1857 Bridgewater Annual Town Report

The Town of Bridgewater

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF POOR,

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1858.

PRINTED BY VOTE OF THE TOWN, PASSED APRIL 4, 1858.

ALSO, THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR 1857–8.

BOSTON:

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER, 4 SPRING LANE,

1858.
REPORT.

In accordance with the vote of the Town, passed April 4th, 1853, the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor present their Annual Financial Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Bridgewater, for the year ending February 28, 1858.

At a meeting held March 9, 1857, the town passed the following votes, viz:—

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

Voted, To raise twenty-five hundred dollars for the repair of highways; two thousand dollars in labor and five hundred in money.

Voted, To raise six hundred dollars for the support of the poor for the year ensuing.

Voted, To raise seventy-five dollars for the causeway near Ebenezer Pratt's.

At an adjourned meeting held March 28, the town passed the following votes, viz:—

Voted, To raise three hundred and fifty dollars for building roads.

Voted, To raise fourteen hundred and seventy-five dollars for incidental expenses for the year ensuing.

Voted, To raise one thousand dollars for the present indebtedness of the town.

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars for re-building and widening the bridge on Broad street.
RECAPITULATION.

Support of Schools, ........................................ $3,000 00
Highways, twenty-five hundred dollars (one-fifth in money), .... 500 00
Support of Poor, ........................................... 600 00
Causeway near Ebenezer Pratt's, ................................ 75 00
Building Roads, ............................................ 350 00
Incidental Expenses, ........................................ 1,475 00
Indebtedness, .............................................. 1,000 00
Bridge on Broad street, .................................... 1,500 00

$8,500 00

Voted, To raise and assess into a tax upon the polls and estates of the town, the sum of eighty-five hundred dollars.

LABOR TAX.

Highways,—Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars.

Four-fifths in labor, ........................................ $2,000 00
One-fifth in money, ......................................... 500 00

$2,500 00

SCHOOLS, 1857-8.

Town grant, ............................................... $3,000 00
Received from State Fund, ................................ 108 22

Voted, That the amount received from the State Fund may be applied by the School Committee to the School Districts where in their judgment it is most needed.

The following is their apportionment:

School District No. 4, $10 00 School District No. 11, $8 22
" " " 5, 32 00 " " " 12, 20 00
" " " 7, 8 00
" " " 9, 25 00 $108 22
" " " 10, 5 00

Voted, That the Town grant ($3,000) be divided one-third on districts and two-thirds on scholars.

Number of School Districts, ..................... 13
Number of Scholars, ................................. 643
The following is the apportionment of three thousand dollars, in accordance with the vote of the town upon each of the school districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$639.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$204.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$350.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$164.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$126.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$192.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$123.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$257.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$291.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,000.73</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District No. 1, Van R. Swift, Prud. Com.

No. of Scholars, 181. Amount of Money, $639.91.

Summer Term.

Paid Miss Susan H. Christian, teaching Grammar School, 20 weeks, including board, at $5.75 per week, $115.00

" " Abbie A. Keith, teaching Intermediate School, 20 weeks, including board, at $5 37 1/2 per week, $107.50

" " Elizabeth B. Christian, teaching Primary School, 20 weeks, including board, at $4 50 per week, $90.00

Winter Term.

Paid Mr. Philander D. Leonard, teaching Grammar School, 12 weeks, including board, at $45 per month, $135.00

" " Miss Susan H. Christian, teaching Intermediate School, 12 weeks, including board, at $6 per week, $72.00

" " Elizabeth B. Christian, teaching Primary School, 12 weeks, including board, at $4 75 per week, $57.00

" Perkins & Hobart, for hard coal, $50.64

" Van R. Swift, 6 feet pine wood, $3.37

" Carver Washburn, for wood, $50

" Sawing and splitting wood, $1.60

" Binning up coal, $7.50

" Sidney Keith, making fire 17 days, $1.70

" Clinton Washburn, making fire 55 days, $5.50

March 6, 1858. Overdrawn, 65 cents.
District No. 2, Spencer Leonard, Jr., Prud. Com.
No. of Scholars, 41.

Amount of Money, .................................. $303.57

Summer Term.
Paid Miss Ellen E. Shedd, teaching 17 weeks,
at $5, .................................................. $85.00

Winter Term.
" George M. Hooper, teaching 12 weeks, 100 00
" Spencer Leonard, Jr, for fuel, &c., 19 17
" Albert Harden, making fire, 3 00

Due March 1, 1858, .................................. $96.40

No. of Scholars, 88.

Amount of Money, .................................. $456.49

Summer Term.
Paid Miss Mary K. Alden, teaching 18 weeks,
at $4, .................................................. $72.00
" Simeon D. Wood for board, 18 weeks, 45 00
" Mary E. Leavitt, (assistant,) 18 weeks, $2 1/2, 45 00

Winter Term.
" Miss Mary K. Alden, teaching, 14 weeks, 105 00
" Miss Alice C. Lane, (assistant,) 14 weeks, 63 00
" S. H. Leonard, 4 feet pine wood, 2 25
" Wm. Soule, preparing wood, 2 25
" Wm. Soule, re-packing wood, 25
" Mitchell Hooper, 4 feet oak wood, 3 25
" Making fire and care of house, 3 50

Due March 6, 1858, .................................. $114.99

District No. 4, Sylvanus P. Pope, Prud. Com.
No. of Scholars, 28.

Amount of Money, .................................. $245.57

Summer Term.
Paid Miss Mary Sturtevant, teaching, 14 weeks,
at $3, .................................................. $42.00
" Cephas Washburn, for board, 14 weeks, at
$2 25, .............................................. 31 50
Summer Term.
Paid Miss H. M. Hayward, teaching 11 weeks, at $4, . . . . . . . . . $44 00

Fall Term.
" Miss H. M. Hayward, teaching 14 weeks, at $4, . . . . . . . . . 56 00

Winter Term.
" Miss H. M. Hayward, teaching 6 weeks, at $5.50, . . . . . . . . . 33 00
" Daniel L. Hayward, fuel, and preparing, 6 13
" Making fire and taking care of house, 1 65

Due, March 1, 1858, . . . . . . . . . $59 01

District No. 11, Vassel Keith, Prud. Com.
Amount of Money, . . . . . . . . . $261 14

Summer Term.
Paid Miss Abby W. Woods, teaching 20 weeks, at $5.75, . . . . . . . $115 00

Winter Term,
" Philander Leach, teaching 10 weeks, at $10 per week, . . . . . . . . 100 00
" Vassel Keith, fuel and preparing same, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 9 63
" A. J. Fobes, for 50 dinners for teacher, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8 33
" making fire and care of house, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4 00

Due March 1, 1858, . . . . . . . . . $24 18

District No. 12, Soranus Wentworth, Prud. Com.
Amount of Money, . . . . . . . . . $169 29

Summer Term.
Paid Miss H. H. Peirce, teaching 10 weeks, $4, $40 00

Winter Term.
" Darius Dunbar, teaching 10 weeks, at $7.50 per week, . . . . . . . 75 00
" S. Wentworth, for fuel and fitting, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10 67

Due, March 1, 1858, . . . . . . . . . $43 62
District No. 13, Florentius E. Wilbar, Prud. Com.
Number of Scholars, 50.

Amount of Money, $259 96

**SUMMER TERM.**

Paid Miss Sarah Leach, teaching 12 weeks, at $7 per week, $84 00

**WINTER TERM.**

Josiah V. Bisbee, teaching 12 w'ks, at $10, 120 00
Florentius E. Wilbar, for wood, 14 25
making fire and care of house, 1 00

Due, March 1, 1858, 219 25

**RECAPITULATION OF SCHOOLS.**

Expended in Dist. No. 1, $376 56. Due, Mar. 1, 1858, $263 35

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 1</th>
<th>Due, Mar. 1, 1858</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 207 17</td>
<td>96 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 170 00</td>
<td>286 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 165 45</td>
<td>80 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 172 38</td>
<td>48 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 200 75</td>
<td>67 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 124 40</td>
<td>70 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 157 66</td>
<td>101 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, 214 87</td>
<td>101 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 140 78</td>
<td>59 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, 236 96</td>
<td>24 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 125 67</td>
<td>43 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 219 25</td>
<td>40 71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount due School Districts, March 1, 1858, $1,282 98

**HIGHWAYS.**

Town grant in labor, $2,900 00
Overlay on the same, 20 93
Town grant in money, 500 00

Total amount for Highways, $2,520 93

District No. 1, East, Mitchell Hooper, Surveyor.

Amount of Bills, $418 24
Amount of Labor done, $439 42
Overworked above bills, 21 18
Allowed by Auditors, 10 00

Not allowed, $11 18
District No. 1, West, Francis Copeland, Surveyor.
Amount of Bills, .......................... $263 69
Abated, ......................... 45
Amount of Work done, .......................... $273 46
Overworked above bills, .......................... 10 22
Allowed, .......................... 10 00
Not allowed, ......................... 22

District No. 2, Benjamin Harden, Surveyor.
Amount of Bills, .......................... $78 33
Money appropriation, .......................... 60 00
Abated, .......................... 1 22
Amount of Labor done, .......................... $144 95
Overworked, .......................... 7 84

District No. 3, Newton Mitchell, Surveyor.
Amount of Bills, .......................... $38 06
Money appropriation, .......................... 40 00
Amount of labor done, .......................... $80 34
Overworked, .......................... 2 28

District No. 4, Leonard Mitchell, Surveyor.
Amount of Bills, .......................... $58 27
Money appropriation, .......................... 45 00
Amount of Labor done, .......................... $112 81
Overworked, .......................... 9 54

District No. 5, Jonah Benson, Jr. Surveyor.
Amount of Bills, .......................... $66 25
Money appropriation, .......................... 40 00

$103 27

$106 25
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 6, James W. Smith, Surveyor.</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money appropriation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Labor done</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$109 88</td>
<td>3 63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$106 25</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 7, George W. Bates, Surveyor.</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money appropriation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Labor done</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$180 93</td>
<td>9 89</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$190 82</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 8, A. W. Bassett, Surveyor.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money appropriation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Labor done</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overworked</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$145 85</td>
<td>3 76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$142 09</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 9, Eli Wheeler, Surveyor.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills, not returned</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 10, George S. Wilmar, Surveyor.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money appropriation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$105 68</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$106 58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Amount of Labor done                        |   |   |
| Overworked and allowed                      |   |   |
| $115 68                                    | 10 00 |
| $105 68                                    |   |
**District No. 11, Philo Hooper, Surveyor.**

Amount of Bills, .......................................................... $111 71
Money appropriation, ................................................. 30 00

Amount of Work done, ................................................ $143 13
Overworked, .............................................................. 1 42

$141 71

**District No. 12, Soranus Wentworth, Surveyor.**

Amount of Bills, ........................................................ $46 05
Money appropriation, .................................................. 35 00

Amount of Labor done, ............................................... $82 79
Overworked, .............................................................. 1 74

$81 05

**District No. 13, George King, Surveyor.**

Amount of Bills, ........................................................ $117 03
Money appropriation, .................................................. 50 00

Abated, ................................................................. $167 03

Amount of Labor done, ............................................... $179 04
Overworked, .............................................................. 12 46
Allowed by Auditors, ................................................... 10 00

Not allowed, ............................................................ $2 46
Total amount expended above labor tax, $554 91.

**BRIDGES.**

Broad St. Bridge, (widened and rebuilt,) Town grant, $1,500 00
Paid Samuel Leonard, contractor, ................ $1,890 00
" " " extra work, ...................................................... 21 20
" " " building wing wall, ......................................... 97 75
" Dunbar & Soule, lumber for railing, .................. 17 67
" Van R. Swift, cash paid laborers, ...................... 19 93
" Melvin Swift, grading road, ............................... 21 50
" Warren Hill, " ....................................................... 10 00
" S. Leonard, Jr., labor and materials, ............... 14 66
" J. S. Alden, painting railing, ............................. 15 03
Paid Perkins & Hobart, sand, nails and brimstone, for railing, ... 1 92
" H. H. Keith, work on railing, ... 8 70
" Jabez Harden, " ... 8 33
" S. Harlow, iron-work for railing, ... 1 35
" Lazel, Perkins & Co., round iron for railing, ... 9 25
" Bates, Hyde & Co., bolts for railing, ... 1 20
" S. Leonard, Jr., getting and returning boat, ... 1 50
" T. Broadhurst, stakes and housing boat, ... 50

$2,140 49

Pratt's Bridge.  Paid S. Leonard, Jr., for repairs, ... $1 50
Conant's " " N. Mitchell, labor and materials, repairs, ... 19 78
Pope's " " repairs, ... 1 52
" " Henry C. Lyon, repairs, ... 40

STREETS.

Streets widened and straightened, and new Streets located the past year.

Birch Street and North Street, (widened and new location by C.C.)

Town grant, ... $350 00

Paid George King, building Section No. 1, ... $49 00
" Aviel Bassett, " " 2, ... 70 00
" " " 3, ... 23 75
" " Culvert, ... 10 00
" stoning 8 rods 10 feet, ... 8 60
" Galen Conant, building Section No. 4, 6, ... 64 50
" Ira Conant, " " 5, ... 132 50

$358 35

Received of Aretas Fobes, for moulding sand, ... 15 00

$343 35

Pratt's Causeway, (repaired by vote of Town.)

Town grant, ... $75 00

Paid Galen Conant, building Section No. 1, ... $53 50
" Stillman Tucker, " " ... 83 00
" Spencer Leonard, Jr., carting gravel, ... 4 75
" Leonard Pratt, poles for culvert, ... 6 00
" Jonah Benson, Jr., laying poles, ... 50

$147 75
**Hayward Street, (widened by Selectmen.)**

Paid Ebenezer Hall, building Section No. 1, . . . $87.50
" Newton Mitchell, " " 2, . . . 40.00
" Selectmen, " " repairing hill by order
" Wid. Calvin Hayward, moving fence, . . . 55.89
Due heirs " " for land, . . . 34.00

**Titicut Street.**

Paid Darius Dunbar, repairing embankment wall, . . . $4.00

**Prospect Street.**

Paid George King, building road by order of Selectmen, $19.61

**Conant Street.**

Paid L. L. Goodspeed, building road, . . . . . . . . . . . $50.00

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**MISCELANEOUS EXPENSES.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town grant,</td>
<td>$1,475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing Town Reports, for 1856,</td>
<td>$59.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and blank books,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and Expressage,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County map,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mit. Hooper, covering stones on Broad St.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.126 drain tile,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unite K. Leach, fixing road near K. Cook's,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah Benson, covering stones on Walnut St.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Leonard, Jr., guide-post and setting,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Street,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Leonard, Jr., carting and setting stones at angles of road on Birch, North and Hayward Streets,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van H. Swift, expenses to Boston on Town Report,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater Cemetery, use of hearse-house,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Washburn, care of hearse,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; repairs on hearse,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Colony Memorial, printing order of notice,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Leonard, repairs on causeway, near</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. R. S., by order of Selectmen,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Roth, Liquor Agent, cash,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. D. Kingman, serving order of notice on J. Coogan,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
W. Latham, drawing petition, &c., J. Coogan, 5 00
J. L. Bassett, abatement on taxes, 1856, 24 54
Van R. Swift, " " 1857, 33 38
J. E. Crane, use horse and carriage for town, 2 00
C. H. Wilbar, stable hire, 5 62
C. H. Wilbar, conveying persons to State Almshouse and Hospital, 6 00

$251 72

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Van R. Swift, Selectman, $52 00
" " Assessor, 40 50
" " Overseer, 12 00
Spencer Leonard, Jr., Selectman,
" " Assessor, 12 75
" " Overseer, 9 00
" use of horse and carriage, 8 50
Elbridge Keath, Selectman,
" " Assessor, 15 00
" " Overseer, 24 75
J. E. Crane, Treasurer,
" " Town Clerk, recording births, 3 00
" " " " " deaths, 7 97
" " " " " marriages, 1 30
" " " " " militia roll, 2 50
" " distributing laws and resolves, 2 50
" " transcribing, certifying, &c., 269 marriages, (prior to 1800,) 26 90
" " recording location of roads and town lines, 6 00
" " recording 298 marriage certificates, (prior to 1800,) 9 60
" " returning and certifying election of Representative, 50
Philander Leach, School Committee, 22 00
Philander D. Leonard, 25 50
A. G. Boyden, 5 50
Leander A. Darling, 9 25
T. P. Rodman, 5 25
Calvin H. Wilbur, Constable, 10 00
Francis D. King, 5 00
Van R. Swift, Collector, 123 17
William Latham, Auditor, 5 00
Eli Washburn, 2 25
Levi Walker, 2 25

$519 29
17

TOWN COMMITTEES.

Paid Van R. Swift, roads and bridges, .................. $27.75
Spencer Leonard, Jr., roads and bridges, ............... 28.50
" " horse and carriage, .................................. 6.50
Elbridge Keith, roads and bridges, ...................... 12.75
Eli Washburn, removing obstructions in highway, ...... 6.12

$81.62

SNOW BILLS, 1857.

Paid Mitchell Hooper, District No. 1, East, March 3, 1857, $7.37
Eli Washburn, " 1, West, " 3.95
Benj. F. Winslow, " 2, " 3.87
Henry C. Lyon, " 4, " 2.00
Virgil Ames, " 7, " 4.62
Philip Crapo, " 9, " 3.76
Oliver C. Wilbar, " 11, " 11.12
Vassal Keith, " 12, " 2.13
Benj. Harden, " 3, Feb. 21, 1858, 1.50
Newton Mitchell, " 4, " 1.38
Leonard Mitchell, " 8, " 1.61
A. W. Bassett, " 11, " 3.00

$46.31

OLD BILLS, 1856.

Paid Eli Washburn, removing snow, District No. 1, West, $2.50
" " repairing snow, (South street,) 1.00
" " gravel on road, (South Street,) 7.20
Hiram Dunphee, distributing envelopes, ................ 2.40
Henry Wood, removing snow, Dist. 12, ................. 75
Lewis Holmes, oil for Town House, .................... 4.10
W. W. Holmes, care of Town House, ................... 6.45
Henry C. Lyon, removing snow, Dist. 4, ............... 8.37
Mitchell Hooper, " " 1, ................................. 2.27

$35.54
### Almshouse Account

**Dr.**
- Inventory, March 1, 1857: $769.72
- Cash on hand, March 1, 1857: $13.92
- Due from individuals, March 1, 1857: $41.52
- Superintendent’s salary: $200.00
- Interest on farm: $150.00
- Stock and furniture: $40.00
- H. W. Keith, for supplies furnished: $136.02
- Perkins & Hobart: $11.78
- Cow, bought of J. D. Willis: $34.00
- Two Shoats, bought of J. D. Willis: $11.86
- Coffin and Robe, for Mrs. Hayward: $10.00
- Transporting pauper from depot to almshouse: $50
- Use of cow: $4.00
- Physician’s bill: $22.65
- Owe individuals: $21.00

**Cr.**
- Inventory, March 1, 1858: $830.14
- Due from individuals, March 1, 1858: $20.55

Cost of supporting poor, at house: $616.28
Whole number of paupers during the year: 14. Average number of paupers during the year: 7.3. Present number at the house: 8. Average cost, per week, for support: $1.52.

### Pauper Expense

Paid Support of Theodore Hooker (Hospital): $151.37
Town E. Bridgewater, for Carlo Frances: $90.92
Raynham, for Margaret Daniels and burial: $50.00
Abington, medical attendance: $77.06
of Susannah Bates: $5.00
Groceries furnished Mrs. H. Daniels: $5.69
Misses Fuller: $5.00
Wood: $5.50
Hannah Ashport: $3.00
Support of Esther Ashport and child: $2.38
T. B. Gould, keeping traveling paupers: $1.75
J. E. Crane, for persons sent to tavern: $39.07

Total: $850.69
RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.

Expended for Schools, from Mar. 1, '57 to Mar. 1, '58, $2,996 37
Highways, above labor tax, . . . 554 91
Bridges, . . . . 2,163 69
Streets, new locations and widenings, . . 655 35
Miscellaneous expenses, . . . . 251 72
Town Officers and Committees, . . . . 600 91
Clearing streets of snow, . . . . 46 31
Pratt’s causeway, Auburn street, . . . . 147 75
Old bills, 1856, . . . . . 35 54
Support of Poor, at almshouse, . . . . 616 28
Pauper expense, out of the house, . . . . 397 07

$8,465 90

STATEMENT OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Owing to the illness and resignation of Mitchell Keith, Esq., Town Agent, the liquors and fixtures were, on the 27th day of January last, removed to the Town Almshouse, and placed under the charge of Holden W. Keith, superintendent of said house.

We submit the following statement, with the amount of sales from March 1, 1857, to January 27, 1858:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Liquor on hand</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Fixtures</th>
<th>Cash received of Selectmen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 1857</td>
<td>$54 51</td>
<td>16 96</td>
<td>15 96</td>
<td>25 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13,</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>112 43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27, 1858</td>
<td>$42 57</td>
<td>31 61</td>
<td>10 15</td>
<td>84 33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance against the Town, . . . . $28 10

All of which is submitted.

The Selectmen further report, that they have examined the Treasurer’s account, which stands as follows:—

Dr.

To cash on hand, March 1, 1857, . . . . $1,234 55
Received of Van R. Swift, Collector, $10,250 00
" J. L. Bassett, Collector, 1856, 87 04
" from State School Fund, 108 22
" money hired of sundry persons, 500 00
" Selectmen, for moulding sand, 15 00
" for town maps, 1 26

$12,196 07

By paid State tax, $1,935 00
miscellaneous orders, 3,769 17
school orders, 2,996 37
Almshouse orders, 810 60
Highway " 623 06
Eli Washburn, note and interest, 318 80
Philo Hooper, " 158 48
Mary Washburn, on note, 225 00
interest on hired money, 113 65
bounty on crows, 15 50
postage, 2 28

Cash on hand, March 1, 1858, 1,228 16

$12,196 07

We also find that the Treasurer owes the following sums:

To Deborah L Hale, note and interest, $1,259 49
Lucy Hale, note and interest, 370 69
A. Hale, guardian, note and interest, 164 56
Mary Washburn, note and interest, 616 85
Betsey Hooper, note and interest, 212 00
School Districts, March 1, 1858, 1,292 98
Unsettled accounts, estimated 100 00
Outstanding order, 19 61

$4,026 18

Available means of the Treasurer for paying above amount:

Cash on hand, March 1, 1858, $1,228 16
Due from V. R. Swift, Collector, 547 84

1,775 00

Balance against the town, March 1, 1858, $2,251 18

All of which is respectfully submitted,

VAN R. SWIFT, { Selectmen
SPENCER LEONARD, JR., of Bridgewater.
ELBRIDGE KEITH,

March 1, 1858.
ASSESSORS’ DEPARTMENT.

Amount of real estate assessed May 1, 1856,  $1,171,674
   personal "       "       "       "       "       "       "       "       "  691,610

Total,  $1,863,284

Per cent. on true value, six mills on the dollar for State, County and Town Taxes.

No. of Polls, 762. Poll Tax, $1.50.
Town Grant (combined), $8,500 00
State Tax, 1,935 00
County Tax, 1,518 84

Overlayings, 362 84

Total amount assessed and committed $12,316 68

Town Grant for Highways, in labor,  $2,000 00
Money Appropriation, 500 00

$2,500 00

Overlay,  $20 93

$2,520 93

Per cent. on Labor Tax, nine-tenths of a mill on the dollar.

Poll Tax, 45 cents.

VAN R. SWIFT, Assessors
SPENCER LEONARD, JR., of
ELBRIDGE KEITH, Bridgewater.

March 1, 1858.

TOWN HOUSE REPORT.

Cash receipts for the year ending February 27, 1858.

For use of upper hall,  $218 75
" " lower hall, 107 25

$326 00
Paid for wood, washing, repairs, &c., . $33.72
Perkins & Hobart’s bill, oil, . 78.09
T. W. Crocker’s “ “ . 12.54
J. E. Crane’s “ curtains, . 7.96
Hilman Robinson’s “ care of house, 47.02

$179.33

Balance in favor of the Town, . . . . $146.67

LAFAYETTE KEITH, } Committee.
LEWIS HOLMES,

MARRIAGES IN BRIDGEWATER.

FROM JAN. 1, 1857 TO JAN. 1, 1858.

January 1, Frederick Macy and Helen Maria Durfee, both of New Bedford.
6, Henry C. Denham and Mary O. Moore, both of Taunton.
6, Benjamin D. Morgan and Esther Davis, both of Bridgewater.
7, Simeon B. Chandler, of Duxbury, and Sophia A. Fish, of Bridgewater.
Feb. 12, George Ames Copeland, of West Bridgewater, and Ann Janett Stetson, of Bridgewater.
March 2, Lorenzo V. Morse, of Attleboro’, and Kate Y. Lee, of Bridgewater.
17, James B Scribner and Sophronia Stone, both of East Bridgewater.
May 12, George W. Jones and Charity D. Waterson, both of Middleboro’.
12, George W. Holmes, of Bridgewater, and Eliza K. Robbins, of Boston.
June 7, Joel Tolman, of Sharon, and Elizabeth G. Leach, of Bridgewater.
October 7, Nathaniel W. Richmond, of Foxboro’, and Fanny W. Alger, of Bridgewater.
Nov. 11, Edwin Johnson, of North Bridgewater, and Abbie Ann F. Keith, of Bridgewater.
Dec. 18, Martin Fallen and Martha Charters, both of Bridgewater.
### DEATHS IN BRIDGEWATER,
FROM JAN. 1, 1857, TO JAN. 1, 1858.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yrs</td>
<td>Mo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>Lucy Washburn,</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Gould,</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hannah Keith,</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Thomas Leonard,</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Ellis,</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silas W. Leach,</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Ruth S. Maxham,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eugene R. Bradford,</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elisa Joslyn,</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucy E. Keith,</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morton E. Crane,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Ellis,</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridget White,</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>Joseph C. Tilson,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Murray,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Jane Shea,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lurand Fobes,</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>William A. Hyde,</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Julia A. Ellis,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catharine Cashion,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Betsy Hayward,</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plato Turner,</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Emily S. Keith,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simon Leonard,</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Addie F. Hayward,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George A. Wing,</td>
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<td>John H. Wing,</td>
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<td>Eliza Keith,</td>
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<td>Adaline Ramsdell,</td>
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<td>Paul Bevers,</td>
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<td>Polly Bennett,</td>
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<td>James Keen,</td>
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<td>John Flannery,</td>
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<td>Frederick C. Willard,</td>
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<td>Aug.</td>
<td>Betsy Ann Bowen,</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Elisha Gordon Bowen,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Leach,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruel Fobes,</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sally Shaw Alden,</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emma F. Merritt,</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caroline M. Hayward,</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>Elin Swift,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Axel W. Clifford,</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Mary Smith,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jedediah Wilbar,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elvina A. Smith,</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Walter Keith,</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joanna Grady,</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura L. Jones,</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Augusta Keith,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Hannah S. Hayward,</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Grady,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Harriet B. Alden,</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ollman T. Keith,</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In accordance with the law of the Commonwealth, the School Committee present their Annual Report of the condition of the Public Schools in town, together with such suggestions as have occurred to their minds.

It will be remembered that the Committee chosen by the town to superintend the Public Schools, during the present school-year, consisted of Frederic Crafts, Philander Leach, and Philander D. Leonard. Mr. Crafts, soon after his election, declined serving, and the vacancy was filled according to the provisions of the State statutes by the choice of Leander A. Darling, who was obliged to resign at the expiration of a few months. The vacancy was again filled in November, by the choice of Albert G. Boyden.

By a vote of the town, at their annual meeting, it was decided to divide one-third of the whole sum of money raised for school purposes equally among the different School Districts, and the remaining two-thirds among the same in proportion to the number of scholars in each. The town's share of the income of the State School Fund was left with the Superintending Committee, to divide as they thought proper. It was accordingly divided in such a manner as to lengthen those schools whose term must have been short had no such provision been made.
Your Committee have reason to believe that our schools, during the past year, have been in a tolerable state of prosperity. That there has been manifested, in some instances, a desire to improve upon the past is highly encouraging; but before we can look for great changes for good, we must receive with more certain approval the suggestions of those to whom the principal oversight of the cause of education in this State is intrusted. A careful perusal of the Reports of the Board of Education, which are to be found in every School District, will give to all the requisite information on this point.

While the individuals on whom devolved the duty of contracting with the teachers have been fortunate in their selections, in many cases, still there have been a few instances in which the instructors have failed to accomplish all that we have a right to expect from them. We are glad, however, to be able to say that there has been but one entire failure during the year; that was not the result of a lack of literary qualifications in the teacher, but for the want of ability to discipline a school properly.

We present the following detailed report of the condition of the schools during the year:

Mr. Leach was Special Visitor in Districts 10, 11, 13, 5, 6.
Mr. Darling was Special Visitor in Districts 1, 3, 9, 7, during summer.
Mr. Boyden was Special Visitor in Districts 1, 3, 9, 7, during winter.
Mr. Leonard was Special Visitor in Districts 2, 4, 8, 12.

DISTRICT No. 1.

The Grammar Department was taught during the Summer Term by Miss Susan H. Christian; the Intermediate, by Miss Abbie A. Keith; and the Primary, by Miss Elizabeth B. Christian. The Visitor of last summer, not now a
member of the Committee, says:—"Each of these teachers labored assiduously and successfully in their several departments."

WINTER TERM.

PRIMARY. This school has had the same teacher during the Winter. It has been very much interrupted by the measles and the mumps. Of the 49 scholars belonging to this department, only about one-fourth have been present thus far during the last half of the term.*

INTERMEDIATE. Miss Susan H. Christian has had charge of this department during the Winter Term. This school has also been much interrupted by the measles and the mumps. During the last quarter of the term only about one-third of the 46 scholars belonging to the school have been present.

GRAMMAR. This school has been taught by Mr. Philander D. Leonard, a member of the Committee; which fact, we think, is not a sufficient reason for omitting to notice it in connection with the others. As the visitor of the school, I take pleasure in stating that it has been a profitable school. The discipline and the instruction have been of the right kind. The scholar has simply been required to comply promptly with reasonable regulations. The instruction has been thorough; while the pupils have, in some instances, gone back in the book, real progress in a knowledge of the subject has been made by so doing. It is of the first importance that the scholar should learn principles before rules. It is easier for the teacher, and more agreeable to many scholars, to have the teacher do the work, while the scholar only echoes the teacher's words. But such training is ruinous to the child's mind. Thorough mental discipline requires of the pupil persevering application, and some self-denial. These are not always agreeable to the child until he becomes accustomed to them. It is so in every

* This report was written one week before the close of the term.
well-trained family at home, and can we reasonably expect it to be otherwise in school? Persevering effort is an indispensable condition in the acquisition of any kind of knowledge, and that teacher does the most for his pupils who teaches them how to do the most for themselves. Mr. Leonard has had time only to make a good beginning. The District would do well to secure the services of such a man through the year.

A. G. Boyden.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Miss Ellen Shedd had the charge of this school during the Summer. She has many of the characteristics of a good teacher. Her methods of instruction were thorough, and the progress of many of her pupils deserved commendation. The school was interrupted by sickness among the scholars. The teacher of the Winter School was Mr. George M. Hooper. This was his first attempt, but his success was such as to lead to the belief that, after having had a little more experience, he will become a very successful teacher. When visited by the Committee the pupils appeared to be making good progress. The state of discipline in this school during the past year has been susceptible of improvement.

DISTRICT No. 3.

This school, during the Summer Term, was under the charge of Miss Mary R. Alden, assisted by Miss Mary Leavitt. It was conducted in a superior manner, highly satisfactory to all concerned.

Miss Alden, assisted by Miss Alice B. Lane, has had the care of this school during the Winter. She has labored faithfully, and with a good degree of success. The progress of the school, as a whole, has been retarded by the measles, which has prevailed extensively among the scholars. With 90 scholars and two teachers hearing recitations in the same room, there is necessarily some confusion. This schoolhouse, though new and well arranged in other respects, is
not provided with a suitable room for the assistant and her classes, especially in the winter.

**DISTRICT No. 4.**

Miss Mary Sturtevant had charge of this school during the Summer. The school was well disciplined, and we believe the teacher was a profitable one for the District.

Mr. Oliver E. Bryant taught during the Winter. He labored faithfully and with good success. No notice was given to the Committee informing them when the school would close, either at the end of the Summer or Winter term.

**DISTRICT No. 5.**

The Summer School, under the care of Mrs. Lydia W. Benson, showed evidence of application on the part of the scholars, and a faithful performance of duty by the teacher.

The Winter Term was taught by Mr. Joseph E. Beals. The school made good improvement. The teaching was thorough, and good order was maintained.

**DISTRICT No. 6.**

This District was unfortunate in employing a teacher for the Summer Term who failed to maintain order in school. After a trial of a few weeks, she was succeeded by Miss Mary S. Osgood, who accomplished all that could be expected in so short a term.

The Winter Term was taught by Mr. Francis M. Hodges. The school was well disciplined, well taught, and a very commendable improvement was made, particularly in spelling and reading.

**DISTRICT No. 7.**

This school was taught by Miss Pamela Keith, during the summer. She accomplished all that could be done in so small a school.
The school, during the winter, numbering only sixteen scholars, has been under the care of Miss Sarah W. King, and has done very well under her instruction.

DISTRICT No. 8.

This school, during the Summer Term, was under the instruction of Miss Narcissa Y. Chace. Miss Chace is an earnest, faithful and successful teacher. She appears to neglect no part of her duty. The pupils were held to the observance of good order and diligence, and the results, as might be expected, were most satisfactory to all who value the services of a good teacher as they ought.

The Winter School is still in session under the care of Miss Thalia Alden. The school appears well, and has fully met the expectations of your Committee.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Primary.—Miss Mary W. Perkins has had the care of this school, both summer and winter. We regret to say that we have not found in this school the good order and that degree of energy in the teacher which we deem essential to successful teaching.

Grammar.—Miss Caroline Sampson taught this school during the summer. We are sorry to say that there was not an adaptation of the teacher to the school. This department is now under the care of Mr. Thompson B. Caldwell. The school commenced January 18th, and has now been in session but six weeks: during this time there has been a good degree of progress.

DISTRICT No. 10.

This school, during the past year, has been taught by Miss Hannah M. Hayward. The teacher evinced a deep interest in her vocation. The scholars were studious, and made commendable progress.
DISTRICT No. 11.

The Summer School was taught by Miss Abbie W. Woods. This school was conducted in a very interesting manner, and a very good improvement was noticed, particularly in reading and geography.

The Winter School was under the instruction of Mr. Leach, a member of the Committee. He is an experienced, well known and successful instructor. When visited by another member of the Committee, at the closing examination, ample proof was given of the fidelity of the teacher, and diligence of the scholars. The recitations in arithmetic were highly satisfactory.

DISTRICT No. 12.

Miss Hannah K. Pierce had the care of this school during the summer. She is an affectionate and mild teacher. The advancement of the pupils was considerable.

The school, during the winter, was taught by Mr. Darius Dunbar, a teacher of much experience. He labored faithfully here, and fully sustained his former reputation. A marked improvement was noticeable in the state of the school while under his care.

DISTRICT No. 13.

Miss Sarah Leach taught in this District during the summer. The uncomfortable accommodations in the "Old School House," for the first half of the term, rendered it impossible to preserve that order which is desirable in a school-room. The school during the last half of the term, in the new school-room, was quiet and orderly, and good advancement was made.

The school, during the winter, was under the charge of Mr. Josiah V. Bisbee. It suffered, as it has done heretofore, from irregular attendance. The school was under good discipline, and the closing examination gave evidence that the teaching had been thorough. A very marked improvement was noticed in reading.
The new house, lately erected by the inhabitants of this District, is tasteful and convenient: the children will soon be sufficiently benefited to amply repay the parents for all the trouble and expense which has attended the completion of it.

THE greatest evils in our system of management at the present time arise from the want of proper care in the selection of instructors, a too frequent change of them, a lack of efficient discipline in the schools, irregularity of attendance, and shortness of terms.

Selection of Teachers. The attention of the public has often been called to the importance of great care in the selection of instructors; but, thinking that it does not receive the observance that it deserves, we have thought proper to call your attention to it again. Let us be sure that we get teachers of the right stamp, those who we are confident have the ability to educate our youth wisely; and having once had the good fortune to secure their services, let them be retained, if possible, to the exclusion of all others. Could this course receive the more certain approval of the public, the results arising therefrom would be most salutary; and until it does it is unreasonable to expect to see our schools in a truly prosperous condition. We have but few teachers that remain in one school more than one or two terms. If it be the result of a want of proper qualifications on the part of the instructors it is right that it should be so; but we are confident that in many instances it is not, for the qualifications of their successor oftentimes instead of being better are inferior. By a frequent change of instructors pupils are subjected to a great loss of time, which the teacher must necessarily spend in order to gain that information respecting their characters and attainments which will enable him to conduct the school to the best advantage. This waste of time
might be saved if we had good and permanent instructors. The scholars would be made to understand more thoroughly whatever they attempted to learn, the necessity of reviewing would be avoided, and habits of carelessness and superficialness would not be engendered to the extent that they now are. Whatever is worth learning at all is worth learning well. We often forget and judge of a child’s real progress by the number of pages that have been listlessly pored over. Nothing can be more erroneous than to decide by such a standard.

**Discipline.** A lack of proper discipline in schools may arise from a variety of causes; but let it arise from whatever cause it may, it is unjustifiable and deserves condemnation. That it is partly attributable to a frequent change of teachers is obvious from the fact that all instructors differ somewhat in their methods of government; and the habits of scholars are thus continually undergoing a change which is oftentimes a greater disadvantage to them than a hasty glance at first would appear to indicate. Instructors themselves are oftentimes responsible to a great extent for the evils arising from want of efficient discipline. Not all who are able to impart instruction have the ability to secure that degree of order in their schools which is essential to the furtherance of their work. What avail the labors of those teachers who fail in this point? We are confident that the money paid for the services of such is uselessly expended. The community see the fruits arising therefrom in the evil habits acquired by the young, for they do not attend school without forming habits that will either be a blessing or a curse to them in future years. Are there parents who do not desire that their children should be trained to the practice of virtue, and to the avoidance of all vicious habits; that they should not be taught the necessity of industry, honesty, perseverance, self-control, and last, though not least, the propriety of being subjected to whole-
some restraint? Certainly not; therefore let them be sure that they place them under the charge of those who possess the power and the will to implant all these habits in the minds of those who come under their control. Moral and intellectual training, to be effectual, must be commenced in early youth, hence the importance of a right course at first. If it be desirable to renovate society, let us not wait for maturity of reason and then expect to remove all the bad habits that have grown with our growth, and strengthened with our strength. Before leaving the topic of inefficient discipline in schools, we propose to speak of the responsibility that parents share in this matter. We fear that many parents do not fully realize that they are partly accountable. They do not train up their children in the way they should go. Not being taught at home to adhere to rightful authority, is it a wonder that they resist the wise admonitions of their instructors? It has been said that the parents' life is the mould of the child's character. That it has much to do with it will not be doubted by any one. All teachers have the opportunity to see what the character of home culture is with their different pupils, for they are constantly showing it by their acts and sentiments. It is apparent that the falling off in home, as well as school, discipline, has been produced, in part, by the feeling that punishment in any form whatever is debasing. Punishments, whether inflicted by the parent or the teacher, for the purposes of correction are not objectionable, and ought not to be so considered. Children need restraint; they have not acquired the habit of shaping their course with reference to their future welfare, and any disposition on their part to escape from proper restraint is unwise and ought not to be sanctioned by the parent.

Evils of Irregular and Non-attendance. We have had an opportunity to notice and lament the want of punctual attendance among a certain portion of our youth, a fault
which has often been laid before the public. That there always will be some irregularity of attendance is true, but we refer now to those instances which are wholly unnecessary and inexcusable. It is an evil that must not be left entirely for the teacher to remove, for until he receives the hearty co-operation of parents it is unreasonable to expect to see the work accomplished. We have noticed that some towns in our State have made a rule that for a certain number of times absent, and a certain number of times late, the scholar should be expelled from school unless sufficient evidence could be shown to make it apparent that he was necessarily detained. It has been found to work well. Whether such a course would meet with general approbation in this town we will not attempt to say.

School-Houses and Districts. In noticing the want of convenient and more attractive school-houses in some parts of our town, we were led to believe that an alteration might be made in some Districts, which would secure longer terms and larger schools. In Districts Nos. 7, 10 and 11, the schools are small and would be much benefited if they could be united so as to form two schools instead of three, as they now do. The houses in all of these Districts, excepting District No. 7, are poor; and new ones must soon be substituted for them. If any alteration can be made it is desirable that it be done before new edifices are erected. Will not the inhabitants move in this matter and give their cooperation to effect such a purpose?

Much might be said of the importance of having good and convenient houses in which to educate the young. All will allow that they are necessary for the bodily comfort of the child, but that is not all; they have a great and lasting influence in forming his taste and character; these are early formed, and it is of the greatest importance that they be developed aright. By many too little weight is attached to the subject. Were they awake to its influence we should
see good and comely buildings rapidly taking the place of the old and dilapidated ones which are now suffered to stand, and which have no other recommendation than that of being well ventilated.

**Text-Books.** We believe that our schools at the present time, are generally well supplied with the best of books. No change has been made during the past year, excepting in geographies and spelling books. We have recommended Cornell's Series of Geographies and Leache's Speller, believing them to be very much better than those they have displaced. The spelling book has not yet been fully introduced in all of the schools, but it is hoped that it will be another year, as the old one is faulty and ought to be thrown out entirely.

Before closing this Report, we will remind the public of the law passed during the session of the last legislature, which requires each town to elect a Board of School Committee for the term of three years. One-third of said Board must be elected for the term of one year, one-third for the term of two years, and one-third for the term of three years. This will prevent the too sudden changes which frequently occur in the supervision of our Public Schools—changes which we have every reason to believe have oftentimes been a great injury to their prosperity.

PHILANDER LEACH,
PHILANDER D. LEONARD,  
ALBERT G. BOYDEN,

School Committee.

BRIDGEWATER, March 1, 1858.