

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

Town of Pelham,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2ND, 1874.

LOWELL, MASS.

STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 21 CENTRAL STREET.

1874.

REPORT.

THE undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Pelham, respectfully submit the following Report :

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Nathan Gage, bill for services as Selectman, use of horse, stationery, car fare, &c., for the year ending March 11th, 1873,.....	\$112 55
George H. Currier, bill for services as Selectman, use of horse, car fare, stationery, &c., for the year ending March 11th, 1873,.....	92 67
Martin L. Jones, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 11th, 1873,..	34 00
John Woodbury, for services as Town Treasurer, for the year ending March 11th, 1873,.....	40 00
Dr. Amos Bachelder, for services as Town Clerk, for the year ending March 11th, 1873,.....	30 00
Moody Hobbs, for services as Superintending School Committee for the year ending March 11th, 1873,	40 00
George H. Currier, for services as Collector of Taxes, for the year ending March 11th, 1873,.....	85 00
	<hr/>
	\$434 22

TOWN PAUPERS.

Paid Alpheus Goodwin for board of Mrs. Rachel McCoy, from March 1st, 1873, to March 1st, 1874, 52 weeks, @ \$2.00,.....	\$104 00
Betsy Bradt, for board and expense of Calvin A. Keyes,.....	25 00
Funeral expenses of C. A. Keyes,.....	19 50
Nathan Gage, expense of Samuel P. White,.....	28 00
Moody Hobbs, board of S. P. White,.....	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$180 50

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Amos R. Hobbs, bill for breaking snow path,	\$ 47 60
B. F. Richardson, " " " "	10 00
Nelson Webster, " " " "	10 37
Calvin Coburn, " " " "	28 50
Norris Emerson, " " " "	5 69
John Wilson, " " " "	3 57
Samuel Rollins, " " " "	3 74
James M. Hobbs, " " " "	14 56
E. C. Gage, " " " "	1 00
Isaac C. Marshall, " " " "	13 04
Thomas Gage, " " " "	3 92
Kimball J. Chaplin, " " " "	4 08
Granville B. Currier, " " " "	4 98
Asa D. Butler, for plank used on bridges,	44 09
Thomas Gage, for repairs of highways,	14 25
Daniel Marshall and others, for filling up bridge and repairing road,	51 50
Thomas Gage, for plank on bridge, near Thomas W. Simpson's,	13 12
Nathan Gage, for lumber used on bridge near Moody Hobbs's house,	12 85
James A. Foster, for spikes used on bridge,	1 92
	<hr/>
	\$288 78

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of Town appropria- tion for 1872,	\$198 19	
Part of Town appropriation for 1873,	112 53	
Literary fund,	11 82	
	<hr/>	\$322 54
District No. 2, balance of Town appropria- tion for 1872,	196 62	
Part of Town appropriation for 1873,	62 91	
Literary fund,	15 88	
	<hr/>	275 41
District No. 3, balance of Town appropria- tion for 1872,	234 19	
Part of Town appropriation for 1873,	59 66	
Literary fund,	11 08	
	<hr/>	304 93
District No. 4, balance of Town appropria- tion for 1872,	178 51	
Part of Town appropriation for 1873,	104 21	
Literary fund,	14 03	
	<hr/>	296 75
Amount carried forward,		\$1,199 63

Amount brought forward,		\$1,199 63
Paid District No. 5, balance of Town appropriation for 1872,	155 22	
Part of Town appropriation for 1873,	103 55	
Literary fund,	11 08	
		<u>269 85</u>
District No. 6, Town appropriation for 1873,	104 07	
Literary fund,	2 95	
		<u>107 02</u>
Total,		\$1,576 50
School money due District No. 1,	148 75	
" " " " " 2,	198 37	
" " " " " 3,	201 62	
" " " " " 4,	157 07	
" " " " " 5,	157 73	
		<u>\$863 54</u>

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for use of Town House, for the year ending March 2nd, 1874,		\$68 75
Paid D. H. Webster, for one cord of wood,	6 00	
Charles W. Hobbs, for opening hall,	6 25	
F. M. Woodbury, for opening hall,	3 00	
John Woodbury, for oil, lamps, wicks, &c.,	3 43	
		<u>\$18 68</u>
Balance of income,		\$50 07

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Reuben P. Allen, poll tax for 1872,		\$ 1 35
Edwin S. Burnham, " "		1 35
Charles H. Burt, " "		1 35
Fred. W. Bachelder, " "		1 35
Orin Bonzey, " "		1 35
George Crouch, " "		1 35
William A. Carter, " "		1 35
F. M. Ellenwood, " "		1 35
Aaron W. Foster, " "		1 35
Noyes Farmer, " "		1 35
Joseph Lyon, " "		1 35
John Roberts, " "		1 35
Samuel Tighe, " "		1 35
Wm. Wyles, " "		1 35
Hiram Hatch, " "		1 35
Warren W. Herbert, " "		1 35
		<u>\$21 60</u>
Amount carried forward,		\$21 60

Amount brought forward,.....		\$21 60
Dexter Hayes, poll tax for 1872,.....		1 35
Daniel Coburn, tax for ".....		4 05
Orendal Burt, poll tax for ".....		1 35
Chas. H. Stickney, part of tax for ".....		2 55
James Grogan, dog tax for ".....		1 00
Charles H. Baker, part of tax for 1871,.....		4 55
Daniel Coburn, " " " ".....		5 10
Orendal Burt, poll tax for ".....		2 55
		<hr/>
		\$44 10
Non-resident highway tax paid in labor, for the year 1872,		21 73
		<hr/>
		\$65 83

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid principal on notes held against said Town the past year,.....	\$1,800 00	
Interest on sundry notes against said Town,	680 07	
	<hr/>	2,480 07
J. Underwood, damage done by dogs,....	4 00	
James M. Hobbs, damage done by dogs,..	4 00	
	<hr/>	8 00
Stone & Huse, printing Town Report for the year ending March 1, 1873,.....		31 00
John Woodbury, driving hearse 16 times,.		40 00
For postage, expressage, and insurance on O. C. Libby house,.....		6 35
District No. 1, for repairs of school-house,	85 00	
District No. 2, for repairs of school-house,	100 00	
District No. 6, for insurance on ".....	12 60	
	<hr/>	197 60
		<hr/>
		\$2,763 02

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED.

State tax,.....	\$2,418 00	
County tax,.....	797 00	
School tax,.....	1,410 50	
Dog tax,.....	77 00	
Town tax,.....	2,000 00	
Highway tax,.....	1,500 00	
School-house tax, District No. 1,.....	85 00	
" " " " 2,.....	100 00	
" " " " 6,.....	12 60	
	<hr/>	\$8,400
Percentage upon \$1,000,.....	\$11.00.	

NATHAN GAGE, } *Seler*
 GEORGE H. CURRIER, }
 DANIEL MARSHALL, }

PELHAM, March 2nd, 1874.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 2, 1874.

March 1, 1873.	Amount of cash in the treasury,.....	\$543 27
July 1, 1873.	Received of Geo. H. Currier, Collector, the outstanding taxes for 1872, amounting to.....	1,834 90
“ “	Am't of interest received on the above,	19 29
“ “	Received of Geo. H. Currier, Collector, for the year ending March 2, 1874,....	6,172 27
“ “	Received of the State Treasurer, the Savings Bank tax, amounting to,.....	571 17
“ “	Of the same, the Railroad tax,.....	106 16
“ “	Received from grave-yard lots,.....	5 25
Feb. 28, 1874.	Received of the Selectmen, money left by Mary J. Hobbs towards her expenses in 1872,.....	55 00
“ 1874.	Received of the agent, for the use of the Town Hall during the past year,.....	68 75
“ 1874.	Of Nathan Gage, for rent of the Libby House,.....	18 00
March 2, 1874.	Received of the Selectmen, for the purpose of paying a note held against said town,.....	500 00
		\$9,894 06

The Treasurer of said Town charges the same with the following payments :

To cash paid on sundry orders, drawn by the Selectmen during the year ending March 2, 1874,.....		\$8,965 09
Leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of,....		928 97
March 2, 1874.	Outstanding taxes now remaining in hands of Collector,.....	\$710 67

LITERARY FUND.

March 2, 1874.	Cash in the treasury,.....	\$74 21
----------------	----------------------------	---------

DOG TAX FUND.

March 1, 1873.	Amount of cash,.....	\$70 00
“ 2, 1874.	Received of Geo. H. Currier, the dog tax for 1873,.....	77 00
		\$147 00
Cash paid by drafts of Selectmen the past year,.....		8 00
Leaving unappropriated,.....		\$139 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Amount of Town debt March 1, 1873,.....	\$7,500 00
Paid, beside interest, the past year,.....	<u>1,800 00</u>
March 1, 1874. The whole amount of Town debt at the present time,.....	\$5,700 00

JOHN WOODBURY,

Town Treasurer

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town, having examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the last financial year, find all orders issued by the Selectmen duly receipted, and all payments made by the Treasurer properly vouched, and his accounts correctly cast.

ABEL GAGE,

FREDERIC A. CUTTER,

Auditors.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 10TH, 1874.

THE laws of New Hampshire require that the "School Committee shall, annually, make a report of the condition of the Public Schools, with such suggestions relative thereto as he may think proper."

Custom also requires—in this Town, at least—that the Committee shall give his views of the success of the Schools separately, and also give his personal opinion of the teachers, their moral character, natural kindness of heart, &c. From this last requirement I must be excused, as I trust the citizens of this town are as well acquainted with the teachers employed the past year as your Committee.

The Schools have, generally, been a success the past year. In all the Districts, except No. 6, there have been three terms of School, viz: Summer, Fall, and Winter; which I think is right, if we can have thirty weeks of school. The winter term should not be less than twelve weeks, as there are some large scholars that cannot possibly attend in the summer.

There has been no epidemic to seriously affect the attendance, or other untoward circumstances to mar the general prosperity of our schools. All the schools have passed very creditable examinations, which have been well attended by the citizens, and friends of education, of the several Districts.

The School-houses are all in good condition, except No. 3, and the less said about that the better. I trust the citizens of that District will see that this is attended to before another year. If not, I would suggest that they hire a barn in which to hold their school.

STATISTICS.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Prudential Committee, . . . Nathan S. Sleeper.

Teachers.—Summer and Fall, Miss Eliza H. Woodbury. Winter, Miss M. Amanda Cloyd.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 23; Fall, 25; Winter, 27.

Average attendance—Summer, 21; Fall, 23; Winter, 24.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 10; Fall, 9; Winter, 12.

Wages of teachers, per month, including board—Summer and Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$48.00.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Prudential Committee, . . . Benj. McQuesten.

Teacher for the year—Miss Julia F. Cutter.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 30; Fall, 31; Winter, 33.

Average attendance — Summer, 26; Fall, 27; Winter, 30.

Length of school in weeks — Summer, 8; Fall, 8; Winter, 11.

Wages of teacher, per month — Summer, \$28.00; Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$40.00.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Prudential Committee, . . . Joseph W. Wallace.

Teacher for the year — Miss Lucie F. Wallace.

Whole No. of scholars — Summer, 20; Fall, 23; Winter, 20.

Average attendance — Summer, 17; Fall, 19; Winter, 18.

Length of school in weeks — Summer, 9; Fall, 10; Winter, 10.

Wages of teachers, per month — Summer, \$36.00; Fall, \$40.00; Winter, \$40.00.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Prudential Committee, . . . Davis Butler.

Teachers, Summer and Fall — Miss M. Amanda Cloyd.
Winter — Mr. Sydney P. Gage.

Whole No. of scholars — Summer, 33; Fall, 34; Winter, 37.

Average attendance — Summer, 30; Fall, 30; Winter, 32.

Length of school in weeks — Summer, 9; Fall, 9; Winter, 10.

Wages of teachers, per month — Summer, \$35.00; Fall, \$38.00; Winter \$44.00.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Prudential Committee, . . . William A. Giles.

Teacher for the year — Miss Susan M. Smith.

Whole No of scholars—Summer, 21; Fall, 20; Winter, 27.

Average attendance—Summer, 19; Fall, 18; Winter, 21.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 9; Fall, 8; Winter 10.

Wages of teacher, per month—Summer and Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$48.00.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Prudential Committee, . . . John L. Spaulding.

Teacher for the year—Miss Clara A. Keyes.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 6; Winter, 5.

Average attendance—Summer, $5\frac{1}{2}$; Winter, $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 7; Winter, 12.

Wages of teacher, per month—\$24.00.

The whole number of scholars in town, as reported by teachers, attending school not less than two weeks, is 172. Boys, 95; girls, 77.

Number of children in town between four and fourteen years, not attending school, 11.

The whole amount expended for schools the past year, \$1,477.34. Amount to each scholar, \$8.58.

Average wages of teachers, per month, including board, \$35.64.

Amount expended for repairs—District No. 1, \$88.28; District No. 2, \$150.00.

Number of visits by Prudential Committee, 16; by Superintending Committee, 37; by citizens, 214.

GENERAL REMARKS.

BRANCHES TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The primary object of our Public Schools should be to give all a thorough knowledge of Reading, Spelling,

Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, and Geography. I think there is a disposition on the part of scholars to pass over these first elementary studies, and advance to those of a higher order, such as Book-Keeping, Algebra, &c., before they are perfectly familiar with the first, or most important ones. For instance, we have scholars studying Book-Keeping long before they are familiar with the first half of their written Arithmetic, or before they can spell common words correctly. This I think to be wrong. Parents should see that their children are properly classified, according to their acquirements.

SPELLING.

This important branch seems to be the most neglected of any taught in our schools. It is painful to me to visit some of our schools, and hear the classes spell. I sometimes think they try harder to spell words wrong, than they would to get them right. There should be a generous spirit of rivalry between scholars, and also between different schools, to see which will be the most proficient in this most important branch.

VISITORS.

Our schools have been liberally patronized by visitors (so called) the past year, the whole number—not including those attending the closing examinations—being 214. Of this large number only 52 were parents of children attending school. Not a large number, truly, when we consider that there have been 17 terms of school.

Many of this large number, instead of benefiting the schools, by remarks to the scholars, or kindly suggestions to the teachers, are actually an injury to the schools, especially if allowed to sit with the scholars. Every parent, master, or guardian sending a child to school, should visit it once or

twice during every term, to see for themselves the actual condition of the school, and not trust to hearsay, or what their children may say of it. And there could be nothing more encouraging to the hands or hearts of our teachers than the evidence of interest thus manifested. They could learn at once why their children fail to reach a certain standard of excellence, if they fail, and know how to apply the remedy needed. I regret that parental sympathy with those engaged in the instruction of children should be so generally withheld. Abuse is better than no interest at all, and those who find fault are benefactors in preventing stagnation. The large sum of money expended on our schools should incite the wish to know how it is expended. It is not enough to know that committeemen are virtuous and teachers are honest.

TEACHERS.

And in alluding to them I am well aware I am liable to much criticism, but duty compels me to offer such suggestions as I think for the interests of the schools. Thorough instruction is more and more demanded as necessary to meet the requirements of the times, and prepare the children to perform aright their parts in life. And here I think the parents are in fault, in being satisfied with what in their school-days would have been called a sufficient Common School education. It was a remark of Daniel Webster, that "new times demanded new measures, and new men." At our examinations many parents seem satisfied, and look on with a benignant smile if their children can answer a few simple questions in what they have studied, and perhaps recite a short piece; and if they fail in any way both teacher and parents have a happy faculty of attributing the failure to bashfulness. I think our teachers should drill our chil-

dren in all the first, or elementary studies, so thoroughly as to defy a failure.

All teachers should be students, themselves constantly trying to find new ways to interest those committed to their charge. The curious eyes of the little ones are wide open to all new facts of the outer world, and their untrained powers of observation are very acute. Nature is a pleasant plaything to them, and they should be permitted to drink from a running stream of knowledge, rather than from a stagnant pool. Our teachers are well enough paid for their services to warrant them in availing themselves of every opportunity which will better fit them to fill the important office committed to their charge.

Such is a brief outline of the condition of our schools. They are not all of them what they should be, considering the advantages enjoyed. It is very evident that some districts get more benefit from the money expended than others. It is not enough that parents furnish school-houses and fixtures with a lavish hand. There must also be a moral support extended to the teacher; and the scholars given to understand that they must not trifle with it. The Common School is the pride of our land, established for the rich and poor alike. Let us not, then, stand still in our educational interests; they appeal to all—every thoughtful man, every property-holder, and every citizen.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC A. CUTTER,

Supt'g School Com.

PELHAM, N. H., March 2, 1874.