. Haff, Ellen A. Hamblett,* George L. Ham, Henry S. Knight, George H. Lewis,† Irving S. Porter, Sybil F. Richardson, Delcena Wilson, Samantha Wilson, Rosabel Wilson. Algebra, Physiology, Philosophy, Science of Things Familiar, and Composition, the extra branches pursued. Too much cannot well be said in commendation of the success of this school, and the progress made during the term.

The teacher, being well qualified by literary attainments, energy, quickness, decision, and an

* From another school — attended but the last 3 1-2 weeks,

† On account of sickness, attended but 4 weeks.

apparent tact for, and love of his vocation, entered upon his duties with zeal and earnestness, and succeeded in enlisting the feelings of his pupils with his own, that everything should be accomplished which could be, during this term of school. The exercises at the closing examination were of a very high order. Some of them were worthy of particular notice. A class in Physiology seemed to have a very thorough knowledge of that science. A class in Philosophy was noticed as answering questions and explaining figures very readily. Exercises in Arithmetic, both mental and written, were superior, — almost faultless. Examples upon the black-board were performed very quickly, and explained very understandingly. Some very neat specimens of writing-books were exhibited, showing a good degree of improvement.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Teachers, MISS HANNAH E. HARDY, of Hudson ; MISS H. A. CHASE, of this town. Wages, including board, \$13 per month. Length of term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars, 18, — 3 over 16 years of age ; average attendance, 17 1-3 ; 8 pupils not absent one-half day ; 13 instances of tardiness ; 9 pupils not tardy once during the term. Algebra, Physiology, Rhetoric and Composition, the extra branches taught.

The first teacher, Miss Hardy, resigned her charge at the expiration of two weeks. The statement of the cause I will give in her own words. She writes : “ I commenced my school with the determination to

benefit the pupils under my charge, hoping that they would make great advancement in their various studies. I also hoped to eradicate (either by *moral suasion*, or *coercion*) some of the disorderly habits so prevalent in our *Common Schools*, My expectations were *beginning* to be realized. At the close of the second week, however, I was convinced that there existed on the part of *some* of the *parents* a want of *sympathy* and *respect* for me which would counteract all my efforts for good in this school. I therefore quietly resigned my station, which I trust will be occupied by a more worthy teacher."

Miss Chase, the second teacher, succeeded in tranquilizing the somewhat discordant feelings prevailing in the district. Under her control, the scholars soon found that they had not to resort to throwing paper balls and apple-cores, in order to keep something moving in the school-room. The pupils of this school appeared to have made very good improvement in all branches to which they had attended. A better class in Geography I have not found in any school in town; and the second class in Reading has not been equaled, except in the Summer School of District No. 1. Mental exercises, in Arithmetic, were performed very rapidly by the scholars of this school.

Much credit is due to the people of this district, and friends of the school — ladies in particular — for their exertions to be present at the closing examination, travelling as they did, on foot, over and through snow-drifts which were impassable for horses or other means of conveyance.

Writing Compositions has been attended to in all our Winter Schools, excepting Nos. 1 and 4, and a collection of Compositions, in a paper form, was read at the examination of No. 2, No. 3 both South and North Schools, and No. 6, all of which contained finely written articles, which were very creditable to the youthful contributors. Some fine Declamations were also witnessed in all the schools excepting No. 1 and No. 4.

Besides our district, or town schools, there has been two terms of private school taught in the private school-house of Gilbert Coburn, Esq, a spring term of six weeks, by MISS EMMA D. COBURN, and a fall term of eight weeks, by MISS CLARA J. COBURN. Also, a fall term of eleven weeks, in the Town Hall, by MISS M. C. RICHARDSON.

TEXT BOOKS. I have not thought best to make any new change, the past year, in text books used in our schools, but have endeavored to make those changes entire which have been partially made heretofore. Still, the books used are far from being uniform. In many of our schools, there are Written Arithmetics by two different authors. In some, two or three kinds of Algebra; two authors of Science of Things Familiar, &c. This state of things is very undesirable. No teacher can do justice to a large school, unless similar books are used, so that the school may be classed in as few classes as possible. I hope that parents may attend to this matter, and see that their children have the text books used by the schools. By so doing, they will alleviate the

labors of the teachers, and contribute very much to the success of a large portion of our schools.

SCHOOL-HOUSES. Believing that the condition of the school-house has much to do with the success of the school taught within it, I would state that both houses in District No. 3 are very much in want of repairing. In No. 6, a new house is very much needed, and I have been informed that the matter has been under consideration, somewhat, by the people of the district.

To them, I would say — When you build your school-house, don't be too sparing of land, but procure a suitable lot for the location of the house and an ample play-ground, and not place it — as is often the case — as though desirable that it should constitute as much *fence* as possible by the side of the highway. But I leave the matter to the intelligent people of the district, believing that they will do justice to a matter which so nearly concerns themselves. And to my fellow-citizens, I respectfully submit this Report.

LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,

Superintending School Committee.

PELHAM, March 11, 1862.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

THE subscribers having been appointed by the Town of Pelham, at the Annual Meeting in March, 1861, a Committee to examine and audit the Treasurer's account for the then ensuing year, have attended to the duty assigned them, and respectfully submit the following

REPORT

The Treasurer charges himself as follows, to wit:

1861, March 12, Cash in the treasury,	\$254 00
1862, March 8, Cash in full from the Collector for 1860,	466 25
Cash, overplus of Tax on School District No. 1,	5 09
Cash received from the Selectmen, drawn from the County for County paupers,	50 47
Cash received from Joshua Atwood, for use of the town hall,	47 00

Amounting to	\$2,183 81
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The Treasurer claims allowance for the above sum as follows, to wit.:

1861-62—Paid sundry drafts drawn on him by the Selectmen, amounting to	\$1,951 26
March 11, 1862, Cash in his hands to balance,	232 55

Amounting to	\$2,183 81
The above sum of cash on hand,	232 55
Outstanding taxes for 1861,	728 47
Cash, which should be transferred from the Poor Farm Fund, as by a vote of the town, to the Treasurer,	258 00
And Railroad Tax due from the State, estimated at	55 00

Amounting to	\$1,274 02
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From which deduct outstanding orders which have not been presented for payment, amounting to	347 82
Leaves a balance, constituting the present available means of the Town, of	<u>\$926 20</u>

POOR FARM FUND.

The Treasurer reports this fund to amount at this date to	\$2,808 64
Of which the sum of \$258 00 should be transferred to meet the current expenses of the town,	258 00
Leaving an unappropriated balance of	<u>\$2,550 64</u>

THE LITERARY FUND.

Of this fund the Treasurer submits the following account, to wit:

1861, March 14, Cash in the Treasury,	\$81 00
June 24, Cash received from the State,	75 00

Amounting to	<u>\$156 00</u>
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For which he claims credit as follows:

For Cash paid the Prudential Committees of the several School Districts in the Town, by order of the Selectmen,	\$80 97
1862, March 11, Cash in Treasury to balance,	75 03

Amounting to	<u>\$156 00</u>
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Upon examination, we find that the Selectmen have assessed upon the polls, and taxable property of the town, the past year, for State, County, Town, School, and non-resident highway taxes, (exclusive of the highway tax of \$1000, paid in labor) the sum of

\$2,900 41

Revenue from other sources:

Received from the County, for relief of county paupers,	50 47
For use of the Town Hall,	47 00
From the Collector for 1860,	466 25
Cash, overplus of tax, District No. 1,	5 09

Amounting, as the total revenue of the town, to	<u>\$3,469 22</u>
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EXPENDITURES.

For State tax,	\$278 60
County tax,	532 34
School tax, exclusive of Literary Fund,	795 97
Support of Paupers,	594 00
Repairing Bridges,	60 00
Breaking snow paths,	250 00
Outstanding orders of the previous year,	37 27
Current expenses of the town, — Cash on hand and outstanding taxes,	921 24
	<hr/>
	\$3,469 24

We have found the Selectmen's drafts properly vouched, and the Treasurer's accounts correctly kept and accurately cast.

JESSE GIBSON,
MOODY HOBBS,
FREDERIC A. CUTTER, } Auditors.

Pelham, March 11, 1862.