1847 Bridgewater Annual Town Report

The Town of Bridgewater

Follow this and additional works at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/town_reports

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/town_reports/1

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,
FROM MARCH 1847, TO MARCH 6, 1848;
WITH A LIST OF
TOWN OFFICERS, CHOSEN MARCH 1848,
AND THE
REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TAUNTON, MASS.,
C. A. HACK. PRINTER,---REPUBLICAN OFFICE.
1848.
Published by order of the Town,

EBENEZER GAY,  
PHILO LEACH,  
WILLIAMS LATHAM,  

Printing Committee.
Town Officers.

Town Clerk, and Treasurer. Lewis Holmes.
Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor. Philo Leach, William Dunbar, and Aretas Forbes.


Prudential Committee. No. 1, Calvin B. Pratt. 2, Spencer Leonard Jr. 3, Hezekiah H. Keith. 4, Benj. P. Pope. 5, Leonard Pratt. 6, Cornelius Holmes Jr. 7, William Dunbar. 8, Philander Leach. 9, Jackson Sprague. 10, Luther C. Wilbar. 11, Samuel Keith. 12, Azel A. Shaw. 13, Philo Mitchell.


Field Drivers. Stephen Cornish, T. Bouldry and B. Washburn.

Pound Keeper. Abram Washburn 2d.

Fence Viewers. Sam'l Leonard, Philander Leach and A. Washburn 2d.

Sealer of Weights and Measures. Francis D. Homer.

Committee on the Town House. W. Latham, Philo Leach and Winslow Mitchell.

Collector of Taxes. Calvin B. Pratt.

Constables. Calvin B. Pratt and Philip D. Kingman.

March 13, 1848. Voted, To raise 1500 dollars for the repairs of Highways, to be assessed upon Polls and Estates and paid in labor.

Voted, To raise 2000 dollars for the support of schools for the ensuing year.

Voted, That the sum of $181 dollars 63 cents, (the estimated expense of the present year,) be assessed into a Tax upon the Polls and Estates of the inhabitants according to law.

APPROPRIATION OF SCHOOL MONEY THE LAST YEAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
<td>Thomas Gibbs. $280 54</td>
<td>To Martha M. Fisher, $97 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance last year, 71 20</td>
<td>Geo. Herrick, 123 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For wood and cutting, 15 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$51 74 Repairs, 75—236 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2</td>
<td>George Hooker. 128 96</td>
<td>Betsey M. Soule, 29 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance of last year, 10 86</td>
<td>S. Jordan, for board, 21 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Repairs, 1 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elbridge Keith, 77 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fuel, 4 75—133 37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No. 3. Amandir Alden, 112 28
Balance of last year, 82
---
113 10
Julia F. Bartlett, 34 00
L. W. Hayden for b'd., 25 50
Allowed J. I. Howard
for share for one school, 3 62
P. Leach, for wood, 5 44
A. Alden for wood, 5 50
Lucia Conant, 16 87
C. Alden for board, 12 09—103 02
Wealthy Holmes, 48 56
Wealthy Holmes, 59 50—108 66
No. 4. Thomas Cushman, 119 96
No. 5. Samuel Leonard, 113 80
No. 6. Simeon W. Leonard, 98 64
Balance of last year, 12 26
---
110 90
Sarah Leonard, 83 75
Valentine Copeland, 66 00
S. W. Leonard for fuel, 3 00
Repairs, 45—103 29
No. 7 Hiram Wentworth, 98 64
Balance of last year, 9 08
---
107 72
Eliza C. Shurtleff, 21 00
H. Wentworth for b'd. 21 00
Sarah Leach, 52 00
Virgil Ames for wood, 8 87
Repairs, 1 37—104 21
No. 8. A. M. Hayward, 136 54
Balance of last year, 1 16
---
137 70
Augusta Bassett, 82 00
Isaac Grabrant for b'd. 20 00
Philander Leach, 77 45
C. Leach for wood, 8 25—137 60
No. 9. D. H. Dearborn, 165 34
Balance of last year, 13
---
165 47
Narcissa Y. Chase, 54 70
N. Withorell for board, 31 50
Narcissa Y. Chase, 46 90
D. H. Dearborn for w'd. 9 83
Repairs, 1 00—143 93
No. 10. Zadoc Leach, 107 44
Balance of last year, 2 08
---
110 52
Evelina B. Fobes, 33 00
George H. Thompson, 75 00—108 00
No. 11. Sanford Wilbur, 122 90
Balance of last year, 15 14
---
138 04
Saba Washburn, 21 00
Seth Washburn for b'd., 13 50
Evelina B. Fobes, 68 00
S. Wilbur for wood, 10 59
Repairs, 1 60—114 69
No. 12. William Lazell, 89 55
Amelia Leonard, 15 00
W. Lazell for board, 15 00
Clarissa Pratt, 32 50
L. T. Alden for board, 22 75
" for wood, 2 15—87 40
No. 13. Martin Swift Jr. 122 90
Mary Leonard, 77 00
J. K. Keith for wood, 5 40
W. P. Cutter for b'l'k b'd. 2 33
Lucy H. Brigham, 21 00—105 73

HIGHWAYS.

Surveyors
No. 1. West. Philo Leach,
1. East. Samuel F. Sanger,
2. Willard Washburn,
3. Amandir Alden,
4. Benj. P. Pope,

Appropriation.
347 83
286 01
58 78
65 40
35 29
EXPENSES ON ROADS AND BRIDGES, IN ADDITION TO THE HIGHWAY TAX.

For the Turnpike Bridge.  Paid to James Sawyer, $8 43
   Ira Conant, 19 60
   Paschal Bassett, 1 50—29 43

For the Alden Bridge.  W. H. Chamberlain for plank, 12 65
   D. Dunbar, 3 62
   Lazell, Perkins & Co. 60—16 87

For Paper Mill Bridge.  W. H. Chamberlain for plank, 13 07
   Fall River Rail Road, for freight 1 96
   Lazell, Perkins & Co. 1 00
   M. Hooper, for carting, 75
   William Andrews, 75
   Jabez Harden, 75—18 28

For Turnpike Bridge, 
   between Bridgewater and Middleborough.  W. H. Chamberlain, for plank, 47 54
   Fall River Rail Road, for freight, 4 44
   Jabez Tucker, for carting, 2 88
   Aretas Fobes, 2 60—56 96

Repairs on Turnpike, south of T. Wentworth’s.  James Lynch, 7 00
   Joseph Copeland, 3 00
   William Dunbar, 4 25—14 25

Paid Surveyors of Highways.  Bela Mitchell, 9 75
   Willard Washburn, 4 85
   H. Hall, 6 50—21 10

Paid for land and removing fences for Roads.  John I. Howard, 15 00
   Isaac Tisdale, 15 00
   John C. Harden, 20 00—50 00

PAID COMMITTEES ON ROADS.

To Philo Leach, who was committee on the Aldrich Road, 14 50
   the Turnpike, the petition of P. Bassett and others,
   Geo. King and others, Zeb. K. Pratt and others, on the W. Osborne Road and K. Winslow’s,
To A. Washburn 2d, on the petition of G. King and others, 3 75
   D. Bryant, on the Aldrich Road and Turnpike, 10 00
   Geo. Bassett, on the petition of G. King and others, 4 00
   Virgil Ames, on the petition of P. Bassett and others, 2 00
   A. Fobes, on that of Z. K. Pratt and others, and the Osborne and K. Winslow roads, 5 50
   Josiah L. Bassett, on the petition of G. King and others, 5 00
   W. Dunbar, on that of Z. K. Pratt, W. Osborne and K. Winslow, 6 75
   Samuel Leonard, on Culvert, 62
   A. Hale, on Turnpike and Aldrich Road, 7 50
   Paid for railings for bridges and roads, 9 46—69 08
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
Claudius Bradford, 11 50
Ebenezer Gay, 19 00
Philander Leach, 8 90
Virgil Ames, 8 30
Elbridge Keith, 6 90
Calvin B. Pratt, 1 00—55 60

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEEERS OF THE POOR.
Philo Leach, 52 92
Wm. Dunbar, 40 00
Aretas Fobes, 84 56—127 48.

AUDITORS OF ACCOUNTS.
Solomon Alden, Jr., 1 25
Sam'l Leonard, 1 25
Geo. Bassett, 1 25—3 75

L. Holmes, Town Treasurer's salary, 25 00
" Recording Births and Deaths, 6 96
" " Militia, 2 50
" Postage and Express Bills, 3 52
Painting and papering at the Almshouse, 10 72
" Town House Door and Fence, 4 42
C. B. Pratt, warning Town Meetings, 9 00
" " " Officers, 5 00
Chas. Howard, Superintendent of the Almshouse, salary, 125 00
C. B. Pratt, collecting Taxes for 1847, 58 26
Abatements of Taxes in do., 23 88
C. B. Pratt, Physician's salary, 15 00
William Fuller's last sickness, funeral charges and Dr's bill, 10 40
" " family, 9 00
William Ashport's do., 1 90
Charles Ashport's do., 1 50
Incidental expenses, 2 06
Postage, 2 15
Printing School Report 10 25
Paid George Hooker, damages, by vote of the town, 25 00
Paid Musicians, 90 00—441 52

OVERSEEERS' REPORT.
The Overseers of the Poor in the town of Bridgewater for the year ending March 6th 1848, respectfully present the following Report:

EXPENSES OF THE POOR AT THE ALMSHOUSE.
MARCH 6th, 1848.
Dr.
Interest on Farm, 150 00
" Stock and Furniture, 50 00
Superintendent's salary, 125 00
Physician's salary, 15 00
Inventory of April 1st, 1847, 485 70
Bills paid and supplies furnished, 213 11
Estimate from Feb. 28th to April 1848, 20 00
Expenses of Overseers, 15 00

Total, 1078 81
Paid for Ashes, 5 50

Total, 1079 31
CR.

Articles sold and labor done off the Farm, 191.75
Cutting and marketing wood, 14.00
" drawing timber, 16.50
Labor on Turnpike, 35.00
Boarding Benj. Leonard 16 weeks, 20.00
Due from individuals, 19.00
Inventory, Feb. 28th, 1848, 483.69

779.95

Deduct for Ashes spread, 5.50—293.86

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

William Fuller's last sickness and funeral charges, including Doctor's bill for the year, 10 40
William Fuller's family, 9.00
William Ashport's Family, 1 90
Charles Ashport's Family, 1.50
Incidental expenses, 2 05
Postage, 2 15—27 01

PHILO LEACH, WILLIAM DUNBAR, ARETAS FOBES,

Overseers of Poor.

Bridgewater, March 6th, 1848.

PAUPERS AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

Joseph Bolton, aged 71, 52 w'ks. Deliverance Bolton aged 67, 8 w'ks.
Wid. Parna Hooper, 52 " John Elliot, 1 "
Sarah Ashport, 17 " Nancy Ashport, 17 "
S. J. Ashport, Infant, 11 " Elijah Willis, 2 "
William Smith, 5 1-2 w. 165 1-2

ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

FOR ROADS.—Road near Willard Osborne's, 138.03
" on petition of G. King and others, 87.82
" " P. Bassett and others, 700.00
Aldrich Road, 200.00
Turnpike near Depot, 200.00
Road near Kenelm Winslow's, 75.00
" " Thomas Cushman's, 40.00
" " David Hall's, 50.00—2281.65
Support of the Poor, 400.00
Incidental Expenses, 300.00
Schools, 2000.00
Seth Washburn's Note and Interest, 200.00

$3181.65
RECEIPTS AND PROPERTY OF THE TOWN.

Balance in the Treasury March 9, 1847, 318 19
" of Town Taxes for 1846, 304 49
Taxes of 1847, 3293 45
Balance of receipts for the use of the Town Hall, 100 00
Received of County Treasurer for Roads, 100 00
" for Licenses, 9 50
" from the State School Fund, 97 75
" for old timber sold, 2 00
Due from the Commonwealth to pay Musicians, 90 00—$4315 88
Right to gravel on 20 sq. rods of land of G. W. Bassett.
" " Wm. Pratt.
" " B. Crooker and B. P. Pope.
" on land near S. Walker's since sold for $80 00
Capt. A. Washburn's Note without interest during the life time of wid. Hannah Packard, $255 00
Capt. A. Washburn's Note for the Edson School fund, interest appropriated biennially, $300 00
Town House and 1/4 of an acre of land.
One half of a dwelling house and six acres of land occupied by Benjamin Washburn.
Alms House and 81 acres of land, cost 2860 00
Now valued at 3500 00

ARTICLES AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

2 Oxen and 4 Cows, 175 00 Wood, fitted for the fire, 60 00
2 swine, 25 00 Manure, 40 00
Ox Cart, 20 00 Provisions, 70 77
Farming Tools, 124 12 Lumber, 21 13
Hay, 35 00 Household Furniture, 130 00—701 02
FELLOW CITIZENS OF BRIDGEWATER.

The cause of Education has engaged the attention of the wise and benevolent in every age, and in every nation. But it was reserved for the first settlers in New England, and especially those of the State of Massachusetts, to devise and put in operation the grand scheme of educating all the people. In the early legislation of our Pilgrim Fathers we find provision made—"for the settlement and support of ministers and schoolmasters." They were the first of any people to engraft that great principle in the laws of a country, as a maxim of government, that "all the people of a State should be educated by the State." To accomplish this end they required schools to be established and maintained for a certain length of time annually in all the towns; and it was especially enacted, that "no person shall presume to set up or keep a school without the allowance and approbation of the proper authority."

From these beginnings our school system has been modified and improved from time to time, so that it has become the pride of our country, and the wonder of the world. Many changes and experiments have been made within a few years past, but what will be the improvements with regard to some of them, time only can determine. The laws relating to our school system have been so often changed of late, that it has become somewhat difficult to keep them all in memory. It is, therefore, thought it might be useful to give a condensed view of some of the more important acts, as they now exist, with which every citizen should be familiarly acquainted.

Our present laws require, that "schools shall be kept in every town of the commonwealth, at the charge of the town, by teachers of competent ability and good
morals, for the instruction of children in orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, and good behavior." Rev'd Sts. ch. 23 § 1.

These schools may be sustained by the town in its corporate capacity, or by districts determined by metes and bounds for that purpose; (ch. 23 § 24.) though schools are found by experience to succeed best where there are no districts.

If the town be divided into districts, one person shall be chosen annually in each district by the town, or by the district, if the town so determine, to act as prudential Committee of the same. He must be a resident of the district for which he is chosen, and his duty is to keep the school house of such district in good and comfortable condition at the expense of the district, to provide fuel and all things necessary for the convenience and accommodation of the scholars, to select, and contract with a candidate for teacher of the school in said district, to inform the superintending Committee of the beginning and close of each school term, and to give them such assistance as may enable them to discharge the duties required of them. See Rev'd. Sts. ch. 23 § 25 26 and Sts. 1839, ch. 105 § 2 and ch. 137.

A clerk must be chosen by the inhabitants of each school district, who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, and who shall make a fair record of all votes passed at any meeting of the district, and who shall hold his office until another shall be chosen and sworn in his stead. Ch. 23 § 27.

"The several towns are authorized and directed, at their annual meetings, or at any regular meeting called for the purpose, to raise such sums of money, for the support of schools, as they shall judge necessary, which sums shall be assessed and collected in like manner as other town taxes." The money can be legally used for paying the wages and board of teachers, and fuel only. Not a cent of it can be lawfully used for any other purpose. All money needed for repairing school houses and furnishing them with any fixtures or furniture for convenience or neatness, must be raised by the districts in their district capacity. R. St. ch. 23, § 9, and St. 1846, ch. 223.
No child under the age of fifteen years shall be employed to labor in any manufacturing establishment, unless such child shall have attended some public or private day school, at least three months of the twelve months next preceding, any and every year, in which such child shall be so employed, under the penalty of fifty dollars. St. 1839, ch. 245, § 1, 2, and 1842, ch. 60, § 2.

Each school district is authorized to establish and maintain a common School Library and apparatus for the use of the School. Each district on exhibiting proof to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, that it has raised and appropriated the sum of fifteen dollars or more for a district School Library, is entitled to receive from said Treasurer, the same amount to be expended for the same object. And if any district has twice sixty children between the ages of 4 and 16 years, and shall produce evidence of having raised twice 15 dollars for a School Library, it shall be entitled to draw from the treasurer twice 15 dollars, for the same purpose. Each school district is authorized to levy upon itself a tax, not exceeding thirty dollars for the first year, and ten dollars in any subsequent year, for the purpose of maintaining a library and apparatus for the use of the school. St. 1837 ch. 147 § 1, Rev. 1842.

A School Committee, consisting of three, five, or seven persons, must be chosen by each town annually by written ballots, who shall have the general charge and superintendence of all the public schools in the town. Their duty is to examine all who may be employed as instructors in the common schools, requiring full and satisfactory evidence of good moral character, and certaing by personal examination, their literary qualifications and capacity for the government of schools, and no teacher can obtain any payment for his services, unless he has first obtained a certificate of his qualifications, and after finishing his school, returns the Register properly kept and completed to the School Committee, or some person designated to receive it. If upon trial, after having received a certificate, a teacher be found incompetent to discharge the duties of his station, he may at the discretion of the School Committee be
dismissed, and his wages will cease from the time of such
dismissio n. R. St. ch. 23, § 10, 13. St. 1844, ch 32,
1845, ch. 157.

The School Committee are to direct what books shall
be used in the school; and the scholars must be supplied
by their parents, masters or guardians, with the books
prescribed for their classes. If any scholars are not
thus furnished with the requisite books, they may be sup­
plied therewith by the School Committee, at the ex­
pense of the town, which expense may afterwards be
added by the assessors, to the annual tax of their parents,
masters or guardians; or paid from the town treasury,
as the assessors may judge the said parents, masters or
guardians able or unable to bear the expense. R. St.
ch. 23, § 17, 18, 20, 21, 22.

One or more of the School Committee, must visit each
of the district schools near the beginning and close of
each term, and once a month besides, for the purpose of
making a careful examination of the same, of ascer­
taining that the scholars are properly supplied with books,
and of inquiring into the regulations and discipline of the
school, and the habits and proficiency of the scholars
therein. R. St. ch. 23, § 15, 16.

"During the period of visitation, (it has been said by
an able expounder of this law,) the Committee have en­
tire control of the school. They may decide what classes
shall be called upon to perform exercises, and in what
studies. They may direct the teacher to conduct the
examination, or may conduct it wholly themselves, or
they may combine both methods. Should any scholar
misbehave himself, or prove refractory or contumaceous
to the Committee, while they are engaged in examinating
the school, they have authority to suspend, to expel, or
to punish on the spot, in the same way that the teacher
may do in case of like misconduct committed against

In every district, containing fifty or more scholars, as
the average number, a female assistant teacher must be
employed, unless the district or town, at a meeting regu­
larly called for the purpose, vote to dispense with the
same. St. 1839, ch. 56, § 1.
The School Committee must make annually a detailed report of the condition of the several public schools, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to the schools as the Committee shall deem necessary or proper to promote the interests thereof; and it shall be read publicly at the annual town meeting in February, March or April, or, at the discretion of the School Committee, be printed for the use of the inhabitants. This report, whether read publicly, or printed, must be deposited in the office of the town clerk, and an attested copy of the same transmitted to the office of the Secretary of State, on or before the last day of April. St. 1838, 1846.

The School Committee having received the Register Books of all the schools in town, must collate and condense their statistical items, and transfer them to the blank Form of inquiry furnished for that purpose, and having answered all such questions as are inserted in the Forms, and having authenticated the whole by the proper signatures and oath, they must transmit the same to the office of the Secretary of State, for the use of the Board of Education, on or before the last day of April of each year. St. 1846, ch. 223.

"It shall be the duty of the resident Ministers of the gospel, the Selectmen, and the School Committees, in the several towns, to exert their influence and use their best endeavors, that the youth of their towns shall regularly attend the schools established for their instruction. R. St. ch. 23, § 8.

If any town shall refuse or neglect to raise money for the support of schools, it shall forfeit a sum equal to twice the highest sum which had ever before been voted for the support of schools therein. And if any town shall refuse or neglect to choose a School Committee to superintend its schools, and a Prudential Committee for each district, when it is left with the town to choose the Prudential Committee, such town shall forfeit a sum not less than one hundred nor more than two hundred dollars, which shall be paid into the Treasury of the county. And if the School Committee do not make an annual report of the condition of the schools in each town, and cause the same, together with a full and an authen-
ticated return of the blank Form, according to law, to be transmitted to the Secretary of State in due season, the town can receive no part of the School Fund of the State for that year. R. St. ch. 23, § 60, 66.

Such are some of the more important school regulations of the State of Massachusetts, by obedience to which we have been accustomed to entertain the highest hopes of future prosperity. But it is often asked, whether we are realizing all the good which might be reasonably expected from laws so wisely enacted? and we are obliged to acknowledge that in some respects we are disappointed. The failure, however, is not in the system itself, but arises wholly from a neglect or disregard of our wise institutions. Provision is made by our laws for the education of all the children of the State. But do they all avail themselves of this privilege? Far from it. Some, it is to be feared, are never seen within a school house; and many are there but a few days or weeks in a year. The average attendance in the State for the last year was only .62. Thus there must have been the loss of nearly two fifths of the privilege of obtaining a common school education by the children of this State. This is a lamentable fact,—one which has been noticed and largely commented upon from year to year, and yet no essential improvement has been made. Though during the last ten years, appropriations for defraying the expenses of our schools have been greatly augmented; though many towns have done much to improve their school houses; and though much has been done to improve the qualifications of teachers, yet no gain has been made in the ratio of attendance. In our own town we are ashamed but obliged to acknowledge, that it falls below the average attendance of the State. Whilst as it regards appropriation of money for the support of schools, (besides all that is done by individual munificence and private tuition,) we stand as 75 to 311,—in the ratio of average attendance we rank as low as 228 to 311, i. e. we average .61—. It is hoped that parents and guardians, who unnecessarily keep their children at home, or suffer them to be absent from school, will reflect upon this fact and be ashamed of it;—and remember that they are not only injuring society for
whose good our schools are maintained at a common public expense, but preparing those children, who are kept out of school, for vice, degradation and woe. Your Committee cannot find language sufficiently strong to express their regret in ascertaining that about $100, that is, 2-5 or 640 dollars of the 1,600 appropriated annually by this town for the support of common schools, should be lost—actually lost. It is true that some of the children by their constant and punctual attendance, enjoy the full benefit of all the money that is raised; but this only shows, that others have enjoyed less than their relative proportion. We are sure that if these children live to see the days of manhood, they will deeply lament the loss which can never be repaired; and we beseech you who are parents and guardians, to beware, that the curse of sending ignorant and vicious children into the world, does not come down upon your own heads.

There is also another failure in respect to good anticipated from our school system. Wherever we go, the complaint is loud and oft repeated, that children are not as respectful, gentle, complaisant and well-behaved as formerly. A spirit of insubordination, disrespect towards superiors and elders, and general incivility, appears rise among children and the younger members of society. We have adverted to this subject in former reports, and yet it is one of such magnitude, that we cannot pass over it in silence. It will be borne in mind that one of the legislative acts already quoted, requires the teaching of good behaviour. Without defining precisely how much this expression implies, there can be no doubt that it enjoins the utter and entire prohibition of all profane, impure, vulgar and obscene language and conduct; and that it requires in children and youth, reverence for the aged, respect for those in authority, honesty and fairness in dealing, truthfulness and sincerity, and civility and decency in all their deportment. "Manners easily and rapidly mature into morals. As childhood advances to manhood, the transition from bad manners to bad morals is almost imperceptible. Vulgar and obscene forms of speech keep vulgar and obscene objects before the mind, engender impure images in the imagination, and make unlawful desires ungovernable. From the prevalent
state of the mind, actions proceed, as water rises from a fountain."

It has been said and widely promulgated, that if our common schools were conducted on the cardinal principles of the present New England system, and were kept ten months in a year by well qualified teachers, and all the children between the ages of four and sixteen years, were to attend school regularly, the desolating torrent of practical iniquity would be dried up.

There can be no doubt, that if all our children were thus kept at school under teachers of the right stamp, much good would be accomplished, and a higher tone would be given to the intelligence of the community. Teachers can do much and probably more than they have done, to mould the manners and habits of the rising generation. But however learned, competent and faithful teachers may be, if they have not the co-operation of parents and guardians, the work of purifying society of all practical iniquity will never be accomplished.

At home there is always a powerful under-current, which will ultimately triumph over all the restraints and instructions of the public school. Here is the nursery in which are sown the seeds of future life; and they usually germinate and take deep root, before the child is sent to school. Moral influences are in operation, and a tone and direction are given to the unfolding powers of the mind, before he has reached the age of four years. And then however faithfully he may be governed and taught in school, if he is permitted to mingle with the dissolute and immoral as soon as he is out of school; if he finds that his parents disapprove of any of the measures adopted and maintained by his teacher; if he can practice deception upon his parents, or disregard their instructions with impunity; if, in a word, he is not trained on strictly moral and christian principles in the family as well as at school, we fear that society will not soon realize the entire prevalence of "Peace on earth, and good will towards men." And how can it be expected that six hours of the best instruction, can counterbalance and rectify other six or ten hours daily passed in the ale house, or among the vile and vulgar? Children may be, we believe they are now, well taught in our common
schools; they are faithfully instructed in good behavior and sound morals; but when we see them disrespectful towards their superiors in wisdom and age, disobedient to their parents as well as others, and indecorous in all their deportment; when we hear them use profane and vulgar language, and shoutings in the streets, we know there must be a fault which lies back and beyond the reach of the most competent teacher. We wish therefore, to say plainly and emphatically to parents and guardians with feelings of entire kindness, that the spirit of insubordination, irreverence and disrespect, which is so rampant at the present day, and of which we hear such loud complaints, originates and lies with you. If you would have the evil corrected, you must begin at home. School teachers can second your endeavors, but there must be thorough domestic training in all that is good and lovely. We speak from experience, (and your Committee have had not a little experience in teaching and superintending schools,) and are prepared to testify, that all the insubordination found in school, had its origin at home. A child well trained in the family, makes no disturbance in school, or out of school. The disorderly contumacious and refractory, are those whose education and moral training have been neglected at home, and who have been suffered to do very much as they please under the paternal roof, and to roam abroad and mingle with the vulgar and profane without reproof. Would you then dry up the fountain of practical depravity, and free society from those moral plagues that now prevail begin at home. Let there be a thorough moral and religious training in the household. Let children be taught to know and keep their place, render implicit and cheerful obedience to all your commands, show due respect to all around them, and learn in very early life to be kind, just, truthful, and benevolent. Let them be restrained from mingling with the bad, and frequenting houses of ill report, and the assembly of vile men. The influence of bad associates is inconceivable. The good impression of years may be lost in one night of revelry. It requires a brave and strong heart to stand up pure, in a company of wicked men. There is but
one resource for innocence among children and youth, and that is, an embargo upon all commerce with the bad. How, then can it be expected, that children will be greatly improved under the most wholesome tuition at school, if they are suffered to spend their evenings amidst scenes of revelry, intemperance and vulgarity? or in assemblies where the best institutions of society are ridiculed, the morality and religion of the Bible trampled under foot, and the very law and government of our land despised?

The schools in this town have been kept during the past year the usual length of time by well qualified teachers, and with usual success. The Committee have attended to the personal examination of the teachers, and visited the schools as the law directs. At these visitations we have advised and directed the teachers as occasion and circumstances seemed to require, and given a word of counsel and admonition to the pupils as opportunity was afforded. We are aware that many think little of the duties and labors of the School Committee, and we make no pretension of having done all our duty. Yet whatever we have done, we have done conscientiously, and to the best of our knowledge and wisdom. We are, however, persuaded that some improvement has been made in our schools since the regular appointment of this Committee. A great advance has been made in the qualifications of school teachers. And a greater advance may be made in the schools, if we are sustained and assisted by our constituents. We hope the time is not far distant when a superintendent shall take the place of the School Committee, and then we may look for greater improvement.

In the district No. I, the Summer term was kept by Miss Martha M. Fisher, who evinced much interest and energy in the government and instruction of the school. During the Winter term, the school has been under the care of Mr. George Herrick, whose government has been mild but firm, while the scholars under his care have exhibited a good degree of proficiency, notwithstanding the drawback of a good deal of tardiness and irregular attendance.

The house on the inside is 29 ft. 8 in. by 23 ft.:—
height of the walls in front 7 1-2 ft., on the back 5 2-3, and in the centre 10 2-3, with an entry 6 2-3. The seats are inconveniently high for the pupils, and the house greatly needs a thorough repair. The house and land is estimated at $500. The district also owns a house formerly used by the Model School, worth 300 dollars.

No. 2. The Summer term in this district was under the care of Miss Betsey M. Soule, who gave entire satisfaction both to the Parents and Committee, although it was her first attempt at teaching. The Winter term was kept by Mr. E. Keith, who ever sustains his reputation as a first rate teacher.

The house is 23 2-3 by 16 1-2, and 9 ft high on the inside, with a small entry used for wood, and clothes room. The seats are badly arranged, and can accommodate 48 scholars. The house was repaired a few years since, which, with a very small lot of land is estimated at 225.

No. 3. The school in this district was taught in the Summer by Miss Julia F. Bartlett, an experienced teacher, who, with the exception of one or two families, gave satisfaction. The Committee have reason to believe she kept a good school. The Winter term was under the care of Miss Lucia Conant, until broken up by her ill health. She appeared well qualified to teach, but it is much to be regretted that she met with trouble from ill behaved boys, who greatly need more thorough domestic government.

The house is 17 1-2 feet square and 7 1-2 high on the inside, with an entry used for wood, and a clothes room. It stands on leased land, and is estimated at $100.

No. 4. The school in this district was taught both in the Summer and Winter, by Miss Wealthy Holmes. She succeeded admirably with the Summer school, and though less successful in the Winter, owing principally to that insubordination of the pupils of which we have already spoken, yet she deserves the name of a good and faithful teacher.

The house is 19 by 17 1-2 and 8 1-2 feet high, with an entry for wood. It stands on a small hill among bushes, by sufferance. Valued $75.
No. 5. The Summer school in this district was kept by Miss C. Pratt, who succeeds well, considering the advantages enjoyed for learning the best methods of teaching, though there is room for improvement. The Winter school was taught by Mr. Alva Covington, an experienced, and it is said, a good teacher.

The house is 28 by 18 feet upon the outside, has been lately repaired at an expense of $70, and may be now valued at $200. The district owns no land.

No. 6. The Summer term was kept by Miss Sarah Leonard. This was her first experiment in teaching, and though young, she succeeded well, especially considering the advantages she has enjoyed to obtain the requisite qualifications. It is hoped she will yet avail herself of the privilege of the Normal School, after which she will undoubtedly rank among the first teachers. The Winter term was kept by Mr. V. Copeland, who greatly wants confidence in his own abilities, and therefore cannot do himself justice. This school is too small in number to create a just spirit of emulation; and it is recommended, that this district be discontinued, and the members of it be united with the districts No's. 5 and 7, as they may severally choose.

The house is 25 by 18 feet, and though lately built, is badly constructed, and may be worth $200. It stands by sufferance on land of B. Holmes.

No. 7. The Summer school was kept by Miss Eliza C. Shurtleff, and the Winter term by Miss Sarah Leach. No report has been made by the Sub-Committee of the condition of the school.

The house in which the school is kept, stands at the corner of two roads, but it is doubtful whether it can be called a school house. The school room is 15 ft. square and 7 high in the walls, with an entry 5 feet wide, occupied mostly by an old and unused chimney. The building is in a very shabby and mutilated condition, and is valued at FIFTEEN Dollars. The district, one of the wealthiest in town in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, owns no land for a house to stand upon.

No. 8. The school in this district was kept in the Summer by Miss Augusta Bassett; and although there was im-
proofment in the school, yet not to that degree which there would have been, had she taken that interest in her employment which is essential to success. It was taught in the winter by Mr. Philander Leach with his usual interest, and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

The house is old and inconvenient; 23 1-2 by 18 1-2 feet on the the inside, 8 1-2 feet high, with an entry 4 1-2 wide; 22 seats designed for 40 pupils, while about 60 belong to the school. This district has a 1-4 acre of land, which with the house and outbuilding, is valued at 110 dollars.

No. 9. The school has been, for both the Summer and Winter under the care of Miss Narcissa Y. Chase, who appears to have discharged her duties as teacher, with zeal and fidelity. A complaint of long standing in this school, is low and indistinct utterance in reading and recitations;—a defect which has yielded, it is believed in some degree, to the exertions of Miss Chase if it has not been entirely overcome.

The house is 35' by 23 inside, and 10 feet high, has 23 desks, wide enough for two persons each, and is in good condition. Together with the land and outbuildings, it is valued at $700.

No. 10. The Summer term was kept by Miss Evelina B. Fobes, who manifested a deep interest in the school and faithfully discharged the duties of her station. The Winter school was taught by Mr. George H. Thompson, who deserves commendation for his unwearied efforts, and faithful performance of duty. The appearance of the pupils present at the closing examination was unusually interesting and satisfactory, showing that they had been thoroughly drilled and made well to understand their lessons. This school has been favored with well qualified and faithful teachers the year past, but it is to be deeply regretted, that there has been a great, (and your Committee believe) an unnecessary absence of some of the children belonging to the district.

The house is 18 1-2 by 18, with an entry 6 feet wide, 8 feet high, has no land, and is valued at $115.

No. 11. This school was taught in Summer by Miss Saba Washburn, and in Winter by Miss Evelina B. Fobes.
The house is 25 1-3 by 21 1-3 on the outside; school room 20 feet square and 8 5-6 high. The district has 9 rods of land, which, with the house is valued at $240.

No. 12. This school was taught in Summer by Miss Amelia Leonard, and in Winter by Miss Clarissa Pratt. The school room is 15 1-2 feet square and 7 1-2 high. Valued at $40. The district owns no land, and the house was built by some two or three individuals of the district, and so it remains.

No. 13. This school in Summer and Fall was taught by Miss Mary Leonard. When visited by the Committee, it appeared well. Both teacher and scholars manifested a good degree of interest.

The house is 17 1-2 by 16 1-2 and 7 feet high, and, with outbuilding, is valued at $65.

A short term in the Winter was taught by Miss Lucy H. Brigham.

Concerning the character and condition of the Summer and Winter schools in districts Nos. 7, 11 and 12, the Sub-Committee has made no report.

The schools in districts Nos. 5, 6, 12, and 13, closed without due notice being given to the visiting Committee, so that no knowledge could be obtained of the improvement of the scholars, or condition of the schools. It is to be much regretted, that there should be such an indifference, or dislike to a closing examination, as is sometimes manifested. Such an exercise has a beneficial effect both upon teachers and pupils, and it is to be feared, that where it is purposely omitted, there has been a neglect or deficiency in the one or the other, which there is an unwillingness to have exposed.

EBENEZER GAY, CLAUDIUS BRADFORD, ELBRIDGE KEITH, VIRGIL AMES, PHILANDER LEACH.

BRIDGEWATER, March 28th, 1848.
### Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of School District</th>
<th>Names of the Teachers in the summer</th>
<th>Length of school in months</th>
<th>Wages of the Teacher per month.</th>
<th>Board per month.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Martha M. Fisher</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Betsey M. Soule</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Julia F. Bartlett</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wealthy Holmes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clarissa Pratt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sarah Leonard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>E. C. Shurtleff</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Augusta Bassett</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Narcissa Y. Chase</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Evelina B. Fobes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Saba Washburn</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Amelia Leonard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mary Leonard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of the Teachers in the winter</th>
<th>Length of school in months</th>
<th>Wages of the Teacher per month.</th>
<th>Board per month.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Herrick</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbridge Keith</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucia Conant</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy Holmes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alva Covington</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentine Copeland</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Leach</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philander Leach</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissa Y. Chase</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. H. Thompson</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelina B. Fobes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarissa Pratt</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy H. Brigham</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Winter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of the Teachers in the winter</th>
<th>Length of school in months</th>
<th>Wages of the Teacher per month.</th>
<th>Board per month.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Herrick</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbridge Keith</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucia Conant</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy Holmes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alva Covington</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentine Copeland</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Leach</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philander Leach</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissa Y. Chase</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. H. Thompson</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelina B. Fobes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarissa Pratt</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy H. Brigham</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount of money raised by Taxes, $1,600.00

Amount received from the State, $97.75

Total, $1,697.75