

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, GEN. J. ATWOOD.

This School was under the instruction of Miss MARTHA J. ATWOOD, for a term of fifteen weeks, being her first effort in teaching, in which she succeeded so as to gain the approbation of all concerned. She possesses many traits of a good teacher, being energetic and thorough in teaching, and mild and judicious in discipline. And she succeeded very well in infusing promptness and thoroughness into her pupils, so that this school made good progress in the studies pursued. The scholars, twenty-nine in number, were all, except two, under twelve years of age, so that great attainments were not to be expected, only in degree. And probably this school made as good progress in this view, as any of our schools.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. JAMES CUTTER.

MISS REBECCA A. WHITEHOUSE was the teacher of this school for a term of nineteen weeks; and to say that she succeeded well, is not giving her the merit she deserves. This school, by being the largest in town, having forty-five scholars, and a large proportion of the scholars over twelve years of age, and many of them considerably advanced in the higher branches taught in our schools, makes the duties of the teacher arduous and severe. No one who engages in this school, as a teacher can count on a life of ease. Miss Whitehouse's experience as a teacher, previous to this term, was only a rather short term in a small school. But this term of school has established her character, as a teacher, among the best. The progress made in the school was highly creditable to both teacher and scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 3—SOUTH SCHOOL.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. A. H. GILMAN.

MISS ABBY L. COBURN taught this school nine weeks with good success. The number of scholars in the school was twenty. There were some very marked cases of improvement in this school, where all did well. The examination at the close of the school was quite satisfactory to those present. The only regret manifested was that the term was too short.

Those who employ Miss Coburn as a teacher *expect* a good school, and are not disappointed.

DISTRICT NO. 3—NORTH SCHOOL.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. A. S. SMITH.

MISS MARIA E. BURNHAM, an experienced and thorough teacher, was employed ten weeks in this school of twenty-seven scholars, and was successful in inspiring the minds of most of her pupils with a desire to learn. And the school under her instruction made good progress. The closing examination was highly creditable to teacher and scholars, and pleasing to those who were present. The schools of the third district being necessarily shorter than most of the other schools in town, the advancement of the scholars is proportionally retarded. Still they have many fine scholars in that district, who compare favorably with the scholars of more favored districts.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. JONATHAN CLUFF.

MISS M. LIZZIE LEE taught this school fifteen weeks, with good success. The number of scholars was thirty-five. The improvement of the school was satisfactory, and showed conclusively that Miss Lee is eminently qualified for the duties of her employment. That she trained her scholars thoroughly, was manifested at the closing examination by the fact that no books were used in the course of the examination, either by teacher or scholars, except reading books; and the scholars were closely examined in Arithmetic, in Algebra, Grammar, Geography, and some other studies, and were prompt and correct in answering. Without any disparagement to other good teachers, it is but just, perhaps, to say that Miss Lee is *one* of the best, if not *the best* female teacher of those who were employed in our schools this year.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. NATHANIEL CURRIER.

MISS LUCY A. BINGHAM, teacher. Number of Scholars twenty-eight. School continued fourteen weeks with marked success. Miss Bingham managed her school with tact, and gained the good will of her scholars and others interested in the school. If she could have thrown a little more energy into her mode of teaching, it would probably have added to her prosperity as a teacher, though her success was highly commendable. At the closing examination it appeared that five young ladies had become thoroughly versed in Greenleaf's Arithmetic, and four of them also were well versed in Algebra, and the first Grammar class were quite expert in analyzing a somewhat difficult lesson in that study.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, MR. JESSE HAMBLET.

MISS M. FRANCIS GOULD taught this school of eleven scholars eight weeks. It was her first effort. She labored diligently and faithfully for the best progress of her pupils, and succeeded quite well. Good progress was made in this school, and there is, probably, no doubt that Miss Gould will rank among *good* teachers as she gains from some experience the art of teaching with ease and facility. At present, perhaps, she labors harder than is necessary.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

NUMBER 1.

MR. J. F. HAZELTON taught school of forty-two scholars, twelve weeks. The scholars of this school being mostly young scholars, it was not expected to find this school so far advanced in some studies, as some of the other schools in town. This school also, at the present time, lies under the disadvantage of not possessing a due proportion of females, less than one-fourth the scholars being females, and one-half of these under twelve years old. Yet Mr. Hazelton so labored, and so diffused activity among his scholars, that this school, perhaps, made as good progress under its circumstances, as any school in town. The people of this district may, with good reason, consider themselves very fortunate in securing the labors of so energetic and devoted a teacher. The closing exercises were highly gratifying to those interested in the school. A class of young scholars in Grammar, and a class in Spelling, deserve especial commendation.

NUMBER 2.

This school enjoys peculiar privileges. Although the largest school in town, yet the compactness of the district, and the facility with which the scholars can pass to and from school, in consequence of the amount of travel on the leading roads through the district, increases the ability of the scholars in being steadily and constantly at school. And this school has enjoyed for several terms past, the services of well qualified, energetic and faithful teachers. The teacher of this winter term, being peculiarly of this character; so that, under all these circumstances, if this school did not stand high in its progress of knowledge, the blame would fall heavily on the scholars. But it is the privilege of your committee here to say, that the scholars have done their part well; that they have appreciated their privileges so as to stand *high*, if not the highest school in town at the present. In the closing exercises, in which all the classes did well, the class in Geography was noticed for its readiness in answering; also the first class in Reading deserves praise. This school was in operation fourteen weeks, with fifty-five scholars.

NUMBER 3—SOUTH SCHOOL.

MISS REBECCA A. WHITEHOUSE taught this school of twenty-one scholars fourteen weeks, and fully sustained her character as a thorough teacher. At the closing exercises of the school, it was readily perceived that neither teacher nor scholars had been idle; but that good progress had been made. This school has some fine scholars. The second class in Grammar was noted for its promptness, and it is worthy of notice that in the study of Grammar our teachers are using the inductive method of instruction, so that classes of beginners in this study sooner and more surely get an insight into the principles of this science than by the method usually pursued.

NUMBER 3—NORTH SCHOOL.

MR. CHARLES W. SPAULDING taught this school of twenty-three scholars, nine weeks. This term was his first effort in teaching; and he appeared to labor assiduously for the advancement of his scholars. He would probably succeed better in a second effort, though he did very well in this. The school evidently made progress. By reason of sickness and other causes, several of the older scholars were absent from the closing exercises of the school; so that the examination was not complete, but quite good as far as those present were concerned.

NUMBER 4.

MR. GEORGE KNIGHT taught this school of fifty-three scholars thirteen weeks, with great success. He is a young man of fine talents, and was successful in gaining the respect and good will of scholars and parents. This was his first trial as a teacher; and there is much evidence in his management to show that he may make an able and energetic teacher. That he was a faithful teacher is very evident, as many of the scholars made large advances in their studies. The closing examination disclosed the fact that the scholars had been trained understandingly. The tone of voice in which recitations were made were somewhat faulty, and this remark will apply to all our schools with equal force; still there is evidence to show that it is a fault that is abating in some degree in all our schools, and when scholars learn their lessons so thoroughly that they can answer confidently and intelligently, this fault will be unknown in our schools.

NUMBER 5.

MR. ADAMS EMERSON taught this school of thirty-one scholars twelve weeks. Mr. Emerson possesses qualifications as a teacher of a high order, and it was anticipated at the commencement of this term that it would be a highly successful term. But those anticipations were not *fully* realized. The closing examination evidently showed that many of the scholars had improved their time to good advantage, and had made much progress in their studies. Some of the scholars having left the school sometime before its close, their progress cannot be recorded in this report. No complaint against the teacher having been made to your committee, he cannot assign any reason in this report why those scholars left. Your committee is however led to the conclusion, from his own observation, and also the observations of others, that the teacher did, though perhaps inadvertently, err in his manner of instruction in speaking discouragingly as to their capacity and progress in learning. And he evidently possessed the idea, common to many, that the books he had learned from, were much better than any other.

MISS MARTHA J. ATWOOD commenced a school in this district last week, which is expected to continue six or seven weeks. The school appears to be in a prosperous course of instruction, and it is hoped will succeed well.

NUMBER 6.

MISS MARY A. BUTRICK taught this school of sixteen scholars twelve weeks, and had a very prosperous term. This little school, laboring as it does under some disadvantages, is evidently improving and

rising to a higher standard among its fellows. Miss Butrick is an experienced, energetic and practical teacher, and it was truly gratifying to witness the result of her labors in the promptness with which the examination was responded to by the different classes in the closing exercises of the school.

The Prudential Committees of the different districts truly deserve commendation for the interest they have manifested in the prosperity of their respective schools, in seeking good teachers, and for that degree of responsibility which they have exhibited in the duties devolving on them.

In the examination of the schools, one feature of progress is manifest in the improvement in reading and spelling. The foundation of all learning is based on these studies, and it is pleasing to record that in most of the schools more attention is being paid to these indispensable studies; so as to read understandingly, with the proper use of pauses, inflections, tones, emphasis, and cadence. Another improvement is the more constant attendance of the scholars, and a less number of tardy marks. Another mark of improvement is seen in the effort of the schools to keep the school house neat and attractive. Another mark of improvement is the effort made by many of our teachers to prevent all communication between scholars during the time of study. This is very desirable. No report has been made of the success of this effort only in one instance. One teacher reports that two of his scholars did not communicate for six weeks, and another scholar only once in that time.

The discipline of our schools has improved from year to year. The rod and the ferule have almost or entirely disappeared from our school houses; and scholars have come to the conclusion that teachers are not placed over them to be tyrants, but to be their best friends, and therefore they respect them, and readily obey good rules and proper regulations in school. No case of corporeal punishment is reported from any school but one, and that reports four cases in summer and four in winter. On the whole it is probable that our schools were never under better discipline than at the present time. And still there is room for improvement in this respect.

Other privileges for learning have been enjoyed by some of the youth of the town during the year past. A private school was taught at Capt. Coburn's school house, by Miss Abby L. Coburn during the intervals between the terms of the district school. The length of those terms and their success is not known to your committee.

During the autumn, Miss Mary C. Richardson taught a select school at the Centre School House, for a term of ten weeks, having about twenty-five scholars. The school was very successful, and gave entire satisfaction to those who enjoyed the privilege of her thorough instructions.

A few scholars have gone abroad the present year to seek the instructions afforded in more popular schools.

In this review of our schools for the past year, you will notice that in general your committee has spoken in terms of approval and commendation. No doubt this is, where it can be truthfully done, the proper

course to pursue. If committees were to seek for faults and defects in teachers, and if found to publish them before the world in a public report, no good would result from this course, but it would have a direct tendency to deter all modest and generous minded teachers from engaging in our schools, and thus probably be a great loss to our schools. Our *good* teachers need all the encouragement that can justify and truly be bestowed upon them, and there is a more quiet manner of dispensing with the services of *poor* teachers than by publishing their faults to the world.

It is believed that the people of this town feel a deep interest in the education of their children, and in the prosperity of their schools. This interest is manifest in the visits made to the schools by parents and others; by the frequent enquiries about the success of the different teachers, and in the interest taken at the closing examinations. When we see hard laboring business men, and women too, leave their business and congregate together, and this too when the travelling is bad and the weather unfavorable, we think there must be some special object in view, something of importance being transacted, thus to attract such attention. And this has been abundantly manifested in the closing exercises of our schools during the year. No school, either summer or winter, has closed without some of the parents and others being present, and some of the school-rooms have been crowded with visitors on such occasions. And, fellow citizens, this is as it should be, and as we might expect. You have expended liberally of your money in the erection of good and commodious school houses; you pay liberally of your money to employ teachers to instruct your children; and you abundantly furnish your children with books and other facilities to learn, and time to attend these schools, and it is but reasonable to suppose, that, as business men, you would be looking after the results of these expenditures, and thus show to the teacher and scholar that you have an interest in these things. And this interest has reference, no doubt, not entirely to the prosperity of the schools as such, but to their influence on the community and on our free institutions, being, as conceded by all, one of the strong pillars of our present form of government, teaching our children to be order-loving and law-abiding citizens; teaching them not only those branches learned from school-books, but in the language of our statute law, having their "mind diligently impressed with the principles of piety and justice; a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society; and to endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of the tendency of all such virtues to proserve and perfect a republican form of government; to secure the blessings of liberty and promote their future happiness; and the tendency of the opposite vices to degradation, ruin and slavery."

SYNOPSIS.

SUMMER.

No. DISTRICT.	1	2	3s	3N	4	5	6
Number of Scholars.....	29	45	19	27	35	28	11
Average attendance.....	24	34	14.3	21.1	27	22.2	10.3
Number of tardy marks.....	9	60	135	76	33	60	10
“ in Writing.....	10	24	3	3	17	17	4
“ in Arithmetic.....	27	39	15	17	22	24	7
“ in Geography.....	9	12	7	12	13	12	3
“ in Grammar.....	5	21	6	14	5	12	4
“ in Composition.....		9			2	10	4
“ in Algebra.....		7	2	2	2	4	
“ in Geometry.....							
“ in other studies.....	9	9	1	3	2		

WINTER.

No. DISTRICT.	1	2	3s	3N	4	5	6
Number of Scholars.....	42	55	21	23	53	31	16
Average attendance.....	33	49	19.4	19.3	39.5	22.8	15
Number of tardy marks.....	34	28	107	134	223	232	10
“ in Writing.....	20	35	13	10	27	20	7
“ in Arithmetic.....	36	44	14	20	43	31	12
“ in Geography.....	19	12	9	7	13	10	3
“ in Grammar.....	18	30	10	12	18	17	6
“ in Composition.....		7		6	5		6
“ in Algebra.....	4	5	2	3	4	7	2
“ in Geometry.....		3		1	3		
“ other studies.....	1	13	5	12	8	3	4

No. DISTRICT.	1	2	3s	3N	4	5	6
Whole number of scholars in each district.....	47	58	23	27	57	38	16
Average amount of money to each scholar.....	4.02	3.30	3.76	3.76	3.34	4.88	3.87
Wages of female teachers per month including board...	16.00	14.00	16.00	12.00	18.00	18.00	11.00
Wages of male teachers per month including board...	39.00	33.00	14.00	26.00	35.00	30.00	15.00
			both females				both females

Respectfully submitted,

ABEL GAGE, Supt'g SCHOOL Com.

Pelham, March 8, 1859.

The undersigned, appointed at the annual meeting of the town of Pelham, in March, 1858, as Auditors of the Accounts of the Treasurer and Selectmen, for the year ending March 8, 1859, have attended to the duty assigned them, and respectfully submit the following REPORT:—

The Treasurer charges himself as follows, to wit:

1858—March 8.	To Cash in hands of Treasurer,	\$ 496 57
July 13.	To Cash rec d of Collector for 1857, in full,	684 40
1859—Jan'y 6.	To Cash received of State Treasurer for Rail Road money, for 1857 and 1858,	113 27
March 1.	To Cash received of David Cutter, for Grave Yard Lots,	3 75
March 1.	To Cash received of Joshua Atwood, from County,	30 01
March 7.	To Cash received of Collector, for 1858,	1483 47

Amounting in all to \$ 2811 47

For the above the Treasurer claims credit as follows, to wit:

1859—March 7.	By Cash paid on sundry Orders, drawn by the Selectmen, during the year ending with date, amounting to	\$ 2212 46
March 7.	By Cash in Treasury,	599 01

\$ 2811 47

The Treasurer reports the amount of outstanding Taxes, in the hands of the Collector, to be for 1858, \$ 658 89

Of the above Orders, \$ 924.00 was for the support of Schools.— \$ 868.42 for the support of the poor, and the remainder for the current expenses of the town.

LITERARY FUND.

Of this fund the Treasurer gives the following account:

1858—March 8.	Cash in hands of Treasurer,	\$ 83 10
July 3.	Cash of John Woodbury, from State,	87 64

\$ 170 74

Of which he has paid Orders drawn by Selectmen, in favor of the several Prudential School Committees, during the year ending with date, for \$ 83 05

1859—March 7.	Cash in the hands of Treasurer,	87 69
---------------	---------------------------------	-------

\$ 170 74

POOR FARM FUND.

The Treasurer reports that on March 8, 1858, there was \$ 2410.38 of this fund, and that this sum has been on interest since that time.

SURPLUS REVENUE FUND.

The Agent having charge of this fund reports, that he has Notes and Cash, which will, on the 18th inst., amount to \$ 1385.82.

We find the above accounts properly kept, correctly cast and properly vouched.

	JESSE GIBSON, } ABEL GAGE, } MOODY HOBBS, }	AUDITORS.
Pelham, March 7, 1859.		