

*Miss L. J. ...*

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS

AND

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

*TOWN OF PELHAM,*

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1868.



LOWELL:

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1868.

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# R E P O R T .

AGREEABLE to a vote of the Town of Pelham, passed March 13th, 1866, the undersigned selectmen of said town respectfully submit the following Report:

## PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Daniel Marshall, 51½ days' services as Selectman, during the year 1866,.....	\$ 103.00	
Writing orders, receipts, returns, &c.,.....	5.00	
Use of horse during the year,.....	15.00	
Cash paid stamps, books, stationery, car fare, board and horse-keeping during the year,	29.78	
		\$152.78
Warren Sherburn, for services as Selectman, and use of horse during the year 1866,..		25.00
William G. Butler, 11 days' service as Selectman, 1866,.....	22.00	
Use of horse during the year, .....	4.00	
Cash paid and boarding transient persons,....	3.70	
		29.70
Jesse Gibson, services as Town Treasurer, during the year 1866,.....		30.00
Joshua Atwood, Jr., services as Town Clerk, during the year 1866,.....		30.00
Augustus Berry, services as Superintending School Committee, during the year 1866,		30.00
Nathan Gage, services as Collector of Taxes for the year 1866,.....		95.00
		\$392.48

## TOWN PAUPERS.

Paid T. F. Goodspeed, for board of Hanscomb Goodspeed 54 weeks, ending Nov. 2nd, 1867, at \$1.75,.....	\$94.50	
For clothing for same during the year,.....	14.97	
		\$109.47
Reuben P. Smith, for board of Mrs. McCoy, from March 2nd, 1867, to February 29th, 1868, at \$3.00 per week, .....		156.00
County of Hillsboro', for board of Mrs. Saloma Keyes, to Jan. 1st, 1868, at \$2.25 per week,.....		\$200.27

Paid W. G. Searles, board of E. Searles, from the 12th of February, 1867, to the 12th of February, 1868, at \$2.00,.....	\$104.00	
Clothing for the same during the year,.....	6.33	
	<hr/>	\$110.33
H. W. Humphrey, board of Mary L. Knight, 19 weeks ending Feb. 24, 1868, at \$1.50 per week,.....	28.50	
Clothing for the same,.....	6.09	
	<hr/>	34.59
Robert Gibson, board of S. P. White, 4 weeks at \$3.50, ending Jan. 14, 1868,.....	14.00	
Clothing for S. P. White,.....	16.07	
Dr. Emory, bill for same,.....	.50	
	<hr/>	30.57
A. D. Greeley, for 10 cords of wood delivered to Anna Beard,.....	38.25	
'1100 feet lumber and repairing said A. Beard's house,.....	24.70	
James M. Hardy, sawing and splitting 11½ cords of wood for said Beard, during the year, at \$1.50,.....	17.25	
James Tyler, for 14¾ feet wood, delivered to said Beard,.....	7.96	
J. M. Hobbs, 1 cord of wood,.....	4.00	
	<hr/>	92.16
J. M. Hardy, cutting 3½ cords of wood for Mrs. J. T. Kent, at \$1.25,.....	4.37	
Drawing the same to her house,.....	1.00	
John Woodbury, 3 bbls. flour,.....	46.00	
10 gallons molasses,.....	6.92	
8 yds. pant cloth,.....	8.12	
1 pair boots,.....	3.67	
J. M. Hobbs, 2 cords of wood,.....	11.00	
Charles Kent and others, 87 lbs. pork,.....	13.89	
4½ lbs. lard,.....	.73	
Warren Sherburn, 2 bush. meal,.....	3.00	
10 lbs. nails,.....	.75	
30 lbs. rye flour,.....	1.65	
Labor on farm,.....	4.50	
Hay,.....	13.00	
Wood,.....	4.50	
David Butler, fence slabs,.....	3.75	
	<hr/>	126.85
Mrs. Wilkins, board of Mr. Hardy,.....		7.00
J. A. Foster, bill boarding transient persons during the year,.....		8.75
	<hr/>	\$875.99

N. B. Number of persons partly or entirely supported by the Town, 12.

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid W. W. Gage, as surveyor, breaking roads, 1866,	\$28.14
C. Boardman, " " " "	7.70
C. Carlton, " " " "	7.00
E. F. Wood, " " " "	6.00
T. F. Palmer, " " " "	3.03
Thomas Ellenwood, bridge plank, . . . . .	.75
G. C. Webster, for stone for bridge near Butler's Mills, . . . . .	6.00
D. B. Smith, building said bridge, . . . . .	40.26
Moses Runnels, 6 bridge stringers, . . . . .	30.00
750 feet bridge plank, . . . . .	12.00
A. D. Butler, 1,364 " " " " . . . . .	23.19
456 feet timber for bridge, . . . . .	7.75
E. G. Hobbs, breaking snow paths, 1866-7, . . . . .	6.44
A. G. Hobbs, " " " " " " . . . . .	4.20
Mark H. Webster, breaking roads, 1866-7, . . . . .	4.68
Daniel Atwood, " " " " " " . . . . .	6.61
	<hr/>
	\$193.80

## TOWN HOUSE.

Amount received during the year, . . . . . \$56.50

## EXPENSES.

Paid J. Atwood, Jr., stove in lower hall, . . . . .	\$19.00
Pipe for same, . . . . .	13.00
For labor, cash paid getting up same, . . . . .	3.00
Lamps for hall, . . . . .	9.83
Cleaning lower hall, . . . . .	3.00
John Woodbury, 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ gallons kerosene, . . . . .	13.90
Lamp wicks and chimneys, . . . . .	.82
J. Atwood, Jr., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cords of wood, . . . . .	9.00
Glass, and setting the same, . . . . .	1.00
Repair stove and 4 chimneys, . . . . .	1.00
Service as Agt. for town house, . . . . .	15.00
	<hr/>
	\$88.55

Loss, . . . . . \$32.05

## ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

F. W. Bachelder, poll tax for 1866, . . . . .	\$3.60
Moses Coburn, " " " " . . . . .	5.10
Wesley Coburn, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Charles Kent, Jr., " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Charles Keyes, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
James E. McCoy, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Otis G. Spear, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
A. J. Dearborn, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Jos. H. Kittredge, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Patrick Moren, " " " " . . . . .	3.60
Mrs. Albert Gage, a part of tax, . . . . .	13.00
	<hr/>
	\$50.50



Interest due on the same, about.....		\$600.00
Due County of Hillsborough for board of Mrs. Keyes, the 1st day of March, 1868,.....	\$19.12	
Do. for board of S. P. White to same date,...	13.00	
Due T. F. Goodspeed, for board of H. Goodspeed, to March 1st, 1868,.....	29.75	
	<hr/>	61.87
Tax due the town from Nashua and Derry Banks,	\$53.38	
Due from agent on Town Hall,.....	30.50	
	<hr/>	83.88

## AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED.

State Tax for 1867,.....	\$2,862.50
County Tax " .....	855.54
Town Tax " .....	3,342.85
School Tax " .....	916.00
Dog Tax " .....	30.00
	<hr/>
Total,.....	\$8,006.89

DANIEL MARSHALL, }  
 WARREN SHERBURN, } Selectmen of Pelham.  
 WILLIAM G. BUTLER, }

Pelham, February 29th, 1868.

## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

He charges himself as follows:

March 12, 1867—Cash in hands of Treasurer.....	\$	345.76
April " Outstanding taxes for 1866,.....		493.00
February 29, 1868—Received of State Treasurer—		
Savings Bank tax for 1867,.....		174.60
Railroad tax for 1867,.....		155.43
United States bounties,.....		146.00
Received of County of Hillsborough,...		59.84
Collector of Taxes for 1867,		3,556.34
Amounting to.....		\$4,930.97

For which he craves allowance as follows, to wit.:

February 29, 1868—For cash paid on sundry orders drawn by the Selectmen during the year in favor of sundry persons, amounting to		4,332.92
Leaving a balance in cash in the treasury,		598.05

### LITERARY FUND.

March 13, 1867—Cash in treasury,.....	\$31.20	
February 29, 1868—Cash received from State,.....	33.30	
		64.50
Credit claimed as follows:		
To paying sundry drafts of Selectmen, drawn in favor of Prudential School Committees,.....	\$16.84	
Amount appropriated,.....	14.36	
		31.20
Balance in treasury, unappropriated,.....		\$33.30

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Pelham, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the past financial year, and find them properly kept, correctly cast and vouched.

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

Pelham, February 29, 1868.

**A N N U A L R E P O R T**

OF THE

**SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

OF THE

**TOWN OF PELHAM,**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING, MARCH 10, 1868.**



# REPORT.

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THE Superintendent would preface his report by some remarks upon a few topics connected with the welfare of the schools.

## CARE IN THE SELECTION OF TEACHERS.

Good teachers for our country schools are in demand. Teachers of the right moral tone, of experience, of tact, of the requisite amount of education—and this is not small—are few. Experience has its importance, as much in teaching as in any of the professions; an inexperienced teacher may do well, but not as well as with more experience. We need teachers in our schools with sufficient character TO LIFT THEM UP. But when a young teacher is employed, the District should feel that there is something due the teacher as well as themselves. The character of a young man or woman is something very precious. The Prudential Committee may decline to employ a young man or woman that applies for the school and no one is harmed; but let the Superintending Committee refuse to approbate such an one, it may not be from deficiency in literary qualifications, but for other reasons, and it is something that follows the young man or woman to their injury. The Superintendent in such instances may commit great mistakes. He may, in the discharge of his duty, as he thinks, refuse to approbate those, who, if they have the opportunity, will be successful, and thus do them an injury. Hence, it is important that the Prudential Committee should be judicious in his selections.

## TEACHERS' FAILINGS.

A thorough criticism of an individual school, and a report of the faults of individual teachers, is a very delicate matter; and this oftentimes does the teacher injustice, because the public will not see them in their true relations and in connection with

redeeming qualities. And, for this reason, if a school is a tolerable success, I choose to omit, in reporting it, to speak particularly of its defects, and under a separate head notice the imperfections observed in the teachers in their schools.

And a very common deficiency among our teachers, is the want of liberal knowledge. A teacher needs a breadth of information that will take him beyond the mere routine of the text books, and out of the beaten track in which he was taught. A teacher that can merely go through the exercises of school by rote, or like a drill-master on the parade-ground, though he may make the school very proficient in this, is after all poorly prepared to instruct.

Another fault that I notice is inaccuracies in teaching, especially in grammar. In one school, which as a whole was very excellent, and which I can report as a most decided success, these inaccuracies were very apparent.

Another fault that I have noticed, is the tone and feeling in which a reprimand is given; this should never be harsh and impetuous, but dignified, kind and firm. The influence that a teacher is having upon the character of scholars in this particular is of the first importance.

Another fault that I have sometimes noticed, is a coarseness in the expressions of teachers. A teacher never should allow himself in any expression that savors of roughness or slang, but every word should be the most select, every expression truly refined.

Another failure in some instances, is a want of energy. A teacher should be able to infuse life into a school. When a class is at recitation, he should be able to control the presence and hold the attention of that class.

A neglected school room, broken chairs or defaced furniture indicates great defect somewhere in the teacher.

No one should ever engage in teaching who has not a love for the work, who does not enter into it with enthusiasm, who has not a power and force of character that will of itself control the school.

And teaching should never be resorted to as a mere expedient to earn money, or as a stepping-stone to something else.

## REPORT OF SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT No. 1. Joshua Atwood, Jr., Prudential Committee.

This District has been highly favored the past year in its teachers.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Jennie R. Stickney of Dracut.

The school was not as large as usual, composed mainly of small scholars and well classed, so that a teacher could work at great advantage. Miss Stickney has both the moral and intellectual qualifications of a good teacher. She taught well. She attached her little scholars to her, and the term was a pleasant and profitable one. The examination on a delightful summer's day was very interesting, and showed the faithful labors of the teacher.

The Winter Term was taught by Miss Mary C. Richardson of this town. There is, perhaps, no employment in which mature experience, ripe scholarship, enthusiastic devotion to it, and a Christian heart are so necessary as in teaching. Miss Richardson has done much for the cause of education in this community. Several of our best teachers have received their education from her, and she has imparted to them of her enthusiasm in the work, and they have carried from her to their schools many of the most useful methods of instruction.

Miss Richardson engaged in this school from pure devotion to the work of teaching, and gave it all her strength and all the resources of her fertile invention. The school was large and hard. It has some of the best and loveliest scholars of the town, but there are besides many in whom a teacher has not only to create the habit of application, but almost the faculty. Upon all these elements Miss Richardson steadily wrought and the school continued to progress and develop in moral and intellectual character till the close. In the last weeks of the school there was much sickness, and the scholars deserve a word of commendation for their presence on the last day, many of whom could have found a good excuse for absence in the state of their health. The examination was a rare exhibition of thorough instruction. A large portion of the classes might have been marked as perfect, and there was not a scholar who did

not exhibit the kindling of intellectual life and some solid improvement. There were some thirty-five specimens of map-drawing that had been executed by the younger members of the school in their leisure hours, that would have been creditable to most teachers. The writing-books, aside from their neatness exhibited the rare excellence of uniform improvement from the first to the last page. Compositions from five of the older girls were read, which were worthy of commendation for the thought they contained, for their originality and propriety of expression.

There was an interesting exercise on the map of Hillsborough County. Where all the classes did so well it is impossible to individualize, but I cannot refrain from noticing a class in algebra, astronomy and geometry that would have done credit to our higher seminaries. Miss Richardson's method of teaching spelling to small scholars, which most of the teachers in town have adopted, proved a remarkable success. A class commencing written arithmetic, went through with great facility an original method of illustrating the scale of relations in compound numbers. A class taught parsing by writing their lessons, illustrated the superiority of this to the old method. But the more important results of this term's labor lie beneath the surface, in those unseen mines where are the springs of thought and the combining elements of character.

This school was furnished in the latter part of the term with a set of Warren's charts of political geography, procured by the proposition of the teacher to be at half of the expense.

DISTRICT No. 2. Harvey H. Spear, Prudential Committee.

This is an exceedingly pretty school. There is no other in which the pupils average and class so well.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Ann E. Tenney of this town. Miss Tenney has many of the requisite qualifications of a good teacher. She devoted herself to her work, and at the examination there was evidence that the school had made good improvement. A class of little ones in the Primer were deserving of especial notice. We take pleasure in being able to speak thus commendingly of Miss Tenney's first effort in teaching, and we feel that if she should choose it as an em-

ployment of her love she would become an efficient and useful teacher.

The Winter Term was commenced by Mr. S. L. Perkins of Hollis. I do not know as I can make any more charitable report of this school than to say that it was a failure. The young man's literary qualifications were on a par with the teachers usually employed in our schools. But the Committee is free to confess that he approbated him with reluctance. He did not feel that he was what that school needed and expressed to the young man very strongly his views about the school, what would be expected of *him*, and the great labor that he had undertaken, and the young man expressed himself as determined to do his best to fulfil what would be expected of him. But in this the Committee was very much disappointed. The school was visited repeatedly by the Committee, each time hoping to find an improvement, but it closed abruptly at the end of the seventh or eighth week, which, the register does not say. We are sorry not to be able to give a more interesting report of this very important school. The Committee doubt if any of the District can feel more sadly about it than himself. It weighed heavily upon his mind from the day the school commenced till he learnt that it had closed.

The Committee feels that it is proper for him to report a select school, taught in the autumn by Miss Sarah Fox. He is not informed as to the length of it, but thinks that it was six weeks. He called in a few moments one day and was much gratified to witness the promise that Miss Fox gives of making a useful teacher.

DISTRICT No. 3. William H. McNamara, Prudential Committee.

The Summer Term of this school was taught by Miss Alice A. Woodbury of this town. This was Miss Woodbury's first school, but she entered upon her duties and discharged them like a veteran in the service. Miss Woodbury has the indispensable qualifications of a good teacher; a prepossessing presence, a refined and gentle bearing, decision and firmness, a conscientious devotion to the work, thorough scholarship, and facility in imparting knowledge. She gives promise of great

usefulness as a teacher. The school consisted mostly of small scholars, with many of whom it was their novitiate in school. Miss Woodbury exhibited much tact in securing order and interesting these little ones in learning. The school was lengthened four weeks by subscription. The afternoon that the school closed was very stormy, so that but few visitors could attend, but the examination exhibited the faithful labors of the teacher and was a pleasant occasion to those present.

The Second Term of this school was taught by Miss Susan M. Smith of this town. It commenced the first of October, with the expectation that it would conclude by the first of winter, but the teacher was compelled to be out of the school a number of weeks by sickness, so that it did not close till the middle of February. Several scholars came in from Hudson, so that the school attained the very respectable number of thirty-five different scholars. Miss Smith is a young lady of sterling worth, and leaves a good reputation where she teaches. The school was lengthened by the teacher's boarding round. The sickness of the teacher was a serious interruption to the school, and after its resumption it was very much interrupted by sickness among the scholars. So that it was utterly impossible for the teacher to accomplish what she might have done under more favoring circumstances. But at the examination there was gratifying evidence of improvement.

**DISTRICT No. 4. Samuel Kelley, Prudential Committee.**

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss L. Alice Burt, of this town. Miss Burt's previous teaching in the town had secured for her the reputation of an efficient and acceptable teacher; and she fully sustained this reputation in this school. This school is a severe tax upon the energies of any teacher, and a test of their ability. Miss Burt reduced the school to order, and successfully governed it each term. The Summer Term was lengthy. A vacation—unfortunately as the Superintendent thinks—was had some three or four weeks before the close. During the vacation many of the scholars became otherwise employed, and at its conclusion did not return to the school. This dampened the interest of the school very much, and rendered it

very disheartening to the teacher. But the examination, at the close, of those present was very satisfactory.

Miss Burtt went into the Winter Term with the advantage of her previous acquaintance with the school. The large number of scholars, the numerous classes, the condition of the school-room, and the entire absence of any school-room apparatus, rendered her labors peculiarly arduous. But she went through with this large amount of labor, and accomplished what many teachers fail in, viz.: making each scholar learn something. The examination was worthy of commendation; void of all CLAP-TRAP, it showed just what the school had been about. The thoroughness with which the little ones had committed their spellings, the improvement of the entire school in distinctness in articulation in both reading and recitation, and the accuracy of several classes in arithmetic and geography deserve notice. Of the several recitations of select pieces, not one needed prompting. The writing-books were neat, and the register was well kept. I cannot refrain from a word of commendation to the larger scholars, for the increasing sense of self-respect that I witnessed in them during the entire term.

#### DISTRICT No. 5. Henry Lewis, Prudential Committee.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Abbie J. Sleeper, of this town. Miss Sleeper's labors in this school were a success. She is an excellent scholar, enters into the work with enthusiasm, governs well, and gives promise of becoming a teacher of the first class. The examination at the close of the Summer Term was very fine. The recitation of Abba J. Lewis in Colburn's arithmetic was the best of any scholar of her age that the Committee had seen in the schools. The classes in written arithmetic were very good; one of beginners especially interested the Committee. There was a class well drilled in spelling by the elements of sound, an exercise of practical value.

Miss Sleeper came to the Winter Term with the advantage of her summer's acquaintance, and to continue the labors then performed. The school was disturbed somewhat by sickness among the scholars, and the interest of the examination was impaired by the absence of some of the scholars from the same

cause. But the exercises were interesting, showing the faithful instruction of the teacher, and the studiousness of the scholars. There was a class of three—a little girl of eleven and two little boys of twelve—that had been through Colburn's arithmetic and vulgar fractions in written arithmetic in a most thorough manner. The writing-books deserve a remark for their neatness, and the register for the thorough manner in which it was filled.

The enterprise of the teacher in repairing the old paper on the walls, and giving her school-room such a tidy appearance, deserves a remark. The Committee is also gratified at the interest of the parents of this district in attending the examinations.

He is also very much gratified to notice the advance of this school in general character; within the past two years there has been a great quickening of intellect and improvement in habits of studiousness, and a growing sense of self-respect among the scholars.

The school has some scholars of great promise, if they are only brought under the care of the right teachers; their future as scholars depends upon the teachers they shall have.

DISTRICT No. 6. Jesse Hamblet and Warren Sherburn, Prudential Committee.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Ellen I. Gage, of this town. The Summer Term was very small and very short, and much could not be expected. The Winter Term was of good length, and though the number of scholars was not large, still there was material for a very good school. Miss Gage had evidently labored with her school, and most of the scholars had studied hard. The Committee could speak with commendation of the first class in reading, the two advanced classes in arithmetic, a class in physiology, in familiar science, and a small class in geógraphy.

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The Superintendent feels that he should fail to comprehend all the educational facilities of the year, if he omitted a most valuable term of school, taught by Miss Richardson, in the Hall during the autumn. These schools cause the educational pulse to beat in the remotest districts. They are not only an extra

facility to those who attend, but these scholars carry the influence of the instruction here received into the schools they attend during the winter, and many of the teachers go from these terms not merely burnished, but strengthened and furnished for a usefulness that they could not otherwise attain.

#### SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Three or four of our houses have been mentioned times enough. I would simply remark upon the importance of keeping everything in thorough repair. The black-boards in all the houses need painting.

The Superintendent feels that he may with propriety suggest to No. 2 the importance of some immediate repairs on their house, especially new plastering and the adjusting of the maps upon the walls. Such repairs are greatly needed upon the school-house in No. 5. It would then be quite an inviting school-room.

To No. 6 he would say that the use of a little glue would save their chair from soon becoming a wreck beyond repair, and their very valuable physical charts need a binding to the rollers in order to save them from destruction. A few timely repairs will preserve this very neat school-room and its valuable furniture; neglect them, and it will soon become shabby.

Some public-spirited person in each district, who should keep his eye upon these things and secure an appropriation for the purpose at the annual school meetings, would do much good.

#### SCHOOL MONEY.

It is a matter of gratulation that the amount of school money will be increased another year. In none of the districts is it sufficient to remunerate the services of first-class teachers, and in some instances the school has been lengthened by a return to the primitive custom of boarding the teacher round in the families of the scholars.

#### STATISTICS.

DISTRICT No. 1. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$24.00; whole number of scholars, 27; average, 23. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$40.00; whole number of scholars, 37; average, 30.

DISTRICT No. 2. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$20.00; whole number of scholars, 30; average, 26. Length of Winter Term, 8 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$38.00; whole number of scholars, 42; average, 37.

DISTRICT No. 3. Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$18.00; whole number of scholars, 23; average, 18. Length of Winter Term, 14 weeks; wages of Teacher, exclusive of board, per month, \$14.00; whole number of scholars, 35; average, 19.

DISTRICT No. 4. Length of Summer Term, 15 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$25.00; whole number of scholars, 35; average, 27. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$30.66; whole number of scholars, 42; average, 37.

DISTRICT No. 5. Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$20.00; whole number of scholars, 18; average, 15. Length of Winter Term, 13 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$30.00; whole number of scholars, 20; average, 15.

DISTRICT No. 6. Length of Summer Term, 6 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$16.00; whole number of scholars, 9; average, 8. Length of Winter Term, 12 weeks; wages of Teacher, \$17.00; whole number of scholars, 13; average, 12 1-2.

REMARK. The wages of the Teacher is per month and includes board.

AUGUSTUS BERRY,

*Superintending School Committee.*

PELHAM, March 10, 1868.