

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND
AUDITORS

OF THE
TOWN OF PELHAM,

MARCH 10, 1863.

LOWELL:
STONE & HUSE, PRINTERS, COURIER OFFICE, 21 CENTRAL STREET.
1863.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your Committee would most respectfully submit the following Report:

DISTRICT NO. 1.

MOODY HOBBS, ESQ., PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer term of this school was taught by Miss SARAH J. BURNHAM, of this town. Length of term, 13 weeks; number of scholars, 31; average attendance, 26.1-3; 36 instances of tardiness; 16 pupils not tardy during the term; 5 pupils not absent one-half day.

This was in *every respect* a successful term of school. By mild and judicious measures good discipline was maintained, and very good improvement was made in all branches pursued.

The Winter term was under the charge of HENRY I. SNELL, of Lowell. Wages, \$35 per month, including board; length of term, 13 weeks; number of scholars, 34; average attendance, 28; instances of tardiness, 58.

Mr. Snell is an experienced and faithful teacher. His school appeared quiet and orderly. A little more energy, on the part of both teacher and pupils, on the day of the closing examination, would have added much to the appearance of the school. The answers of a portion of the scholars were quite too low to be distinctly heard. The writing-books exhibited would compare favorably with those of any other school in town. Reading very good. Spelling, of the first class, extra; second class, indifferent. All other classes and exercises about medium. These were the notes taken at the examination.

The teacher very truthfully remarks in his register, that "this school would be greatly benefited by a supply of correct outline maps, to illustrate the lessons in geography. A globe would be one of the cheapest and most accurate means of giving pupils an idea of the real facts of geography. To make a child understand the true ideas of latitude and longitude, or the connection of the Eastern and Western Continents, by the use of the globe, is an easy task; while by the use of the map only, the labor is arduous, and the understanding of it necessarily imperfect."

DISTRICT NO. 2.

JOSIAH F. FOX, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

Teacher, Summer term, Miss MARTHA J. ATWOOD. Wages per month, including board, \$20. No. of scholars, 44; average attendance, 39 3-7; length of term, 13 weeks. Only 11 instances of tardiness during the term; 35 pupils not tardy once; 16 pupils present every one-half day.

Few persons have that natural tact for managing scholars, and imparting knowledge, which this teacher possesses. She entered upon her duties with energy, and was untiring in her exertions throughout the term.

The closing examination was characterized by good order, ready, energetic and accurate answers, and an apparent desire on the part of most of the pupils to be heard and understood in all parts of the school-room. All the classes appeared well. Reading and spelling seemed to have received an unusual degree of attention; and the classes in geography sustained a good examination.

The Winter term commenced December 1, and continued 11 weeks, under the charge of WILLIAM E. BUCK, of Hampstead, N. H. Wages, \$36 per month, board included. No. of scholars, 55; average, 50; instances of tardiness, 74; 15 scholars not absent one-half day; 17

not tardy once, and 19 only once each during the term. A whispering record was kept during 9 weeks of the term, and 13 are reported as not having whispered during that time; and two, that whispered but once each, were excused for reasons satisfactory to the teacher. These scholars were George S. Butler, Mary A. Cloyd, Ann E. Derbyshire, Clarence Gage, Naaman Goodspeed, Flavius Goodspeed, Mary Goodspeed, Lewis G. Hunter, Louisa Jones, Grosvenor Jones, Martin Jones, Ida E. Seavey, Walter Tenney, Sumner Upham, and Philena Whitehouse.

In this school we found good order, good recitations, good progress, and a good term of school in all respects. The teacher was evidently aware that very little could be accomplished without *order*; and *some* may have thought him a little too strict. Yet I think that I but express the opinion of every sensible person in the district in saying that if he erred at all, it was in being too lenient, rather than too strict.

At the close of the term, a beautiful photograph album was presented to the teacher by his pupils.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

WM. G. CHASE, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, SOUTH SCHOOL.
WM. G. BUTLER, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, NORTH SCHOOL.

The Summer term of the South school was taught 8 weeks by Miss LUCY E. CHASE, of this town. No. of scholars, 15; average, 11 1-2; 21 instances of tardiness; 8 pupils not tardy once; 3 pupils present every half day.

Although in her native district, with pupils who in previous terms had been her schoolmates, Miss Chase made a very good commencement in teaching. The improvement made was all that could reasonably be expected in so short a term.

The Winter term was under the charge of Miss SARAH J. BURNHAM. Length of term, 12 weeks; number of scholars, 14; average attendance, 10 1-2; instances of tardiness, 45. Hannah A. Spaulding is reported neither absent nor tardy during the term; Jennie Chase not tardy, and absent only one-half day.

The ten scholars who were present at the examination, had attended quite constantly and punctually during the term. They seemed to have learned very well, but a portion of them were somewhat diffident at the closing examination. Frequent visits to the school-room by parents might do much to inspire confidence in these young scholars.

The Summer term of the North school was taught by Miss H. A. CHASE. Length of term, 11 weeks; number of scholars, 17; average, 14 1-2; tardy marks, 27; 5 pupils not tardy once; 7 pupils present every one-half day.

This is the third summer in which this teacher has been employed in this school—a strong evidence of her faithfulness and competency as a teacher. At the closing examination the school appeared orderly, recitations prompt, with a fair degree of progress during the term. Susan Smith and Jennie M. Simpson are reported as not having whispered during the term; and Thursa A. Butler, Ella M. Ellenwood, Clara Ellenwood, Ellen A. Hamblet, Caroline A. Smith, Caroline E. Simpson, Abbie Wheeler, and Jane H. Webster only once each during the term.

The Winter term was commenced by HENRY S. SMITH, of Lowell. Being young and inexperienced in teaching, and incapable of managing the school, he withdrew at the close of the third week.

After a week's vacation, the school was resumed by Miss M. C. RICHARDSON, and is now in session. The school appears to be doing well, and has some fine scholars

for their ages. Whole length of term, 13 weeks—being lengthened some four weeks by the voluntary subscriptions of the district; number of scholars, 27.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

NOAH JACKMAN, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

Teacher, Summer term, Miss ELLEN H. GOWING, of Hudson. Wages, \$19.50 per month, including board; length of term, 13 weeks; number of scholars, 44; average, 36; instances of tardiness, 53; 24 pupils not tardy during the term; 6 pupils not absent one-half day; 16 pupils report themselves as not having whispered during the term. Their names are Almira Colburn, Adella Cluff, Cynthia Foss, Ida Gage, Emma M. Gage, Ella L. Jackman, Eudora L. Titcomb, Rosilla B. Webster, Clara F. Webster, Mary L. Webster, Julia A. Woodbury, Mary E. Proctor, Benjamin F. Colburn, John M. Jackman, Emery Webster, and Daniel M. Webster.

The whooping cough prevailed in this district at the commencement of the term, and, of course, caused much disturbance in the school-room. With this exception, the school appeared very quiet and orderly at my first visit. The closing examination was upon one of the warmest and most oppressive afternoons of the season; and, perhaps, we ought not to expect small scholars to keep *perfectly* quiet and orderly on such a day; yet we are inclined to think that the order *might* and *ought* to have been a *little better*. The progress and improvement made were, I should judge, about on an average with other schools of the same length of term.

The Winter term was taught by OTIS FERNALD, of Shapleigh, Me. Wages, \$37.50 per month, including board. Length of term, 10 weeks; number of scholars, 40; average attendance, 37 7-10; instances of tardiness,

181; only 2 pupils not tardy during the term; 5 pupils not absent one-half day.

Mr. Fernald was earnest in his efforts to maintain order and to impart instruction. As the day of the closing examination was very stormy indeed, only twenty-two scholars were present; consequently the classes were very much broken, and the school did not make so good an appearance as it doubtless would have done, had all the scholars been present. The school appeared to have been well taught and governed. Some interest was manifested by parents, but the schools in this district will not be likely to suffer at present by too frequent visits from them.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

CALVIN COBURN, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer term of this school was taught by Miss MARTHA A. HOBBS. Wages, \$16 per month; length of term, 12 1-2 weeks; number of scholars, 21; average, 18; tardy marks, 25; number of scholars not tardy, 13; not absent one-half day, 4.

The success of this term was such that we hope that the teacher will not soon abandon the honorable vocation upon which she has so successfully entered. The appearance of the school at the examination was quite satisfactory. Good progress was noticed in nearly all the branches pursued.

The Winter term commenced December 1, and continued 11 weeks; taught by MOSES G. PARKER, of Dracut. Wages, \$35 per month, board included; number of scholars, 34; average attendance, 25; tardy marks, 134; 3 not tardy during the term. George L. Ham and Henry S. Knight were not absent one-half day. Number reported as not having whispered during the term, 13; viz., Emma D. Coburn, Flora M. Coburn, Helen A. Currier, Martha A. Hobbs, Sybil F. Richardson, Delcena Wilson, Samantha

Wilson, Hannah J. Poor, Silas R. Coburn, Edwin M. Currier, George L. Ham, Irving S. Porter, and Frank Wilkins.

This was Mr. Parker's second term in the same school, and it is sufficient to say that he fully sustained the high reputation which he has heretofore borne, as an energetic, able and efficient teacher. The exercises at the examination proved conclusively that much labor had been performed by both teacher and pupils. The books of a class in book-keeping were exhibited, which showed that this study had received much attention; the books were well written and neatly kept. Declamations and compositions, fine. Order, good.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

JESSE HAMBLETT, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

The Summer school was taught by Miss MARIA L. CUTTER. Length of term, 8 weeks; number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 10 17-20—the best average of any school in town; number of tardy marks, 3; 9 pupils not tardy; 7 pupils not absent one-half day.

Wherever we find scholars so interested in their school, and so seldom absent or tardy, we are pretty sure to find a profitable school. Although the term was short, the progress made in the different branches was good. One-half or more of the scholars were reported as not having whispered during the term.

Teacher of Winter term, Miss SYBIL A. CURRIER. Length of term, 10 1-2 weeks; number of scholars, 19; average, 18.1; tardy marks, 14; number not tardy, 11; number not absent one-half day, 8. The success of this term of school was creditable to teacher and pupils.

Since the close of this term, the same teacher has been employed in teaching a private school in this district, which is now in session, and is expected to be about six weeks in length.

At the examinations of all our schools, excepting No. 4, a school paper, written by the scholars, has been read, all of which contained some fine compositions. The one read in the Winter school of No. 5 was an unusually fine production, and the one in the Summer school of No. 1 contained some well-written and touching articles. The examinations have also been enlivened by declamations and dialogues, which served to relieve tedium, and many of which were deserving of much praise.

With my enlightened townsmen, I believe that our school interests are safe; but I would recommend a more liberal appropriation of money in this its best investment—the support of our common schools. In most of our Winter schools, the school money was not sufficient for more than ten weeks of school. In two schools, one week was generously given by the teachers. In two others the schools were lengthened by subscriptions in the district. Our school terms ought not to fall short of three months in length; and a little more money expended in this direction would not be much felt by any of us.

The work of the teacher is arduous, and often difficult. His is a great responsibility. We have a right to expect that he will devote himself entirely to the work which he has undertaken; to do all in his power for the benefit of those placed under his care. But we are apt to expect too much of him—to expect him to succeed under any and all circumstances. We should consider the obstacles which are more or less in the way of every teacher's success. Among these are tardiness and irregular attendance of scholars, the carelessness of children, and fault-finding of parents, to discourage and embarrass him. And there is still the pernicious practice of *whispering* in the school-room, although much has been done the past season to abolish it in many of our schools. This should be en-

tirely suppressed. Every teacher should take a decided stand against it, and if possible banish it entirely from the school-room. This would do more than anything else towards preserving good order in the school-room; and if parents and all concerned would sustain the teacher in this respect, we should have more orderly schools and much less complaint against teachers.

To parents I would say, our teachers are in want of your co-operation and your sympathy. Your assurance that they have your sympathy is not sufficient, without a practical evidence of it. Visit the school, and see for yourselves that all is right. Don't trust entirely to the report of your children and the discrimination of school committees. Your personal presence in the school-room would show the sincerity of your pretensions, and, perhaps, materially aid the teacher. It would tend to stimulate your children to renewed exertions, and we should soon see a marked change in the interest they would take in their studies. Let me say then to every parent, *it is your duty to visit your schools.*

In conclusion, I would tender my thanks to all who have sympathized with me in my labors, and express the hope that the efforts of my successor may be crowned with more signal utility than my own.

LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,

Superintending School Committee.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The subscribers having been appointed by the town of Pelham, at the annual meeting in March, 1862, a Committee to examine and audit the Treasurer's account for then ensuing year, have attended to the duty assigned them, and respectfully submit the following

R E P O R T .

The Treasurer charges himself as follows:

1862.		
March 12—	Cash in treasury,	\$ 232 55
1863.		
Feb'ry 23—	Received of Collector for 1862,	2113 65
March 9—	Received of the Collector for 1861, outstanding taxes,	728 47
	Received of David Cutter for grave- yard lots for 1861-62,	5 25
	Cash of John Cloyd for use of the Town Hall,	36 00
	Cash from Selectmen from the County,	36 25
	Cash received for a lot of lumber,	1 00
	Cash of Selectmen for Town Hall,	9 00
		\$3162 17
Amounting to		\$3162 17

The Treasurer claims an allowance for the foregoing as follows, to wit:
1863.

March 9—	Paid sundry orders issued by the Se- lectmen to various persons, during the past year and previous thereto, amounting to	\$2357 00
	Cash in hands of Treasurer,	304 28
		\$3162 17
Amounting to		\$3162 17

POOR FARM FUND.

The Treasurer reports this Fund to amount at this date to		\$2677 64
In addition to this, there is the sum of \$258.00 re- maining in the hands of the Agent, which should be transferred to the treasury,		258 00
		\$2935 64

LITERARY FUND.

Of this Fund the Treasurer accounts thus :

1862.

March 10—Cash in treasury,	\$75 03	
July 15—Cash of the State Treasurer,	68 85	
		<hr/> \$143 88

For which he claims credit as follows:

1863.

March 10—For cash paid the Prudential Committees of the different districts of the Town, by order of the Selectmen, amounting to	\$75 05	
Balance on hand,	68 83	
		<hr/>
Amounting to		\$143 88

REVENUE.

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

\$3053 11

Revenue from other sources:

Received from Collector for 1861,	728 47
for grave-yard lots,	5 25
for use of Town Hall,	45 00
from the County of Hillsborough,	36 25
for a lot of lumber,	1 00

Amounting as the total revenue of the Town, \$3869 08

of the foregoing has been actually collected and received, and paid into the hands of the proper receiving and disbursing officers—a fact highly creditable to our present Collector and other Town officers.

EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS.

For State tax,	\$ 318 40
County tax,	621 06
Schools,	839 68
support of Paupers,	619 54
Appropriation for Town expenses (including that for paupers),	1100 00
	<hr/> \$3498 68

Every order issued by the Selectmen the past year, and all outstanding orders, have been presented and paid.

WAR EXPENSES.

By request of the Selectmen, we annex their report of the expenses of the war, as incurred by votes of the Town:

They have borrowed, on credit of the Town, the sum of	\$9140 00
They have paid	
To 27 three years' men as bounty, at \$250 each,	\$6750 00
To 5 nine months' men, at \$250 each,	1250 00
To 4 nine months' men,	600 00
Paid families of soldiers (State aid),	260 00
Expenses in procuring volunteers, &c.,	13 10
Paid interest on money,	13 06
	<hr/>
Amounting to	\$8886 16
Cash in their hands,	253 84
	<hr/>
	\$9140 00

Of the above sum, the \$260, paid by them to the families of soldiers in the service, will be repaid by the State, if properly authenticated.

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

MOODY HOBBS,	}	<i>Auditors.</i>
ABEL GAGE,		
B. F. CUTTER,		

PELHAM, MARCH 10, 1863.