

SCHOOL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The *duty* again devolves on your Superintending School Committee to present to the town the Annual Report of the state and the condition of the schools in this town during the past year. And at the commencement of this duty your committee would congratulate you on account of the *very general prosperity* of your schools, in regard to the *length* of schools, the *success* of teachers, the advance of scholars in knowledge and good behavior, and of the interest manifested by all in the comfort, convenience and general welfare of the scholars and teachers of your schools. These subjects will be more particularly noted in the progress of this Report.

It appears from the registers of the different schools that there has been expended, as compensation and board of teachers, \$911,00; which sum has been expended in keeping 93 1-2 weeks of Summer school, and 83 weeks of Winter school, of which 23 weeks by female and 60 weeks by male teachers.—The average compensation to female teachers being \$15,67 per month, and to male teachers being \$30,80 per month. It also appears that the whole number

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of scholars who have attended your schools two weeks or more, who are four years of age and above, is 250; divided among the different districts as follows:—In District No. 1, 46; in No. 2, 61; in No. 3, 46; in No. 4, 53; in No. 5, 27; in No. 6, 17. And there are perhaps 15 or 20 more scholars of suitable age who have not attended the schools; from what causes, your committee has not been informed.

In reporting the condition and progress of the different schools more in detail, your Committee will notice the different schools in their numerical order.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

MR. JOHN WOODBURY, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer school was taught 14 weeks by Miss CLARA J. COBURN. Wages of teacher, including board, \$17 per month. No. of scholars, 34; average attendance, 25 2-3; tardy marks, 64; visitors, 48. Besides Reading and Spelling, 18 attended to Writing, 23 to Arithmetic, 7 to Grammar, 11 to Geography, 7 to Composition, and 6 to History. Miss Coburn is a good teacher, but her health was not good and almost failed her towards the close of her school, so that she could not exercise that energy and decision so manifest in her character; yet the school did well, and appeared to good advantage at its close.

The Winter school was taught 12 weeks by Mr. JOSEPH A. STUART, of Dracut. Wages \$33 per month. No. of scholars, 34; average attendance, 26; tardy marks, 428; visitors, 50; Writing, 30; Arithmetic, 31; Algebra, 4; Grammar, 16; Geography, 14; Composition, 7; History, 6; Book-keeping, 4.

It is quite certain that this school has not flourished as was to be hoped ; that quite a number of the scholars were quite inconstant in their attendance ; that several left the school so as not to be ranked in the number of scholars ; and that those who did attend, the tardy marks show a want of interest too manifest to be mistaken. Mr. Stuart is a teacher very thorough in his mode of teaching, and labored assiduously for the progress of his scholars. At the closing examination, the exercises showed evidence of good improvement. Winthrop Hobbs and Melbern Woodbury were pointed out as having made large attainments, by close application to study, and others were spoken of by the teacher with high commendation. The Writing-books were particularly noticed as being fine. In conclusion, the scholars of this school are cautioned against taking advantage of a teacher ; and also to consider a teacher good until he shows himself otherwise. And parents should be cautious of believing every tale, but if there is an appearance of trouble, go and look into it with a spirit of candor. Never condemn a teacher unheard.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

DEA. CHARLES STILES, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer school was taught 16 1-2 weeks by Miss CAROLINE A. GREELEY. Wages \$17 per month. No. of scholars, 41 ; average attendance, 32 1-2 ; tardy marks, 322 ; visitors, 50 ; Penmanship, 15 ; Arithmetic, 33 ; Algebra, 3 ; Grammar, 8 ; Geography, 18 ; Composition, 6 ; Physical Geography, 2 ; Botany, 5. This school made good progress under its accomplished, faithful and experienced teacher ;

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yet there appeared to be a lack of interest toward the close of the school. Whether it was because the teacher, being about to change her employment, did not feel that interest she usually exhibits, or not, is not known to your Committee. The school, however, passed a very good examination, quite creditable to the scholars and the teacher.

The Winter school was taught 13 weeks by Mr. BURT EMERSON, of Chelmsford, Mass; wages \$36 per month. No. of scholars, 51; average, 44.6; tardy marks, 57; 10 present constantly; visitors, 105. Studies—Writing, 28; Arithmetic, 46; Algebra, 8; Grammar, 27; Geography, 22; Composition, 9; History, 4; Astronomy, 5; Geometry, 1. Mr. Emerson is a teacher of good attainments and much practical knowledge and experience, and governs his school with ease and precision, so that the recitations are conducted with much regularity and without waste of time. He is also thorough in his manner of teaching, having for his motto, "Not how much, but how well." In fine, Mr. Emerson will rank with the best teachers, with one qualification, that he lacks a little in energy, so that he cannot accomplish so much in a given time as some others; yet he labors constantly and assiduously, so that it is not a fault of the will but of the natural temperament. The school appeared to very good advantage. All the recitations were of a high order and were highly approved by a large audience of spectators. And it is worthy of notice in this connection that a majority of the fathers of the scholars and also a majority of the mothers were present at the closing examination, thus showing their interest in the school, and their appreciation of the labors of its devoted teacher.

marks, 16; 2 not absent one half day; visitors, 20. Studies—Writing, 10; Arithmetic, 13; Algebra, 1; Grammar, 9; Geography, 8; Composition, 3; Physiology, 2; Geometry, 1; Astronomy, 2; Physical Geography, 3.

It is often said that small schools make but little progress. This remark will not apply to this school this year, certainly. Probably this school will rank as high as any school in town in proportion to the number of scholars. Under the guidance of its energetic and enthusiastic teacher, this school has made rapid and thorough progress in the various studies of the scholars. The writing books were noticed as neat, and as showing evidence of progress; and while all the studies received due attention, it may be noticed that a class in Astronomy completed their

study in four weeks, and a class in Physical Geography completed that study in five weeks.

MR. MOSES SPOFFORD, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE,

Of the North School, in No. 3. The Summer Term of this school was taught 12 weeks, by Miss HARRIET ANN CHASE. Wages \$10 2-3 per month. No. of scholars, 20; average, 17; tardy marks, 42; 2 scholars present constantly; visitors, 36. Studies—Writing, 10; Arithmetic, 13; Algebra, 6; Grammar, 9; Geography, 3; Composition, 3.

This was the first effort of Miss Chase, who labored assiduously in advancing her pupils in knowledge, and her success was quite apparent at the closing examination. Her efforts were satisfactory to the parents, as by private subscription they continued the school some four weeks.

The Winter Term of this school was taught 10 weeks, by MR. A. P. CHARLES, of Manchester. Wages \$24 per month. No. of scholars, 24; average, 21; tardy marks, 63; 5 of the scholars not absent half a day. Studies—Writing, 17; Arithmetic, 22; Algebra, 2; Grammar, 15; Geography, 15; visitors, 50.

This school is certainly in a prosperous condition, having made very marked improvement under the very judicious and energetic management of its truly devoted teacher. Mr. Charles understands his business and pursues it with enthusiasm. This school contains some scholars of the first rank in town. Some classes were noticed as having made fine progress. The closing examination was highly satisfactory to your Committee, and to the parents and oth-

ers who were present, some twenty-five in number, on that coldest day of the winter. And if the District can secure the services of these teachers for the coming terms of this school, they may consider themselves quite fortunate.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

MR. D. H. WEBSTER, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer school was taught 14 weeks by Miss REBECCA A. WHITEHOUSE. Wages \$18 per month. No. of scholars, 35; average, 24; tardy marks, 36; 4 scholars present constantly; visitors, 22. Studies—Writing, 17; Arithmetic, 22; Grammar, 4; Geography, 14; Composition, 4.

This school was well managed and made good progress in the various studies pursued. *That scholar* must be dull indeed, who can be under the instruction of Miss Whitehouse, through a term of school, and not improve in learning. And truth requires that such ability as Miss Whitehouse possesses,—such success as attends her efforts, should be spoken of in terms of high commendation.

The Winter school was taught two and one-half weeks by Mr. J. OSCAR NORRIS, of Methuen. By reason of a failure of health, Mr. Norris was obliged to leave the school; and after a vacation of a week Mr. JEROME E. CROSS, of Methuen, took the school, and under his instruction it continued 10 1-2 weeks,—in all 13 weeks. Wages \$28 per month. No. of scholars, 38; average attendance, 30 1-2; tardy marks, 37. Studies—Writing, 28; Arithmetic, 33; Algebra, 4; Grammar, 14; Geography, 17; History, 1; Physical Geography, 1; Astronomy, 1; visitors, 50.

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This school commenced under very favorable auspices, under Mr. Norris' instruction, and what the result of his efforts would have been, had he been able to continue the school to its close, is not surely known, though the indications of a favorable result were quite apparent, and much regret was expressed by the parents that he was, through a failure of health, obliged to leave the school. Mr. Cross, being well acquainted with Mr. Norris, was as well qualified to supply his place as any stranger to the school might be, so that the break in the school was no very serious injury to the school. Mr. Cross proved himself to be a very good teacher, and the scholars under his instruction made quite good improvement. In the closing examination there was nothing of a particular *marked* character, yet the evidence of progress was quite apparent.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

MR. JAMES H. CURRIER, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

Miss SYBIL A. CURRIER was teacher of the Summer School for a term of 16 weeks. Wages \$18 per month. No. of scholars, 20; average attendance, 16.2; tardy marks, 34. Studies—Writing, 15; Arithmetic, 18; Grammar, 5; Geography, 12; Physiology, 3; other studies, 2; visitors, 19.

This school began well, but what progress was made in the different studies, or what success marked the teacher's efforts in this term of school, your Committee is unable to report, as he was prevented from attending the closing examination by reason of a very severe storm of rain and wind. It was quite a

disappointment to all concerned that the examination was prevented. This is the only time in four years that your Committee has failed to visit each school in town at the commencement and close of each term.

The Winter School was taught 12 weeks by Mr. LUTHER C. RICHARDSON. Wages \$33 per month. No. of scholars, 23; average attendance, 17; tardy marks, 28; visitors, 60. Studies—Writing, 21; Arithmetic, 20; Algebra, 2; Grammar, 6; Geography, 12; Composition, 7; History, 1; other studies, 6.

This was a successful term. The teacher, from past experience and thorough preparation, could guide his scholars with facility, and the scholars of this school will no doubt long retain happy remembrances of his efforts in learning them how to obtain knowledge. Probably some of the best scholars in town attended this school. The scholars, when asked if they were not sorry that the school was about to close, and if they did not wish they were to return to school the next Monday, gave a very unequivocal response, showing conclusively that they loved their books and loved their teacher too.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

MR. WARREN SHERBURNE, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

Miss L. JANE GOULD, of Tyngsboro', taught the Summer School in this District 9 weeks. Wages \$12 per month. No. of scholars, 13; average attendance, 12.8; tardy marks, 9, and 9 were present every one-half day; visitors, 38. Studies—Writing, 5; Arithmetic, 11; Grammar, 2; Geography, 4;

Composition, 2; Wells' Science, 2. Miss Gould also taught the Winter School 12 weeks. Wages \$14 per month. No. of scholars, 15; average attendance, 14.2; tardy marks, 14; 7 scholars were present every one-half day; visitors, 46. Studies—Writing, 11; Arithmetic, 12; Algebra, 1; Grammar, 5; Geography, 4; Composition, 2, Wells' Science, 2.

Miss Gould succeeded very well in this school, being her first effort. She gained the good will of her scholars, so that they yielded ready and willing attention to her instructions, and made good progress in their several studies. And if the teacher was faulty in any of her modes of teaching, it may be in *her* being a little too ready to answer instead of the *scholar*.

Two or three subjects in which all the schools are interested, will be spoken of in general terms. Declamation has been quite successful in some of the schools. And writing compositions has been attended with good success in all the schools; and at the close of many of the schools a paper has been read, exhibiting the talent of the scholars in expressing their thoughts and ideas, and their wit, too. The papers have always been a pleasing feature in the closing examination, and many of them have displayed much merit. The paper read at No. 5 was a good performance; also at No. 2; the paper displayed sense and wit; yet the reading of it was the superior part.

The discipline of the schools has been truly gratifying. With the exception of two or three schools, all the schools summer and winter, have been remark-

ably still. And this stillness has not been attained by the use of the ferule and rod, but by mild and judicious training.

Nearly all the schools are worthy of commendation for the neatness of their school-rooms and school-houses. It was noticed at the school-house in No. 1 that a part of a window in the recess was out.— Whether taken out for some practical purpose, or whether out for evil, your committee did not learn, but hope it was for the former purpose. The inside of that house, which has, since the summer school closed, been remodeled and beautified, exhibited no marks of violence or abuse; but has been kept very neatly and cleanly, much to the comfort and pleasantness of the school.

It was noticed at No. 4 that a door, which was good and new only two or three years since, was sadly smashed. With these exceptions the school-houses have been kept with much care and neatness. The punctuality of the schools is worthy of commendation. With the exception of the summer school in No. 2, the south school in No. 3, and the winter school in No. 1, the average of tardy marks is less than two to each scholar. Of the 322 tardy marks in No. 2, about three-fifths of them were marked against the names of five scholars.

The practice of visiting schools, by parents and others, has become a *feature* in our schools, and the practice is useful and beneficial, as it tends to encourage the teacher in his labors, and to promote his faithfulness; it also has a tendency to render the scholars more studious. If a school is often visited more care

will be taken to keep the school-room neat and pleasant.

The school registers, the past year, report about six hundred visitors, of whom probably three-fifths were those present at the closing examinations, leaving two hundred and forty who visited the schools during their progress, giving on an average about 17 visits to each school. Well, this is an improvement from what was the practice a few years since; yet it is desirable that these visits should be increased four fold; and *that* increase would only average one visitor each day. And while it is desirable that the number of visits should be increased, it is greatly desirable that the visits of *parents* should be increased, not four fold, but forty fold. A fact or two will be stated to show that parents—yes, parents—to you the thought is suggested; to you, who love your children as you love your right eye, and who provide suitably and even lavishly for their good, and who desire, almost above every thing else, their happiness and prosperity—that parents omit too much the duty of visiting the school-room. Of the 240 visits to our schools during their progress, only 44 were visits of the parents, and 18 of these were in No. 2, leaving 26 for the other schools. And now Mr. A and B and C; and Mrs. E and F and G, place it as a fact in your minds that you will certainly visit your school at least once in each term, and follow this up a year or two, and then say, if your schools are not better, if your teachers are not better, and if your scholars are not better, and say too, if you are not doubly paid

for the trouble And now, fellow citizens, believing that you will ever cherish the interests of popular education, and take all suitable means to improve your common schools, I leave the subject in your hands, and to your candor respectfully submit this Report.

ABEL GAGE, *Supt'g School Com.*

Pelham, March 12, 1861.

THE subscribers having been appointed by the Town of Pelham, at its Annual Meeting in March, 1860, to examine and audit the Treasurer's Account for the then ensuing year, have attended to that duty and respectfully submit the following

REPORT.

The Treasurer charges himself as follows, viz :

1860, March 14, Cash in Treasurer's hands,	\$660 83
“ May 1, Cash of State Treasurer for 1859, Railroad money,	55 26
1861, Feb. 1, Cash of State Treasurer for Railroad money,	64 08
“ Feb. 27, Cash of David Cutter for a graveyard lot,	3 00
“ March 1, Cash in full of Collector for 1859,	669 02
“ “ 9, Cash of Joshua Atwood for use of Town House,	49 00
“ “ 11, Cash of Collector for 1860,	1,845 00
	\$3,346 19

The Treasurer claims allowance for the above sum as follows, to wit :

1860-61—Paid sundry drafts by the Selectmen drawn on him during the year, amounting to	\$3,092 19
Balance in Treasury,	254 00
	\$3,346 19

To the above sum of Cash, (\$254 00) now in the hands of the Treasurer, should be transferred from the Poor Farm Fund, as by vote of the Town, at the last Annual Meeting,	258 00
Which with outstanding taxes amounting to	456 25
	\$968 25

Constitute, as the present available means of the Town, the sum of

POOR FARM FUND.

The Treasurer reports this Fund to amount, at this date,	
to	\$2,722 40
Of which the sum of	258 00
Appropriated by a vote of the Town at the last Annual Meeting, for finishing the basement of the Town House,	\$215 00
And repairing the bridge near the house of Moody Hobbs of	43 00
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Should be transferred to the Treasury, leaves an unappropriated balance of said Fund, of	\$2,464 40

THE LITERARY FUND.

Of this Fund the Treasurer charges himself as follows, to wit:—

1860, March 13, To Cash in the Treasury,	\$74 48
“ July 5, To Cash received from the State,	81 00
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Amounting to	\$155 48
And credits himself—	
1861, March 11, By sundry orders drawn on him by the Selectmen and paid the Prudential Committees of the different School Districts in the Town, during the year,	\$74 48
By Cash in the Treasury, same date,	80 00

Upon examination, we find that the Selectmen have assessed the polls and ratable estate of the Town, the past year, for State, County, Town, School and non-resident highway taxes, and committed the same to the Collector for collection, (exclusive of the highway tax of \$1,000, payable in labor), the sum of

Revenue derived from other sources,—	
Railroad money from the State,	119 34
From use of the Town House,	49 00
From sale of grave-yard lots,	3 00
From Collector for 1859,	669 02
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	\$4,046 18

To which should be added, of the Poor Farm Fund, amounting		258 00
As the total Revenue of the Fund <i>Town</i>		<u>\$4,304 18</u>

EXPENDITURES.

For State Tax,	\$323 40
“ County Tax,	611 96
“ School Tax (exclusive of Literary Fund),	924 00
“ Town Hall, including Insurance,	249 75
“ Roads and Bridges,	311 11
“ Paupers,	918 05
“ Miscellaneous, including cash on hand and out- standing taxes,	965 91
	<u>\$4,304 18</u>

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

MOODY HOBBS,
GERMAN S. LYON, } *Auditors.*
ABEL GAGE,

PELHAM, March 12th, 1861.