

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.

LOWELL, MASS.:

VOX POPULI PRINT: HUSE, GOODWIN & CO.

1879.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of Pelham respectfully submit the following report:—

TOWN EXPENSES.

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Luther C. Richardson, for services as selectman, for the year ending March 12, 1878.....	\$45 00
Charles W. Hobbs, for services as selectman, for the year ending March 12, 1878	41 00
Ezekiel C. Gage, for services as selectman, for the year ending March 12, 1878.....	30 00
John Woodbury, for services as town treasurer, for the year ending March 12, 1878.....	40 00
Amos Bachelder, for services as town clerk, for the year ending March 12, 1878.....	30 00
Augustus Berry, for services as superintending school committee, for the year ending March 12, 1878,	40 00
George H. Carrier, for services as collector of taxes, for the year 1877.....	85 00
	\$311 00

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Paid Hillsborough County Farm, for board and clothing Abbie W. Bean, for the year 1878, at \$3.00 per week.....	\$156 54
John Woodbury, for goods furnished Orendal Burt, —County charge....	\$2 25
Eben Burt, for provisions furnished same	1 80
L. C. Richardson, for one and one-half cords of wood furnished same.....	4 50
L. C. Richardson, for board and lodging tramps, for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	46 00
C. W. Hobbs, for same.....	5 00
	51 00
	\$216 09

* This amount has been repaid by the County of Hillsborough.

ROADS AND BRIDGES..

Paid D. H. Pearson, for labor on highways in 1877.....	\$5 09
P. J. Cogger, for labor on highways in 1877.....	7 80
D. M. Webster, for labor on bridge, near O'Tool place.....	5 00
D. M. Webster, for lumber for same	3 60
D. H. Pearson, for labor on highways in 1878.....	8 60
Edward Young, Jr., for labor on highways in 1878	6 12
B. McCann, for labor on highways in 1878.....	6 85
A. D. Butler, for lumber used on bridge at North Pelham	1 50
	3 89
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	\$39 85

SNOW BILLS.

Paid Hiram Woodbury, for breaking snow paths in 1877-8.....	\$ 3 47
Otis A. Gage, for breaking snow paths in 1877-8...	1 75
O. W. Spaulding, for breaking snow paths in 1877-8	5 00
D. H. Pearson, for breaking snow paths in 1877-8...	2 13
B. McCann, for breaking snow paths in January, 1877	2 00
Daniel Marshall, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	2 02
John Carr, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	5 65
D. M. Webster, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	12 35
Edward Young, Jr., for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	5 25
Eli E. Richardson, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	4 50
Simeon Carrier, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	9 45
James A. Hobbs, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	10 72
O. W. Spaulding, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	3 00
Daniel Atwood, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	5 00
J. M. Atwood, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	1 80
L. L. Black, for breaking snow paths for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	90
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	\$74 99

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of town appropriation for 1877.....	\$142 84	
Part of town appropriation for 1878....	111 93	
Literary fund.....	15 75	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	\$294 77
Paid District No. 2, balance of town appropriation for 1877.....	\$142 58	
Part of town appropriation for 1878....	127 55	
Literary fund.....	16 63	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	311 01
Paid District No. 3, balance of town appropriation for 1877.....	\$214 01	
Part of town appropriation for 1878....	16 30	
Literary fund.....	14 44	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	269 00
Paid District No. 4, balance of town appropriation for 1877.....	\$154 52	
Part of town appropriation for 1878....	90 94	
Literary fund.....	13 57	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	283 28
Paid District No. 5, balance of town appropriation for 1877.....	\$176 68	
Part of town appropriation for 1878....	62 32	
Literary fund.....	12 25	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	275 50
Paid District No. 6, town appropriation for 1878.....	\$89 87	
Literary fund.....	1 32	
Dog fund.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	115 44
Total.....		<hr/>
		\$1,549 00
Balance due District No. 1.....	\$136 79	
2.....	121 17	
3.....	232 42	
4.....	157 81	
5.....	186 40	
	<hr/>	\$834 59

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for the use of town house for the year ending March 1, 1879.....		\$94 00
Paid C. W. Hobbs, for agency of town house, for the year ending March 1, 1878...	\$ 5 00	
John Woodbury, for articles furnished town hall, for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	2 90	
F. M. Woodbury, for same.....	2 49	
C. W. Hobbs, for opening hall ninety-two times.....	23 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for putting on sawdust and cleaning hall, for two town meetings	3 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for washing table cloths, three times.....	1 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for wood.....	6 50	
C. W. Hobbs, for cash paid for zinc lamps, chimneys, tacks, and screws	6 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for labor repairing settees, putting up lamps, building table, etc.	2 00	51 89
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Income.....		\$42 11

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Non-resident highway tax paid in labor for the year 1878	\$174 91
David O. Black, for watering trough.....	3 00
David Ropes, tax of 1875..	1 20
Frank M. Fox, tax of 1876.....	81
Thomas Myers, tax of 1876.....	81
Christian Anderson, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Christian Anderson, dog tax of 1877.....	1 00
J. W. Bachelder, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Orendal Burt, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Orendal Burt, dog tax of 1877.....	2 00
Selden H. Coburn, tax of 1877.....	1 32
Daniel Coburn, tax of 1877.....	5 40
Daniel L. Coburn, dog tax of 1877.....	1 00
William Carr, tax of 1877.....	1 20
George Cluff, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Henry D. Conroy, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Michael Dolan, Jr., tax of 1877.....	1 20
Frank M. Ellenwood, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Frank M. Fox, tax of 1877.....	1 20
E. B. Gage, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Frank J. Hersey, tax of 1877.....	1 20
George H. Lewis, tax of 1877.....	1 20
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<i>Amount carried forward.....</i>	\$205 85

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$205 85
Guilford A. Lewis, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Thomas Myers, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Samuel Rollins, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Jared Spalding, tax of 1877.....	1 20
George L. Webster, tax of 1877.....	1 20
Charles H. Carter, tax of 1877.....	1 20
John M. Willey, tax of 1877.....	2 64
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	\$215 69

BOUNTY ON FOXES AND HAWKS.

Paid Jonas Keyes, bounty on three foxes.....	\$ 1 50
Edward Young, Jr., bounty on one fox.....	50
W. G. Sherburne, bounty on fifty-seven hawks....	11 40
Jonas Keyes, bounty on forty-six hawks.....	9 20
J. L. Spalding, bounty on seventeen hawks.....	3 40
Geo. C. Webster, bounty on four hawks.....	80
J. S. Ellenwood, bounty on one hawk.....	20
F. M. Ellenwood, bounty on one hawk.....	20
C. H. Lewis, bounty on one hawk.....	20
C. H. Burt, bounty on one hawk.....	20
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	\$27 60

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Stone, Huse & Co., for printing reports for March 1, 1878.....	\$ 16 75
John Woodbury, for driving hearse for the year ending March 1, 1879.....	30 00
G. S. Butler, for posts used for fence at Libby place, in 1877.....	1 00
L. C. Richardson, boards for same.....	1 50
G. S. Butler, for lumber used for fence at Libby place, in 1878.....	50
L. C. Richardson, for cash paid for record-book for town.....	6 50
L. C. Richardson, cash paid for books, stationery, postage, etc., for the year ending March 1, 1879	4 95
County of Hillsborough tax.....	1,184 41
State tax.....	1,524 00
W. A. Sherburne, school-house tax, for District No. 6	9 00
Samuel Kelley, school-house tax, for District No. 4	80 00
Geo H. Currier, school-house tax, for District No. 5,	50 00
Assessors of First Congregational Society.....	2,200 00
Hannah J. Thistle, for funeral expenses of Philip Thistle.....	20 00
V. P. York, for damage done to wagon at bridge near Simpson's mills.....	2 00
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	\$5,130 61

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED FOR 1878.

State tax.....	\$1,524 00
County tax.....	1,184 41
School tax.....	1,333 50
For town expenses.....	500 00
Highway tax.....	1,800 00
Dog tax.....	76 00
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	\$6,417 91

Percentage upon \$1,000, 8.15—not including highway tax, which is payable in labor

LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,
CHARLES W. HOBBS,
ORLANDO W. SPAULDING,

PELHAM, March 1, 1879.

Selectmen of Pelham.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1879.

March 1, 1878. Amount of cash in the treasury	\$2,421 45
Received of George H. Currier, collector of taxes during the year ending March 1, 1879	6,601 79
Received of the State Treasurer, the savings bank tax, amounting to	445 67
Of the same, railroad tax, amounting to	148 97
Received of L. C. Richardson, from the County of Hills- borough	42 37
Of the same, from the Town of Hudson	10 01
Of the same, from Geo. L. Webster	50
Received of the Agent, for the use of the Town Hall	94 00
Received of N. Jackman, D. M. Gould, J. N. Woodman, and Benjamin McQuestion, for graveyard lots	3 00
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Whole amount on hand and received during the year ending March 1, 1879	\$9,767 76
The treasurer charges the town with the following amount of disbursements, as ordered by the selectmen, during the year ending March 1, 1879	7,370 40
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Balance now in the treasury	\$2,397 36
Outstanding taxes now unpaid or in the hands of the collector, with interest on the same	1,585 75
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Total	\$3,983 11
Whole amount of town debt, including the payment of town officers to the present time, <i>about</i>	1,700 00
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Making the available means about	\$2,283 11

LITERARY FUND.

March 1, 1879. Amount on hand and unappropriated . .	\$62 53
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DOG TAX FUND.

The amount reported March 1, 1878.		\$163 00
has been appropriated and paid as follows, viz:		
To Kimball Smith, for damages to sheep.....	\$17 50	
School District No. 1.....	24 25	
“ “ “ 2.....	24 25	
“ “ “ 3.....	24 25	
“ “ “ 4.....	24 25	
“ “ “ 5.....	24 25	
“ “ “ 6.....	24 25	
	<hr/>	\$163 00
Amount of dog tax paid into the treasury March 1, 1879		\$76 00
A part of which is appropriated as follows:		
J. L. Cambridge.....	\$8 00	
W. W. Butler.....	5 00	
	<hr/>	13 00
		<hr/>
Amount on hand.....		\$63 00

JOHN WOODBURY,

Treasurer.

THE subscribers, having been appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the Town of Pelham, for the year ending March 1, 1879, report that we find all orders issued by the Selectmen duly vouched and receipted for, and the Treasurer's accounts correctly kept, accurately cast, and properly vouched.

DANIEL MARSHALL,
GEO. S. BUTLER,
F. A. CUTTER,

PELHAM, March 1, 1879.

Auditors.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 11, 1879.

THE School Report, apart from a presentation of some general view of the schools, should be an educational force. It should enlighten the public mind and stimulate a public interest upon the subject of education, by as much as it fails in this, by so much is it useless. In a community as highly favored with educational facilities as ours, there are especial reasons why this should be the aim of the School Report.

THE ENDS OF EDUCATION.

These are not to meet merely the natural wants of life; if it were so, then the subject of education would not need much expense or attention. But these ends are the development and nurture of intellectual life and power. Hence, in the selection of the child's studies, the simple question is, What will be the best intellectual discipline?

A VARIETY IN STUDY.

This is necessary to liberalize the mind. Let the pupil be kept to a single study, and his mind will be

narrow, but a variety in study liberalizes the mind and gives breadth to all its views.

SELF-MADE MEN.

These grossly-misconceived characters are often adduced as an argument against the necessity of a thorough course of study in our schools. But self-made persons are such, only in virtue of an opportunity of coming in contact with the liberally educated, such as the schools have made. If it were not for the intellectual life of the educated in a community, the clergyman, the lawyer, the physician, the school-teacher, it may be the cultured wife and mother, or the children coming from the schools, there would be no such personage as the much-glorified self-made man.

THE PAST YEAR

The schools have been a general success. The Prudential Committees have put into most of the schools teachers of experience and liberal culture. Under our system, the Superintending Committee virtually has not much to say about who shall teach.

Three of the schools have had the same teachers the entire year, indeed the two past years, and these teachers have done a valuable and a noble work. The importance of retaining a successful teacher in the same school cannot be over-estimated.

PROGRESS

Has been made the past year. Study has been more diversified. The old habit of spending term after term on the same study has been broken. The methods of study have been truer, and there is a manifest growth

of a sentiment recognizing the professional educator as the only competent authority on matters of education.

In most of the schools there are classes pursuing a systematic course of study. After having been carried by the teacher carefully through a study, it has been laid aside for a couple of terms, and then reviewed with a fresh interest and more thoroughness than would have been secured if the two terms had been employed upon it. Algebra has thus taken the place of Arithmetic for two terms, with great profit in a clearer conception of mathematics, and a liberalizing of the mind. After the completion of the elementary Geography, an elementary treatise on Natural Science has been advantageously studied; and there are in the schools classes between the ages of 12 and 14, more advanced than were classes a few years since between the ages of 15 and 17. The tendency, in keeping scholars term after term going over the same study, is to dwarf the mind, induce intellectual sluggishness, and contract the character.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

In this branch of study, usually so distasteful, the schools have made fine progress. It has been insisted that scholars of a proper age should attend to it. Such methods have been introduced in its study as to relieve it of all objection, and it is an unpardonable shame for any scholar to have the advantage of our schools and not learn to construct the English language with accuracy.

GEOGRAPHY.

There is much time wasted in the schools on this study. The methods by which it is taught are faulty. After the completion of the elementary treatise, it would

be better to let the higher grade come farther along in the pupil's course, when he shall have more maturity of mind. There is great need of more attention to methods in the study of Geography.

VOCAL CULTURE.

This is something of prime importance, but it is hardly known in our schools.

WRITING,

As a method of study and instruction, has been used by some of the teachers with fine results. In this has been found the key to dull minds, and the chain that has held to study the restless and idle; and I do not believe that our schools will attain their greatest efficiency until this method becomes a specialty.

OUR FACILITIES.

These are great. It is important that the attention be directed to them. There are but thirteen towns in the State that have longer schools; ours are long enough. From a careful examination of the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, I am convinced that there are but few towns that have as good schools as ours. Let our schools be rightly conducted, and every child can secure a thorough education.

IRREGULARITY.

Our schools suffer from this. The pupil absent a day, not only loses a day himself, but takes a part of a day from every other scholar, and imposes an extra tax upon the time and strength of the teacher. This is a crime against parents, anxious that their own children should make the most of the school, and a cruel wrong

to the faithful teacher. It is a crime against the community and the state, and above all, it is a trampling on the inalienable rights of the child.

COMPENSATION OF TEACHERS.

We pay more than the surrounding towns; indeed, more than most of the towns in the State. Nor do we pay too much for experience, thorough education, and first-class instruction. There is never reduction on the first-class article. But it should be understood that these prices are paid only to *experience*, and to such as have proved themselves first-class teachers.

QUALIFICATION OF TEACHERS.

Our schools need teachers of thorough qualification. They should be mathematicians, certainly familiar with Algebra and Geometry, enthusiasts in the study of the English language, and familiar with History and Natural Science. Such qualifications can not be attained without an expense of time and money; and the teacher not willing to be at this expense, is not worthy to instruct in the schools of Pelham; but no matter how complete are the other qualifications of the teacher, if he has not character and success, he is worthless as a teacher.

In order to have such teachers in our schools, the committee should make himself acquainted with teachers far and near, and wherever he sees the right one, secure that one for our schools.

SELECTION OF TEACHERS.

Public sentiment should tolerate no *nepotism*, or favoritism in the selection of teachers. It would be far better for towns to raise a sum of money to pension

relatives, and persons too delicate or sensitive to engage in any other employment, than to have many of this class go into the schools. The question should never be, whether one's wife, or one's relatives and friends, shall have the opportunity to teach, but whether the individual be the best possible teacher. Our town expends a large sum for schools, about \$1,500. This money should be viewed as most sacredly devoted to the best possible instruction, but it has seemed sometimes as if the only thought was how to spend it the most quickly. Committees sometimes employ an inefficient teacher because no better presents himself, and they feel that some one must be had; the school must commence, but they had better delay, even omit a term, rather than put an incompetent teacher into the school.

THE PRACTICAL.

There is much said about practical studies. There is a point in education where such studies may be considered, but that point is not reached in our schools. Here, every study is practical that gives the mind strength and power. The parent who wishes his child to study only what he will use in life, has no idea of education. The pupil that wants only such studies, has a low idea of himself; he confesses to intellectual shiftlessness and worthlessness. The object of study is knowledge, and it is a disgrace not to aspire to the largest possible measure of it. Such persons will have small, narrow minds, and if not positive evils to the community, they will be dead-weights upon it.

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL.

This should be solid and thorough, not fixed up for examinations.