

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Auditors,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

LOWELL, MASS.

STONE & HUSE, 21 CENTRAL ST., BOOK PRINTERS.

1870.



REPORT.

AGREEABLE to a vote of the Town of Pelham, passed March, 1866, the undersigned Selectmen of said town respectfully submit the following report :

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Daniel Marshall, bill for 33 days' services as selectman during the year ending March, 9th, 1869, at \$2.00,	\$66 00	
Use of horse during the year,	8 00	
Writing orders, receipts, warrants, &c.,...	5 00	
Cash paid for books, stationery, stamps, car fare and horse keeping,.....	19 94	
		\$98 94
John Woodbury, bill for 13½ days' service as selectman during the year ending March 9, 1869, at \$2.00,	27 00	
Use of horse,	3 00	
		30 00
G. B. Currier, bill for 8 days' services as selectman during the year ending March 9th, 1869, at \$2.00,.....	16 00	
Use of horse,.....	4 00	
Board of transient persons,.....	1 25	
		21 25
Dr. A. Batchelder, for services as Town Clerk, during the year ending March 9th, 1869,.....	30 00	
Jesse Gibson, for services as Town Treasurer, for the year ending March 9th, 1869,	30 00	
Rev. Augustus Berry, for services as Superintending School Committee, for the year ending March 9th, 1869,	30 00	
Nathan Gage, for services as Collector of Taxes for said town, for the year ending March 9th, 1869,	85 00	
		\$325 19

TOWN PAUPERS.

Aid furnished O. C. Libby :		
Paid David Butler, for meal,		5 60
Dr. L. H. Grosvenor, for medical service to February 19th, 1870,		24 00
John Woodbury, bill :		
1 bbl. Flour,	9 37	
10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Lard,	2 51	
1 bush. Meal,	1 18	
34 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Fish,	3 04	
47 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs. Pork,	9 69	
3 lbs. Tea,	3 00	
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. Molasses,	3 96	
8 lbs. Sugar,	1 16	
2 boxes Mustard,	56	
1 lb. Candles,	18	
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Tripe,	34	
3 lbs. Beef,	54	
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Pepper,	13	
2 lbs. Rice,	24	
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Cream Tartar,	17	
1 bottle Atwood's Bitters,	38	
	<hr/>	36 45
C. W. Hobbs, for 1 cord of wood,		6 50
Moody Hobbs, for 12 feet of wood,		7 50
Darius Stickney, for 20 feet of wood,		9 00
		<hr/>
		59 45
Aid furnished Hanscom Goodspeed :		
Paid T. F. Goodspeed, for board of Hanscom Goodspeed from October 24th, 1868, to May 1st, 1869, at \$1.75 per week,	47 25	
Daniel Marshall, for coat for Hanscom Good- speed,	6 00	
	<hr/>	53 25
Aid furnished Anna Beard :		
Paid G. B. Currier, for 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cords of wood,	59 25	
" " " Sawing the same,	15 62	
David Butler, for Grain to Feb. 19th, 1870,	4 00	
	<hr/>	78 87
Aid furnished Mrs. J. T. Kent :		
Paid G. B. Currier, for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cords of wood,	9 00	
" " " Meal,	4 60	
" " " 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ton of Hay,	20 00	
	<hr/>	33 60
John Woodbury, bill store goods :		
4 bbls. Flour,	42 25	
37 lbs. Flour,	2 00	

7 gals. Molasses,.....	5 31	
1 pr. Boots,.....	3 75	
	<hr/>	53 31

86 91

Paid County of Hillsborough, for board of Mrs. Salome Keyes from Sept. 1st, 1868, to Jan. 24th, 1870, the time of her death, at \$2.25 per week,.....		164 13
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Paid Alpheus Goodwin, for board of Mrs. Rachael McCoy from March 1st, 1869, to March 1st, 1870, at \$2.00,.....		104 00
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Aid furnished S. P. White:

Paid John Woodbury's bill:		
4 lbs. Sugar,.....	68	
Cash,.....	1 50	
Board and Lodging,.....	2 00	
Bed Clothing,.....	5 00	
Crackers,.....	1 24	
3 lbs. Coffee,.....	38	
Beans,.....	82	
Salt,.....	12	
Soap,.....	15	
Crockery,.....	55	
Potatoes,.....	50	
Pepper,.....	13	
1 Bottle Liniment,.....	50	
Candles,.....	19	
30 lbs. Flour,.....	1 50	
1 Axe and Handle,.....	1 55	
1 Paper Seed,.....	05	
Iron and Coal,.....	1 50	
1 Hoe,.....	75	
1 pr. Boots,.....	4 50	
22½ lbs. Fish, 2 08, 17½ lbs. Pork, 3 77,...	5 85	
	<hr/>	29 46

Paid Daniel Marshall, for Clothing,.....	9 25	
Board and Lodging,.....	2 00	
	<hr/>	11 25

40 71

Paid Daniel Marshall, for board and lodging transient persons, Feb. 18, 1870, (due from County of Hillsborough),.....		2 00
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For relief of County paupers to Jan. 1st, 1870,.....	11 50	
Received of the County of Hillsborough,.....	11 50	

Total,.....		<hr/> <hr/> \$618 92
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ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Isaac Buttrick, labor on highway in 1868,.	\$5 70	
D. B. Smith, in part payment for building new road round Campbell Hill, (so called,)	125 00	
T. W. Simpson, for Lumber furnished for Bridge near Simpson's Mills, (1419 feet,)	28 38	
E. G. Hobbs, bill for Lumber on Bridges, \$1,00—for labor on Bridges, \$17.00,.....	18 00	
E. G. Hobbs, breaking snow paths,.....	8 00	
Moses Johnson, for breaking snow paths in 1868, \$1,80—for the same in 1869, \$4,50,	6 30	
Allen Young, for repairing highways, \$2,10, breaking snow paths, \$14,70,.....	16 80	
J. A. Wilson, for breaking snow paths,.....	12 30	
D. H. Webster, for breaking snow paths,...	14 20	
C. W. Hobbs, for bridge stringers on bridge near M. Hobbs',.....	7 50	
Moody Hobbs, for breaking snow paths,...	3 60	
A. D. Butler & Co., for lumber for bridges, to date, 687 feet,.....	11 68	
		<u>\$257 46</u>

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1—		
Balance of Town appropriation for 1868,..	\$ 89 09	
Town appropriation for 1869,.....	109 51	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	8 49	
		<u>\$207 09</u>
No. 2—Balance of Town appropriation for 1868,.....		
	95 33	
Town appropriation for 1869,.....	113 51	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	8 41	
		<u>217 25</u>
No. 3—Balance of Town appropriation for 1868,.....		
	213 43	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	7 03	
		<u>220 46</u>
No. 4—Balance of Town appropriation for 1868,.....		
	88 33	
Town appropriation for 1869,.....	113 45	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	8 49	
		<u>210 27</u>
No. 5—Balance of Town appropriation for 1868,.....		
	133 47	
Town appropriation for 1869,.....	80 33	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	4 67	
		<u>218 47</u>

No. 6—Town appropriation for 1869,.....	72 75	
Literary Fund for 1868,.....	2 97	
		<u>75 72</u>

Total expended,.....\$1,149 26
 School money now due District Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, \$550 45.

TOWN HOUSE.

Amount received during the year ending Mar. 1, 1870,.....	\$81 00
Due from A. D. Greeley,.....	4 00
	<u>\$85 00</u>

EXPENSES.

Paid Thomas Gage, for 12 ft. of wood delivered in 1868,.....	\$6 00
F. M. Woodbury, opening Hall 22 times at 25 cents each,.....	5 50
Mrs. Hancell and others, cleaning Hall,...	2 50
John Woodbury, 13 galls. kerosene oil, \$6- 52; wicks and chimneys, \$1.21; soap, brooms, and washing table cloths, \$1 41,	9 14
	<u>23 14</u>
Total income,.....	\$61 86

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

C. O. Carlton, Poll Tax for 1868,.....	\$2 40
John Corliss, " " " "	2 40
John Emery, " " " "	2 40
Russell O. Richardson, Poll Tax for 1868,.....	2 40
Charles H. Burtt, " " " "	2 40
George Bocock, " " " "	2 40
James Clair, " " " "	2 40
D. K. Hamblett, " " " "	2 40
George Hamblett, " " " "	2 40
George E. Hogan, " " " "	2 40
William Hessery, " " " "	2 40
Frederick Lewis, " " " "	2 40
Henry A. Spalding, " " " "	2 40
Zenas T. Carter, " " " "	2 40
Orendel Burtt, " " " "	2 40
Edmund Dow, " " " "	3 72
C. W. Burtt, " " " "	2 40
C. A. Ross, " " " "	2 46
G. S. Carlton, " " " "	3 04
O. C. Libby, " " " "	2 40
Alvin Hamblett, non-resident, part of tax,.....	69
S. K. Gage, Poll Tax for 1869,.....	2 10
Non-resident Highway Tax, paid in labor in the year 1868,.....	90 04
	<u>90 04</u>
Total,.....	\$142 85

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid interest on sundry notes held against said town,		\$1,147 80
G. C. Butler, increase of land damage,		15 00
County Commissioners, costs in laying out new road, and G. C. Butler case,		156 74
Daniel Marshall, for Collector and Surveyor-Books,		2 75
Moody Hobbs, 1 day surveying,		2 50
Stone & Huse, printing town reports for 1868,		33 75
E. B. Blanchard, land damage,		50 00
Building Committee for District No. 2, on repairs of school-house, in said District, ..		160 00
Part of principal of note held against said town the past year,		325 00
Committee on Draining Town Common, ..		74 25
For recording two deeds on Libby place, ..		1 07
A. W. Sawyer, bill for the years 1863 and 1864, counsel fees,	9 50	
In 1867, advice about Butler's road, and pauper case with County of Hillsborough,	3 00	
1868, hearing before Commissioners on the Campbell Hill road, (so called,)	6 00	
Two term fees on said road,	12 00	
		<hr/> 30 50
Stevens & Sawyer, bill for counsel fees in the years 1865 and 1866,		18 73
E. B. Blanchard, for running lines on Campbell Hill road,		1 50
Daniel Marshall, for making deeds from O. C. Libby to said town, and stamps on the same,	1 50	
Stationery during the year,	56	
		<hr/> 2 06
John Woodbury, bill for furnishing horse and driving Hearse 15 times during the year, ending March 1, 1870, at \$2.50, ...	37 50	
For board of Selectmen and Auditors on town meeting day, and boarding and lodging transient persons,	5 50	
Stationery during the year,	1 39	
		<hr/> 44 39
A. E. Carlton, for 3 stone posts under hearse house,		2 25
		<hr/> \$2,068 29
Total,		

DOG DAMAGES.

Paid Daniel Smith, for 2 Sheep killed,.....	6 00
I. N. Smith, " 3 " "	9 00
Kimball Smith, " 3 " "	11 00
D. B. Smith, " 3 " "	9 00
David Atwood, " 1 " "	3 00
Total,.....	\$38 00

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED.

State Tax,.....	\$2,496 00
County Tax,.....	699 78
Town Tax,.....	2,943 90
School Tax,.....	1,040 00
Dog Tax,.....	64 00
District No. 2, School-house Tax,.....	167 26
	\$7,410 94

DANIEL MARSHALL, } *Selectmen of*
 JOHN WOODBURY, } *Pelham.*

March 2d, 1870.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer charges himself with the following Receipts:

March 9, 1869.	Cash from the former Treasurer, by the hands of the Selectmen,.....	\$1,503 79
May 24, 1869.	Of Collector of Taxes,.....	500 00
July 12, 1869.	For two grave yard lots,.....	1 50
Sept. 23, 1869.	Of Collector,.....	330 00
Oct. 5, 1869.	Balance of 1868 Tax,.....	267 44
Oct. 5, 1869.	Interest on 1868 Tax,.....	21 45
Oct. 5, 1869.	Of C. A. Keyes, Poll Tax for 1867, voluntarily paid,.....	3 66
Oct. 5, 1869.	Of County of Hillsborough,.....	8 00
Oct 19, 1869.	Of Collector for 1869,	500 00
Jan. 6, 1870.	Of County of Hillsborough,.....	3 50
Jan. 14, 1870.	Of Collector,.....	500 00
Jan. 27, 1870.	Of Collector,.....	500 00
Feb. 15, 1870.	Of Charles Coburn, on note,.....	16 86

Feb. 21, 1870.	Of Collector,.....	1000 00
Mar. 1, 1870.	Of State Treas., Savings Bank dividend,..	352 03
Mar. 1, 1870.	Of State Treas., R. R. Tax,.....	167 84
Mar. 1, 1870.	Of Collector,.....	500 00
Mar. 1, 1870.	Of Agent for the Town Hall, for the year ending March 1, 1870,.....	81 00
		\$6,257 07

The Treasurer credits himself with the following Payments:

Cash paid on sundry orders drawn by the Selectmen during the year ending Mar. 1, 1870, amounting to.....	\$4,557 08
Leaving a balance of Cash in the Treasury of.....	1,699 99
Outstanding Taxes now remaining in Collector's charge,.	1,141 36

LITERARY FUND.

March 9, 1869.	Cash in Treasury,.....	\$40 14
March 1, 1870.	Received of State Treasurer,..	44 20
		\$84 34
Paid sundry drafts of Selectmen drawn in favor of the several Prudential School Committees, amounting to..		\$40 14
		\$44 20
Leaving a balance in the Treasury unappropriated of..		\$44 20

DOG FUND.

Mar. 9, 1869.	Unappropriated in the Treasury,	\$47 00
Mar. 1, 1870.	Received of Collector for 1869,	45 00
		\$92 00
Appropriated,.....		38 00
		\$54 00
Balance in Treasury,.....		\$54 00
Amount in hands of Collector,.....		\$19 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Amount of notes due from said town, March 1, 1870,....	\$20,245 00
March 1, 1870, Interest due on same, about,.....	550 00
Tax due from Derry Bank, for the years 1867 and 1868,.	46 88
One note in favor of the town,.....	68 00

JOHN WOODBURY, *Treasurer.*

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Pelham, have examined the accounts of the Treasurer of the Town for the past financial year, as presented to us by said Treasurer, and find them properly kept, correctly cast and vouched.

ABEL GAGE,
MARK H. WEBSTER, } *Auditors.*

PELHAM, March 1st, 1870.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM,
For the Year ending March 8th, 1870.

IT is impossible, in the ordinary limits of a school report, to give more than the briefest summary of the condition of the schools. Most of our estimates about things in society must be of a relative character. There is but little to which it is just for us to apply any absolute terms. We can speak of nothing as absolutely good, and there are many degrees of bad. A full and accurate report of our schools would point out all their defects, and all their features of merit, and present these in their just proportion and exact relation.

We may be proud of our schools compared with the schools of our country towns, but they are below what they should be. There are many things in the way of bringing them up to the proper standard: one is the want of sufficient educational appliances, such as school-houses and school apparatus. Another is the impossibility of introducing any good system of classification. Another is the difficulty in obtaining teachers of sufficient qualifications and experience, and retaining them for a series of terms in the same school. Another, and the most important, is a public sentiment suitably enlightened upon the subject of common school education.

For several years the schools of the town, viewed as a whole, have been a success. This is true of the past year. The teachers, without an exception, have possessed good literary qualifications, unexceptionable characters, and have devoted themselves with fidelity to their work, and the schools have made an advance in order, punctuality and studiousness. Some of the schools have been all and more than I could expect, while others have not realised my expectations. In one or two instances the order has not been such as I desire, and there has been a want of force of character sufficient to inspire enthusiasm and secure studiousness.

There are a few things that I would call the attention of the citizens of the town to in this Report.

PUNCTUALITY

is indispensable to a good school. Tardiness, and any irregularity in attendance, cripples the energies, and impairs the usefulness of the best teacher. This interferes with the progress of the regular and punctual scholars, and renders it impossible for the teacher to inspire any enthusiasm. I am convinced that very much of tardiness and irregularity of attendance is the result of inconsideration on the part of parents.

ORDER

is indispensable to a good school. But little can be accomplished by a teacher of the best literary qualifications, without order. This is more important to the pupil than any of his studies. Unless the child learns to be in subjection, and to control himself, he has failed in the most important part of his education.

SYSTEM

is not only important in the general arrangement of the duties of school, but in the manner in which instruction is imparted. Every thing in nature is arranged in a system. The human mind is constructed to receive knowledge systematically; but this fact is most sadly overlooked in the education of children. There is no thought that their minds are adapted to a system, and for this reason, in a large majority of cases, instruction is only a torture and forcing of the mind beyond its powers, and out of its natural order. Parents and teachers should understand this. They should know that there is a system and order in which the mind naturally receives knowledge.

PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

is the thing that should be especially aimed at in the instruction of our schools; but it is very difficult to secure this, to get teachers out of the mere routine of the text-books. We want teachers in our schools that can often lay the text-books aside, and spend hours in exercises that are oral and thoroughly practical.

READING.

In our schools, as a whole, this branch does not receive the attention it ought. In only two or three of the schools has it been taught in a manner to improve the voice, and render the pupils expressive and engaging readers.

WRITING

is still neglected. Scholars have an indisposition to write, and teach-

ers fail to inspire an interest in this branch. Parents should impress their children with its importance.

ELOCUTION.

Our schools are very deficient in this; the enunciation is bad; scholars read, recite and speak indistinctly. Teachers need to be trained in this branch; they should take it up, study it, and practice it.

INTEREST OF PARENTS.

Our schools can never be what they should be, in moral and intellectual worth, until parents and community as a whole, take a deeper interest in them. Parents should not get their idea of the school from the children or their neighbors, or general rumor, but from their own observation; nor should this be from only one or two visits, for these visits may be made at a time when their judgments may be either too favorable or too unfavorable. Many unjust impressions about school would be removed by visiting it. Parents would not be inclined to give so much credit to the tales of their children, if they should visit the school; they would have more sympathy with the teacher, and more correct views of the needs of our schools. Besides, the influence of the visits of parents is very salutary on pupils, inspiring them with more self-respect, a deeper sense of propriety, and more studiousness.

MORAL INFLUENCES

are the most important consideration about our schools, and I fear that they are the least considered. The moral atmosphere of the school-room is more important than the intellectual or physical. There is such an atmosphere about every school, and children inhale it. Let this be impure, and it is worse than that which poisons the body and imbecils the mind. The sentiment that pervades the school will control all the scholars, just as public sentiment does society. Do parents think of inquiring what the moral sentiment of the school is, whether it is high and pure, or the reverse; whether it is chaste, respectful, truthful, benevolent and reverent?

OUR COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM

is of such intrinsic excellence, its blessings are so great, that it never can be considered trite to speak of them. The elements of education brought to every child in community, are an incalculable blessing, and it is an important inquiry if we make enough of our schools, prize them enough, and fully attain the purpose of their organization.

THE SCHOOL-HOUSE

is a building of great importance. This is more than the machinery or implements in any kind of industry. This is the building in which these are to be used ; if this is not suited for them, then they cannot be used. For this reason the best qualifications for instruction are often powerless, because the building is not fitted for their exercise. The results of the teacher's labors will be affected much by the school-room. More can be accomplished in a neat and comfortable room, than in a shabby, uncomfortable one. The influence of the room upon the child's character is great. Great damage is done the child in sending it to a defaced school-room ; and there is a pecuniary reason for having good school-houses. They will increase the value of other property, and retain the population so inclined to move away.

TEACHERS.

The State is aiming to furnish facilities for the better qualification of teachers. We are not to discuss the point whether these facilities are the best. Any system of improvement that the State may devise is better than none. The teacher needs many opportunities for personal improvement, getting new ideas, and a general burnishing of his knowledge. There can hardly any educational facilities be devised, that will not help the teacher in securing this end. The State superintendent has held the past year two sessions of Teacher's Institutes in this county. Three of our teachers availed themselves of the privileges of the first one. No district suffers any loss by a suspension of school for a few days, that its teacher may improve opportunities of this kind. The teacher may bring back to the school a single idea, worth more than the time spent, and besides a freshening of knowledge and enthusiasm that is above price.

DISTRICT No. 1. DARIUS STICKNEY, Prudential Committee.

Miss Alice A. Woodbury, of this town, teacher. This school had two terms, summer and winter, and I can pronounce it a truly successful school. Miss Woodbury labored quietly, energetically and faithfully, and the school made steady and continued progress. The order was maintained, and the interest sustained, not only from one term to the other, but to the last days of the closing term. Miss Woodbury performed a large amount of labor, and did it well. She taught accurately and thoroughly. She so secured attention and studiousness, that the scholars retained in their memories the lessons they had been over. Each of the examinations was extensive in the subjects em-

braced, prompt and accurate. Where all the exercises were so good, it is difficult to particularize. The exercises in Geography were especially gratifying. For the amount that the classes had been over, their thorough acquaintance with it, and their familiarity with the outline maps, the teacher deserves especial commendation. The other branches were well taught. The classes in Arithmetic were clear in their answers. The Spelling-lessons had been learnt. The thoughts of the little ones had been called out, and their memories exercised in some oral lessons. The class in oral Geography had been taught a large number of geographical facts. The recitations of select pieces at the examinations did not need prompting. The Bible was not neglected; at each of the examinations portions were appropriately recited. This school, under the instruction of the last two or three years, has made a great advance in its average scholarship. It now ranks high.

DISTRICT NO. 2. FRANK RICHARDSON, Prudential Committee.

This District has had three terms of school. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Jennie R. Stickney, of Dracut, Mass. Miss S. came to her duties acquainted with the scholars, having their affection and the confidence of their parents. She labored in her faithful, quiet way during each of the terms, and the examinations showed the results of those labors. The improvement of the smaller ones was very manifest. Their select pieces were well committed and recited. There was an interesting class of little ones in oral Geography. The attachment of the pupils to Miss Stickney continued to deepen, and it was a great disappointment that she could not teach the winter term. This was taught by Miss Mary E. Phillips, of Lowell, Mass., a young lady of many excellent qualifications and accomplishments in teaching—a gentle and refined bearing. She taught with accuracy, dwelling much upon precision, and the examination presented gratifying exercises.

This District has thoroughly repaired its house, and re-furnished it with out-line maps. The superintendent was sorry to see that it had been defaced by some of the scholars. If the District orders that these defacements be immediately repaired, there will be more care on the part of scholars in the future.

DISTRICT NO. 3. WARREN HERBERT, Prudential Committee.

This school has been highly favored in instruction the past year. The scholars are mostly young, but susceptible to the moulding influence of the faithful teacher.

The summer term was taught by Miss M. Maria Underwood, of this town, a teacher of much successful experience. She labored with fidelity, and secured studiousness and improvement on the part of the pupils. She inspired confidence in the small ones, and they appeared interesting at the examination. The classes all recited well; spelling was good; a class of small ones spelt each of the United States. There were some pleasant singing and good recitations of select pieces. Miss Underwood devoted particular attention to reading, and greatly improved the elocution of the school.

A fall term of eight weeks was taught by Miss Mary C. Richardson, of this town. Miss Richardson engaged in the work with her peculiar enthusiasm, and inspired the same in her little scholars. A large amount of work was done by both teacher and pupils. A noticeable feature was the spirit of inquiry that seemed to pervade the school, even the youngest, and the dutifulness of all. The teacher used her powers of invention, and kept all employed about something useful, the little ones in writing, and in this way the entire school made great improvement in this branch. The teacher often laid aside her text-books and gave oral instruction. The examination had hardly a fault; there was scarcely an instance of want of promptness. The oral exercises were excellent. The moral precepts of the New Testament, and the books of both the Old and New Testaments were recited with accuracy. There was also an exercise in oral Physiology, in which the little ones even showed quite an acquaintance with physiological facts.

A District cannot place too high an estimate upon teachers of high qualifications and ripe experience.

DISTRICT No. 4. THOMAS WORCESTER, Prudential Committee.

The summer term was taught by Miss Ellen I. Gage, of this town. Miss Gage is a very correct scholar; has clear ideas, and conveys them with distinctness to her pupils. With her amiable disposition and pleasing manners, she readily wins the affection of her pupils. This school is large and very laborious. Miss Gage seemed to attach her pupils to her, and it was gratifying at the examination to observe the growth of character and improvement in a number of the scholars.

The winter term was taught by Mr. A. O. Lawrence, of Fitchburg, Mass. The District were very desirous of having a male teacher, and were exceedingly fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Lawrence. A fault that has existed in this school in past terms, has been imperfect government. The school was reduced to excellent order,

and brought into studious habits. If nothing more had been accomplished during the term, I should have felt that this was a profitable term. The habit of self-control that the scholars were brought to exercise, is of great value. Mr. Lawrence is a thorough scholar, and his instruction was excellent. His success in such an uncomfortable house, is worthy of especial commendation.

DISTRICT No. 5. E. F. WOODS, Prudential Committee.

Miss Susan M. Smith, of this town, teacher. This school has had three terms, all taught by Miss Smith. She was thus able to carry the school on from term to term, with no loss of time in forming their acquaintance. The school, though small, has several good scholars. Miss Smith devoted herself to her duties, and there was commendable improvement from term to term. Her instruction in Geography was very good; at each of the examinations there were good exercises on the out-line maps. The improvement of several of the smaller scholars was very gratifying. The Primer class learnt remarkably well, and their oral exercise in Arithmetic was better than often witnessed in classes that make Arithmetic a study. This same class, consisting of three little boys, had a fine exercise in oral Geography. There were some classes in Arithmetic that deserve commendation for their acquaintance with the rules. This school has improved very much in habits of punctuality. Some of the scholars have a restlessness that needs correction. This school was furnished with out-line maps at the commencement of the year, and the teacher has rendered them useful.

DISTRICT No. 6. JOHN L. SPALDING, Prudential Committee.

The summer term was taught by Miss Mary L. Webster, of this town. This was a very interesting little school. Though it was Miss Webster's first experience, she engaged in her duties like a veteran in the service. The examination showed her fidelity and her success. The recitations were all good. An oral exercise in Botany showed the interest a teacher may create, and the useful instruction one may impart by such exercises in some of the natural sciences.

The winter term was taught by Miss Abbie J. Sleeper, of this town. Miss Sleeper brought to the discharge of her duties her experience in teaching, and had a very profitable term of school. The examination showed thorough instruction, and in the case of the little ones, very marked progress. The exercises in Geography were very good, and there were a number of very fine specimens of map-drawing. This

very important exercise was attended to by a number of the scholars.

This school, though small, is interesting. The school-room is pleasant, and furnished with some of the needful implements of education. The parents are interested, and from term to term the improvement of the scholars is very obvious.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

It may be idle and useless to speak of the same matters year after year in the report, but I feel it a duty to call the attention to the condition of the school-houses.

No. 1 needs some repairs. It is but little defaced, and this should at once be repaired. No defacement should ever be permitted to remain on a school-house.

No. 2 has been thoroughly repaired the last season.

No. 3, though an old building, by the attention of Prudential Committees and teachers, is kept neat.

No. 4. The house is utterly unfit for school purposes. Such a large and influential district should at once provide a first class house.

No. 5 needs thorough repairs. It is too much defaced, and too shabby to send children to school in.

No. 6 has a new and pleasant school-room, in a beautiful location and I hope that they will continue to preserve it free from any defacement.

DICTIONARIES.—Each school should immediately be re-furnished with Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. I hope this will be attended to with no delay.

STATISTICS.

Number of visits by Superintendent 43. He has spent the past year 13 school days in the schools.

Number of visits by Prudential Committees 8. The Committees in Nos. 3 and 5 have taken a commendable interest in their schools. They visited their schools each term, and more than once some of the terms.

DISTRICT No. 1. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$27.00; whole number of scholars, 29; average, 24. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$36.00; whole number of scholars, 34; average, 31.

DISTRICT No. 2. Length of First Term, 10 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 27; average, 23. Length of Second Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 34; average, 30. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$36.00; whole number of scholars, 35; average, 32.

DISTRICT No. 3. Length of First Term 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 26; average, 23. Length of Second Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$36.00; whole number of scholars, 31; average, 28.

DISTRICT No. 4. Length of Summer Term, 15 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$24.00; whole number of scholars, 37; average, 30. Length of Winter Term, 11 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$46.00; whole number scholars, 48; average, 42.

DISTRICT NO. 5. Length of First Term, 9 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$25.00; whole number of scholars, 17; average, 16. Length of Second Term, 9 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$25.00; whole number of scholars, 21; average, 20. Length of Third Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$30.00; whole number of scholars, 19; average, 16.

DISTRICT NO. 6. Length of Summer Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$16.00; whole number of scholars, 8; average, 8. Length of Winter Term, 10 weeks; wages of Teachers, \$28.00; whole number of scholars, 12; average, 12.

REMARK.—The wages of Teachers are per month, and includes board.

AUGUSTUS BERRY,

Superintending School Committee.

PELHAM, March 8, 1870.