1864

1864 Bridgewater Annual Town Report

The Town of Bridgewater

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor,

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,

For the Year ending February 28, 1866.

ALSO, THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR 1864-5.

PRINTED BY VOTE OF TOWN, PASSED APRIL 4, 1865.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, PRINTERS, 4 SPRING LANE.

1865.
REPORT.

In accordance with the vote of the Town, passed April 4, 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, 1865.

At a meeting held March 7, 1864, the town passed the following vote, viz.:

Voted, To raise two thousand five hundred dollars for the support of roads; two thousand dollars in labor, and five hundred in money.

At an adjourned meeting held March 21, 1864:

Voted, To raise thirty-five hundred dollars for the support of schools for the year ensuing.

Voted, To raise one thousand dollars for the support of the poor for the year ensuing.

Voted, To raise one thousand dollars for incidental expenses for the year ensuing.

Voted, To raise five thousand dollars for past indebtedness.

At a meeting held April 2d, 1864:

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars to be appropriated by the Selectmen in obtaining Recruits to fill the Town Quota, under the last call of the President.

At a meeting held July 30th, 1864:

Voted, To raise five thousand dollars, to be appropriated as the law provides, in the payment of bounties to volunteers under the call of the President, dated July 18th, 1864.

RECAPITULATION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairs of roads, (one-fifth in money,)</td>
<td>$500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of schools,</td>
<td>3,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental Expenses,</td>
<td>1,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Poor,</td>
<td>1,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indebtedness,</td>
<td>5,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining Recruits,</td>
<td>1,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment of Bounties,</td>
<td>5,000 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$17,500 00

Voted, To raise and assess into a tax upon the polls and estates of the town, the sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars.
SCHOOLS, 1864-5.

Town grant, $3,500 00
Received from State Fund, 170 35
Two years interest on Edson Fund, 37 08

$3,707 43

The following is the apportionment of the amount received from the State Fund by the School Committee to the School Districts where, in their judgment, it is most needed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District No.</th>
<th>Expended for Maps, &amp;c.</th>
<th>Expended for Schooling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$12 00</td>
<td>$2 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15 00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15 00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$170 35</td>
<td>$40 85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Town Grant, ($3,500,) and the interest on the Edson Fund, ($37.08,) is divided, one-third on districts, and two-thirds on scholars.

Number of School Districts, 13; Number of Scholars, 732.

This following is the division of $3,537.08.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 1</th>
<th>$680 15</th>
<th>District No. 9,</th>
<th>$493 33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>209 90</td>
<td>10,</td>
<td>151 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>560 98</td>
<td>11,</td>
<td>174 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>161 58</td>
<td>12,</td>
<td>129 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>148 70</td>
<td>13,</td>
<td>258 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>209 90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>151 92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>206 66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$3,537 08
DISTRICT No. 1.

Eli Washburn, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 183.

Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, $680.15
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, 9.94
Balance of account, 1863, 15.75

$705.84

SUMMER TERM.

Paid Oliver Howard, teaching Grammar School
11 2/3 weeks,  $114.00
H. F. Howard, teaching 2 weeks,  20.00
Miss M. J. Alden, teaching Intermediate
School, 24 weeks,  144.00
Miss F. K. Pratt, teaching Primary School,
24 weeks,  126.00

WINTER TERM.

Paid C. H. W. Wood, teaching 12 weeks,  120.00
Miss M. J. Alden, teaching 4 weeks,  24.00
Miss F. K. Pratt, teaching 4 weeks,  21.00
Levi Walker, for coal,  123.00
F. Forbes, for wood,  8.25
Cleaning house,  5.59

$705.84

Due March 1, 1865,  $000.00

DISTRICT No. 2.

Simeon Jordan, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 37.

Balance of account, 1863,  $3.44
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864,  209.90
Proportion of State Fund, 1864,  12.00

$225.34

SUMMER TERM.

Paid Miss C. E. Perkins, teaching 14 weeks,  $84.00

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)

Paid E. Wallace Holmes, teaching,  $22.00
P. H. Wing, fuel,  $106.00

$119.34

Due March 1, 1865,
DISTRICT No. 3.
HENRY E. CRAPO, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 146.

Balance of account, 1863, ................ $11 36
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, ........... 560 98
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, ............ 6 94

SUMMER TERM.
Paid W. H. Alden, teaching 24 weeks, .... $228 00
Miss A. F. Alden, (assistant,) ........... 84 00

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)
Paid W. H. Alden, teaching 7 weeks, .... 77 00
Miss A. F. Alden, (assistant,) 7 weeks, ... 28 00
Fuel and preparing, ......................... 25 00
Cleaning house, ............................. 7 40

Due March 1, 1865, ....................... $129 88

DISTRICT No. 4.
HENRY C. LYON, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 22.

Balance of account, 1863, ................ $27 55
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, .......... 161 58
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, .......... 1 44

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss Laura Fuller, teaching 16 weeks, $72 00

WINTER TERM.
Paid E. Wallace Holmes, teaching 9½ weeks, $96 00
Fuel and preparing, ......................... 7½0
Cleaning house, ............................. 1 50

Due March 1, 1865, ....................... $13 97

DISTRICT No. 5.
LEWIS HARLOW, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 18.

Balance of account, 1863, ................ $0 84
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, .......... 148 70
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, .......... 15 00

$164 54
SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss H. M. Washburn, teaching 16 weeks, $72 00

WINTER TERM.
Paid Miss H. M. Washburn, teaching 12 weeks, 60 00
Fuel and preparing, 11 43
$143 43
Due March 1, 1865, $21 11

DISTRICT No. 6.
Soranus Holmes, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 37.
Balance of account, 1863, $23 42
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, 209 90
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, 1 44
$234 76

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss A. W. Williams, teaching 16 weeks, $88 00

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)
Paid Miss N. Chase, teaching, 11 00
Fuel and preparing, 11 00
Due March 1, 1865, $135 76

DISTRICT No. 7.
Horace Ames, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 19.
Balance of account, 1863, $52 09
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, 151 92
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, 15 00
$219 01

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss J. C. Harlow, teaching 18 weeks, $72 00

WINTER TERM.
Paid Miss J. C. Harlow, teaching 12 weeks, 69 00
Fuel and preparing, 6 25
Making fire and care of house, 3 00
$150 25
Due March 1, 1865, $68 76
## DISTRICT No. 8.

**ISAAC GRABRANT, Prudential Committee.**—No. of scholars, 36.

| Proportion of Town Grant, 1864 | $206.66 |
| Proportion of State Fund, 1864 | 18.00 |
| **SUMMER TERM.** | **$224.66** |

Paid Miss C. Leach, teaching 13½ weeks, $95.20

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)

Paid Miss Marcia Jackson, teaching,
- for fuel and preparing, $24.67
- for cleaning house, 2.00
- for making fire and care of house, 4.68

Due March 1, 1865, $98.11

## DISTRICT No. 9.

**L. W. LOVELL, Prudential Committee.**—No. of scholars, 125.

| Balance of account, 1863 | $13.99 |
| Proportion of Town Grant, 1864 | 493.33 |
| Proportion of State Fund, 1864 | 6.95 |
| **SUMMER TERM.** | **$514.27** |

Paid H. Josselyn, care of house and making fires, 1863, $5.00

WINTER TERM.

Paid Miss C. Sampson, teaching 18 weeks, 135.00

Miss E. M. Holmes, teaching 18 weeks, 99.00

Paid J. Herbert Leonard, teaching 13 weeks, 162.50

Miss C. Sampson, teaching 13 weeks, 78.00
- for fuel and preparing, 39.12
- for making fires and care of house, 5.00

March 1, 1865, overdrawn, $9.35

## DISTRICT No. 10.

**ZADOC W. LEACH, Prudential Committee.**—No. of scholars, 19.

| Balance of account, 1863 | $69.21 |
| Proportion of Town Grant, 1864 | 151.92 |
| Proportion of State Fund, 1864 | 3.79 |
| **$224.92** |

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss Eugenia Hall, teaching 20 weeks, $100.00

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)
Paid Miss Eugenia Hall, teaching,
for fuel and preparing, $4.62

Due March 1, 1865, $120.30

DISTRICT No. 11.
HENRY F. WILBUR, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 26.
Balance of account, 1863, $11.92
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, 174.46
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, 12.00

$198.38

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss S. A. Dunbar, teaching 14 weeks, $70.00

WINTER TERM.
Paid Miss C. E. Perkins, teaching 11 weeks, 105.00
for cleaning house, 1.25
for fuel and preparing, 11.42
for making fire and care of house, 3.00

$190.67

Due March 1, 1865, $77.71

DISTRICT No. 12.
L. L. GOODSPEED, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 12.
Balance of account, 1863, $50.00
Proportion of Town Grant, 1864, 129.37
Proportion of State Fund, 1864, 18.00

$197.37

SUMMER TERM.
Paid Miss M. E. Messinger, teaching 20 weeks, $106.00

WINTER TERM—(not closed.)
Paid Miss Lettie Pratt, teaching, $106.00

Due March 1, 1865, $91.37
**DISTRICT No. 13.**

**MARCUS PIERCE, Prudential Committee.—No. of Scholars, 52.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance of account, 1863,</td>
<td>$1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Town Grant, 1864,</td>
<td>258.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of State Fund, 1864,</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMARY</strong></td>
<td><strong>$268.54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMER TERM.**

Paid Miss S. F. Pratt, teaching 20 weeks, | $120.00 |

**WINTER TERM.**

Paid Miss A. W. Williams, teaching 5 weeks, | 53.75 |

for fuel and preparing, | 26.25 |

for cleaning house, | 3.50 |

for making fire and care of house, | 2.25 |

**$205.75**

Due March 1, 1865, | **$62.79**

**RECAPITULATION OF SCHOOLS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expended in District No. 1, $705.84,—Due March 1, 1865,</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 106.00,</td>
<td>119.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 449.40,</td>
<td>129.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 176.60,</td>
<td>13.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 143.43,</td>
<td>21.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 99.00,</td>
<td>135.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 150.25,</td>
<td>68.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 126.55,</td>
<td>98.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, 523.62,—Overdrawn,</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 104.62,—Due March 1, 1865,</td>
<td>120.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, 190.67,</td>
<td>7.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 106.00,</td>
<td>91.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 205.75,</td>
<td>62.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount due School Districts March 1, 1865, | **$878.45**
**HIGHWAYS**

Town Grant in labor, ........................................... $2,000 00
Town Grant in money, ........................................... 500 00
Overlay on two thousand dollars, .............................. 55 17

Total amount for highways, ................................... $2,555 17

Voted, That the five hundred dollars in money be apportioned on the highway districts by the Selectmen where in their judgment it is most needed.

The following is their apportionment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No. 1, East,</th>
<th>Amount of bills</th>
<th>$397 68</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AARON LAWRENCE, Surveyor</td>
<td>Abated</td>
<td>$396 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of labor performed</td>
<td>362 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended</td>
<td>$34 81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| District No. 1, West, | Amount of bills | $264 03 |
| GEORGE F. LEONARD, Surveyor | Amount of labor performed | 177 13 |
| Unexpended | $86 90 |

| District No. 2, S. P. POPE, Surveyor | Amount of bills | $73 41 |
| Money appropriation | 65 00 |
| Total | $138 41 |
| 35 |

<p>| Amount of labor performed | 136 13 |
| Unexpended | $1 93 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No.</th>
<th>Surveyor</th>
<th>Amount of bills</th>
<th>Money appropriation</th>
<th>Amount of labor performed</th>
<th>Unexpended</th>
<th>Overworked and allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 3, NEWTON MITCHELL</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
<td>$4217.50</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>91.97</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 4, OREB MITCHELL</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
<td>$4861.60</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>114.28</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 5, NAHUM B. WOOD</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
<td>$6411.11</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>96.89</td>
<td></td>
<td>$17.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 6, CHARLES GURNEY</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
<td>$7835.35</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>162.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 7, HORACE AMES</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
<td>$5170.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>52.85</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISTRICT No. 8, LINUS W. SNOW, Surveyor.
Amount of bills, $84 00
Money appropriation, 45 00

$129 00
Amount of labor performed, 129 45
Overworked and allowed, 45

DISTRICT No. 9, JABEZ WITHERELL, Surveyor.
Amount of bills, $668 81
Abated, 27 30

$641 51
Amount of labor performed, 722 02
Overworked, $80 51
Allowed by the Auditors, 10 00
Not allowed, $70 51

DISTRICT No. 10, DANIEL L. HAYWARD, Surveyor.
Amount of bills, $45 96
Money appropriation, 70 00

$115 96
Amount of labor performed 116 52
Overworked and allowed, 56

DISTRICT No. 11, HOSEA WASHBURN, Surveyor.
Amount of bills, $74 44
Money appropriation, 10 00

$84 44
Amount of labor performed, 81 09
Unexpended, $3 35

DISTRICT No. 12, DARIUS DUNBAR, Surveyor.
Amount of bills, $41 15
Money appropriation, 35 00

$76 15

[Bills not returned.]
DISTRICT NO. 13, JAMES K. LEACH, Surveyor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of bills</td>
<td>$120.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money appropriation</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$160.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount of labor performed, $134.50

Unexpended, $26.25

Total amount raised for repairs of Highways, $2,555.17

Total amount expended, $2,377.50

BRIDGES.

Paid S. Leonard, Jr., plank for Alden's bridge, $6.24
S. Leonard, Jr., carting and putting down, 2.00
Darius Dunbar, lumber for turnpike bridge, 8.14
Salmon Keith, plank for Pratt's bridge, 11.74

**Total** $28.12

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

[Town Grant, $1,000.00]

Paid J. E. Farwell & Co., printing Town Reports for 1863, $111.00
Wright & Potter, printing Warrants, 4.25
C. Hobart, stationery and blank books, 12.45
" " rope for hearse, (1863,) 6.50
A. T. Jones, printing Enrolment List, 5.50
" " printing Town Warrants, 2.50
" " printing Tax Receipts and Posters, 7.85
" " printing Almshouse Notice and Posters, 4.10
Lydia Josselyn, abatement of tax, 1863, 4.25
D. C. Wentworth, damage to wagon and harness, on Bedford Street, 10.00
R. S. Rogers, oiling hearse harness, 1.25
A. Washburn, repairs on town pump, 6.50
Paid R. Seaver, repairs on town pump, $0.50
A. Berry, cleaning out town well, 3.85
H. Lawton, digging grave for S. G. Bassett’s child, (1863,) 1.25
S. Harlow, bolts for Paper Mill bridge, (1863,) 6.00
J. L. Bassett, dinners for Board of Enrolment, Selectmen, and horse-keeping, 8.50
M. Fallon, gravelling road near West Br. line, 5.20
P. E. Hill, gravel for road near West Br. line, 7.65
E. H. Sprague, service as Auditor, (1863,) 1.50
William Prophett, housing and care of new hearse, from March 1, 1864, to March 1, 1865, 15.00
E. Washburn, care of old hearse one year, 6.00
W. Latham, counsel fees, 5.00
William Dunbar, clearing streets of snow, (1862,) 1.30
J. L. Bassett, stable hire, 2.75
J. A. Lathrop, school books furnished in Dist. No. 9, 1.50
A. A. Dunbar, (Surveyor, 1863,) labor performed, 4.71
L. Holmes, collecting and recording statistics of soldiers, 20.00
L. Holmes, copying deaths and intentions of marriages for town report, 2.00
L. Holmes, going to Boston three times, and expenses, to settle State Aid account, 12.00
Lewis Holmes, stationery and expenses collecting coupons, 2.50
Lewis Holmes, Revenue Stamps for notes, 4.45
" " Postage, 5.95
" " Alden’s Express, 4.55
C. M. Leonard, service and cash paid out in the prosecution of illegal sales of liquor, 50.18
State aid furnished to 47 families of volunteers, 4,357.13

$4,735.22
TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Van R. Swift, Selectman, ..................................... $130 50
" " Assessor, ......................................................... 102 38
" " Overseer of the Poor, ............................................ 21 37
" " Committee, ......................................................... 6 00
" " use of horse and carriage, ..................................... 15 75
" " car fares and expenses, ......................................... 46 10
Spencer Leonard, Jr., Selectman, .................................. 72 00
" " Assessor, ......................................................... 60 75
" " Overseer of the Poor, ............................................ 11 25
" " Committee, ......................................................... 10 13
" " use of horse and carriage, ..................................... 14 75
" " car fares and expenses, ......................................... 26 84
Elbridge Keith, Selectman, .......................................... 24 75
" " Assessor, ......................................................... 47 25
" " Overseer of the Poor, ............................................ 5 63
" " horse and carriage, ............................................. 1 00
Lewis Holmes, Town Treasurer, .................................. 50 00
" " Town Clerk, recording births, ................................ 17 20
" " " " recording deaths, ........................................... 7 00
" " " " recording marriages, ....................................... 4 50
" " " " recording Militia roll, ..................................... 3 00
" " distributing Laws and Resolves, ................................. 1 50
James C. Seagraves, School Committee, ......................... 39 98
John A. Lothrop, ................................................... 38 25
Lewis G. Lowe, ...................................................... 25 12
Walter H. Alden, .................................................... 5 25
Van R. Swift, Collector, ........................................... 256 73
Samuel Hawes, Constable, .......................................... 25 00
Williams Latham, Auditor, ......................................... 6 75
Caleb Hobart, ........................................................ 3 75
Daniel L. Hayward, ................................................ 3 75

$1,084 23

At a meeting held April 2d, 1864,—

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars to be appropriated by the Selectmen in obtaining Recruits to fill the Town Quota, under the last call of the President, Feb. 13, 1864.

Paid White & Carpenter, Boston, for 6 men, ...................... $750 00
Eliab F. Dunbar, Bridgewater, (Signal Corps,) .................. 125 00
Paid Joseph Case, Bridgewater, (Army,) . . . $125 00
William D. Burtch, Bridgewater, (re-enlisted,) . 125 00
Grenville Gould, Bridgewater, (Navy, 1 year,) . 50 00

$1,175 00

At a meeting held July 30, 1864,—

Voted, To raise five thousand dollars, to be appropriated as the law provides, in the payment of bounties to volunteers under the call of the President, dated July 18th, 1864.

Paid Robert Cowdin & Co., Boston, for 34 3 years men, $4,250 00
" " " " 31 year men, 375 00
Clayton & Gridley, " " 93 years men, 1,125 00
" " " " 31 year men, 375 00
D. P. Mathews, " " 43 years men, 500 00
William W. Cowell, " " 33 years men, 375 00
C. T. Packard, " " 23 years men, 250 00
Zaccheus Lambert, Bridgewater, 13 years man, 125 00
Henry W. Price, " " 13 years man, 125 00
Oliver C. Wilbur, " putting in substitute for 3 years, 125 00
Sumner Keith, " putting in substitute for 3 years, 125 00
Samuel D. Keith, " putting in substitute for 3 years, 125 00
A. G. Boyden, " putting in substitute for 3 years, 125 00
George B. Stetson, putting in substitute for 3 yrs. 125 00
John J. Putnam, " " " 125 00
James F. Witherell, " " " 125 00
Caleb Alden, " " " 125 00
Joseph Howard, " " " 125 00
Theodore C. Wilbur, " " " 125 00
Josiah W. Bassett, " " " 125 00
H. W. Church, Jr., " " for 1 yr. 125 00

$9,000 00

Expended under the call Feb. 13, 1864, . . 1,175 00

Voted April 2d and July 30th, 1864, . . 6,500 00

Paid above the sums voted, . . . . $3,675 00
The following are the expenses incurred in obtaining recruits to fill the town quota between Nov. 20, 1863, and May 31, 1864, for which the town received from the United States, for each recruit obtained, a premium of $10, $15, and $25.

Paid Van R. Swift, for recruiting service, ................................................. $37 50
S. Leonard, Jr., ................................................. 22 00
Elbridge Keith, ................................................. 1 00
Charles E. Churchill, ................................................. 100 00
Mr. —— Goodman, speaking at war meeting, ................................................. 5 00
Rev. Mr. Clark, ................................................. 5 00
Rev. Mr. Lee, ................................................. 5 00
Rev. T. G. Brainard, ................................................. 5 00
Bradford Kingman, writing letters to soldiers, ................................................. 1 50
Lewis Holmes, stationery and postage on letters, ................................................. 1 55
A. Hale, expenses to Boston on recruiting business, ................................................. 3 20
C. Hobart, 3 days at Boston, recruiting, ................................................. 12 40
J. E. Carver, ................................................. 12 40
P. D. Kingman, ................................................. 13 85
Town House Committee, use of Town House, ................................................. 33 00
C. H. Wilbur, stable hire, ................................................. 75
S. Hawes, board of speaker and transportation, ................................................. 1 75
Bridgewater Cornet Band, services at war meetings, ................................................. 45 00
P. D. Kingman, enlisting Robert Teevens, ................................................. 15 00
William Murphy, enlisting John Frawley, ................................................. 5 00
Robert E. Smith, expenses enlisting, ................................................. 6 25
Jonah Benson, Jr., ................................................. 6 25
John P. Townsend, recruiting services, ................................................. 10 00
T. B. Gould, boarding recruit, (J. P. Smith,) ................................................. 1 25

$349 65

Received of U. S. for 20 recruits at $10 each, ................................................. $200 00

$330 00

Balance against the town, ................................................. $19 65

July 23, 1864, the Selectmen deposited with the State Treasurer twenty-five hundred dollars, for the purpose of obtaining recruits in the Southern States.
The following is the result:

Money deposited, $2,500 00

Five men obtained and credited to the town,
at $125 each, 625 00

Six men at $125 each, not credited to the
town yet, 750 00

Unexpended, $1,375 00

$1,125 00

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNT.

[Town Grant, $1,000.]

Dr.

Inventory, March 1, 1864, $1,058 77
Due from sundry persons, March 1, 1864, 39 58
Cash on hand March 1, 1864, 127 58
Cash drawn from town treasury, 400 00
Superintendent's salary, 350 00
Interest on farm, 150 00
Interest on stock and furniture, 40 00

$2,165 93

Cr.

Inventory, March 1, 1865, $1,370 46
Due from sundry persons, 139 87

$1,510 33

Cost of supporting the poor at the house, $655 60

Whole number of paupers during the year, 18
Average number during the year, 11 1/2
Present number at the house, 15
Average cost per week for support, $1 09 63/100

PAUPER EXPENSE OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Paid support of Oscar F. Conant, (Lunatic Hospital,) $131 22
support of Mrs. H. W. Washburn, " 198 72
Dr. S. Alden, medical aid for Misses D. and V.
Fuller, 5 90
Misses D. and V. Fuller, money, 25 00
Paid Town of East Bridgewater, fuel for Mrs. Nancy
Orcutt, ........................................ $14 00
Martin Swift, boarding Miss Clarissa Swift, .......... 78 00
wood and groceries furnished Benj. Washburn, ....... 32 98
groceries furnished Seth Conant, ....................... 20 00
" " " William Robinson, ................................ 20 00
" " " Cyrus Ellis, ..................................... 5 00
wood furnished Mrs. William Keith, .................... 16 25
wood furnished Mrs. Hannah Ashport, ................. 19 03
T. B. Gould, keeping travellers over night, (1863,)........ 3 00
J. L. Bassett, " " " Edwin Hayward, support of his mother and burial, .. 17 25
Edwin Hayward, support of his mother and burial, .... 58 00
City New Bedford, burial of G. W. Packard's wife
and child, and Physician's bill, .................................. 16 95
Town of Plymouth, support of Homer Bryant and
family, .................................................. 23 25
wood and groceries furnished Franklin Leonard, ....... 5 28
" " " F. A. Pierce, ....................................... 7 75
coal furnished Mrs. H. Daniels, .......................... 7 25

$702 83

DOGS LICENSED, 1864.

Ninety-four male dogs at $1 each, ......................... $94 00
Two female dogs at $5 each, .............................. 10 00

$104 00

Paid J. L. Bassett, damage to sheep, ..................... $12 50
L. Holmes, licensing dogs, ................................ 9 60

$22 10

Balance in favor of the town, ............................ $81 90

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.

State tax, ............................................. $5,280 00
Expended for schools from March 1, 1864, to March 1, '65, 3,087 73
Highways, ........................................... 2,377 50
Repairs on Bridges, .................................... 28 12
Expended for Miscellaneous expenses, $378 09
Town officers, 1,084 23
Bounties for recruits, 11,550 00
Support of poor at almshouse, 655 60
Support of poor out of the almshouse, 702 83
State Aid to 47 families of volunteers, 4,357 13

$29,501 23

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

Dr.
Cash on hand, March 1, 1864, $3,482 78
Received from Van R. Swift, Collector, 1864, 20,800 00
" " " " 1863, 2,229 16
" " " " 1862, 112 18
" " " " 1861, 13 66
" " " " taxes assessed after the bills were committed, 27 60
State School Fund, 170 35
from State Treasurer, for State Aid furnished, 1863, 4,114 64
from State Treasurer, corporation tax, 3,314 47
from State Treasurer, premium on recruits, 330 00
from V. R. Swift, money overdrawn from Treasury, 16 00
from sundry persons, borrowed money, 8,415 65
for circus license, 20 00
for licensing 96 dogs, 104 00
for real estate, sold from Benson Farm, 102 50
coupons on 5-20 bond, 613 73
from School Districts taxes, 230 40
from Highway District, No. 9, 41 23
from J. C. Norton, borrowed money, 300 00
from A. Hooper, borrowed money, 325 00
two years interest on Agricultural Note, 37 08
from Town House Committee, 153 89

$44,954 32
By paid State tax, ................................................................. $5,280 00
Miscellaneous orders, ......................................................... 18,966 31
School orders, .................................................................. 3,474 98
Highway orders, ................................................................ 480 04
Almshouse orders, ................................................................. 1,385 83
Notes on endorsements, .......................................................... 8,361 14
Interest on borrowed money, .................................................... 360 96
Town Bonds, ....................................................................... 2,800 00
Coupons on Town Bonds, .......................................................... 963 47
Sally and Phebe Mehuren, on account, ....................................... 56 00
Eli Washburn, by vote of Town, ............................................... 25 00
Orders drawn by Clerks of School Districts, ............................... 1,136 05
L. Holmes, licensing 96 dogs, .................................................. 9 60
Order drawn for damage to Sheep, ............................................ 12 50
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer, March 1, 1865, .............. 1,642 44

$44,954 32

We also find that the Town owes the following sums:

To School Districts, March 1, 1865, for schooling, .............. $878 45
" " for taxes not drawn out, ....................................................... 72 53
Town Bonds and interest to March 1, 1865, ......................... 14,680 00
Sundry persons, notes and interest to March 1, '65, ............. 9,173 00
Fire District, for taxes not drawn out, ................................... 150 55
Sally and Phebe Mehuren, ...................................................... 13 00
Unsettled accounts, estimated, ............................................... 250 00

$25,217 53

Available means of the Treasurer for paying the above amount:

Cash on hand March 1, 1865, ................................................. $1,642 24
United States 5-20 bonds and interest, ................................. 6,000 00
Due from V. R. Swift, Collector, 1864, ................................. 2,845 24
Due from V. R. Swift, Collector, 1863, ................................. 79 22
Due from the State, for State Aid furnished previous to January, 1864, ........................................... 280 20
Due from the State, for State Aid furnished from January 1, 1864, to January 1, 1865, 4,102 36
Due from the State, for State Aid furnished from January 1, 1865, to March 1, 1865, 811 43
Due from the State, balance of money deposited for recruiting, $1,125.00
Due from the State, for support of H. Bryant, 42.75
Due from School District No. 9, money overdraft, 9.35

$16,937.79

Balance against the Town, March 1, 1865, $8,279.74

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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

March 1, 1865.

ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT.

Amount of real estate assessed May 1, 1864, $1,206,537.00
Amount of personal estate assessed May 1, 1864, 488,222.00

Total, $1,694,759.00

Per cent. on true value, fourteen mills on the dollar, for State, County and Town taxes. Per cent. on labor tax, one mill on the dollar. Number of Polls, 973. Poll Tax, $2. Number of Dwelling-Houses, 565. Number of Horses, 341. Number of Cows, 485. Number of Sheep, 198. Number of acres of Land taxed, 15,907.4.

Town Grant, (combined,) $17,500.00
State Tax, 5,280.00
County Tax, 1,826.74

$24,606.74

Overlayings, 1,065.96

Total amount assessed and committed, $25,672.60

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

March 1, 1864.
STATEMENT OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC.
FROM JUNE 9, 1864, TO MARCH 1, 1865.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquor on hand March 1, 1865,</td>
<td>$296.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixtures &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor on hand June 9, 1864,</td>
<td>$32.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixtures &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>12.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; received from the Treasury,</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; borrowed,</td>
<td>38.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent's salary, nine months,</td>
<td>56.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$308.86</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in favor of the Town,</td>
<td><strong>$61.54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAMUEL HAWES, Agent.
March 1, 1865.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF TOWN HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Cash received for the use of the Town House since Feb. 27, 1864, $323.00
Cash paid for care of house, fuel, oil, repairs of Furniture, &c., &c., as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid Thomas W. Crocker &amp; Co., oil, &amp;c.,</td>
<td>$29.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Hobart. do. do.</td>
<td>9.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Fairbanks, repairs to stove, &amp;c.,</td>
<td>1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua E. Crane, oil, &amp;c.,</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Propheft, repairs to furniture,</td>
<td>4.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Robinson &amp; Co., lock and keys,</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillman Robinson, lighting house,</td>
<td>54.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Washburn, for labor and sundry</td>
<td>47.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bills for labor, paid by him,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for labor on the Town House Grounds,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cutting grass, &amp;c.,</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Fobes, for one cord pine wood,</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip D. Kingman, one cord oak wood,</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Washburn, one-half cord oak wood,</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$163.11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid Town Treasurer,</td>
<td>158.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$323.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ELI WASHBURN,
T. W. CROCKER.
S. HAWES,
Town House Committee.
February 24, 1865.
Marriage Certificates issued in 1864.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>Samuel Cort</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Rachel R. Robinson</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jacob P. Barstow</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frances A. Mason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Edgar Parker</td>
<td>Framingham</td>
<td>Frances Ames Hyde</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Harvey C. Ripley</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Patrick Dunn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Honora Gleanon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wm. T. McCracken</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria C. Gammon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>David Roche</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridget Bein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Adna P. Keith</td>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>Mary T. Grinnell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>George E. Woodbury</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Catharine Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bradford Brailey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cilatina M. Levitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>John Lillie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catharine Powers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>John Harper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eliza Carr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Owen Hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Cunningham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Philander Pratt</td>
<td>E. Bridgewater</td>
<td>Bethiah Spooner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fred. W. Dorr</td>
<td>Roxbury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Martin V. Newton</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Jane Ward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Michael Mahoney</td>
<td></td>
<td>Honora Murphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Mark Phillips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan S. Wilbar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>James F. Eldridge</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Carrie R. Haskins</td>
<td>Lakeville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Timothy Driscoll</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Solomon Keith</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Dwyer</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Moses L. Tilson</td>
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<td>Julia A. Wentworth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Daniel Buckley</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy A. Thayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Rosah G. Goodrich</td>
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<td>Rosey Casey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jeremiah Luncheon</td>
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<td>Susan Alden</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Michael Mahoney</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridget Madden</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>James W. Mitchell</td>
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<td>Mary B. Phelps</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nelson O. Carr</td>
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<td>Maria J. Frey</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Alfred Hall</td>
<td>Raynham</td>
<td>Ann E. Perkins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Wm. H. Marshall</td>
<td>Uxbridge</td>
<td>Joanna Comant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wm. H. Tinkham</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Michael Tannam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harriet E. Smart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>David T. Burrell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cathie McNeelands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Edward Marrah</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Ellen Dulan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Patrick O'Brien</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. Bridge'er</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Terrance Dugan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Isabella F. Holmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>James Marshall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>James S. Thomas</td>
<td>Buffalo, N.Y.</td>
<td>Sarah Simpson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>William Harrigan</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Bridge Morrissey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Eleazar C. Alden</td>
<td></td>
<td>Winneford Dorsey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Orville Jones</td>
<td>N.Bridg'd,Ct.</td>
<td>Ann J. McNeelands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cornelius Harrigan</td>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>Caroline F. Cutter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Caleb S. Churchill</td>
<td>E. Bridgewater</td>
<td>Ellen Dugen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of marriages recorded, 45
Number of births recorded, 86
Number of American parentage, 39
Number of foreign parentage, 47

LEWIS HOLMES, Town Clerk.
Deaths registered in 1864.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>CAUSE OF DEATH</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan'y 1</td>
<td>Rosanna Daley,</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Daughter of Michael and Allice Daley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mary Flynn,</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Daughter of John and Mary Flynn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Nathan W. Hayward,</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Son of Nathan and Rhoda Hayward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb'y 1</td>
<td>Amelia W. Hyde,</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Daughter of Ezra and Martha Hyde.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Belle J. Smith,</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Daughter of Jarvis B. and Sarah M. Smith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Susannah Cook,</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Widow of Kingman Cook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lucy Tucker,</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Widow of Andrew Tucker of M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Michael Ryder,</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Formerly of New Bedford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Frank E. Lee,</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Born in Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Benj. S. Winslow,</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Son of Kenelm and Orra Winslow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sarah S. Bradbury,</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wife of Samuel Bradbury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hannah Hayward,</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wife of Ariston M. Hayward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>James H. Schneider,</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Son of Rev. Mr. Schneider, miss'y in Syria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Adelaide M. Keith,</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daughter of Oliver and Julia Keith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sally K. Carver,</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Daughter of Joseph E. and Mary B. Carver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ruel Swift,</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Son of Jireh and Lucy Swift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lucius Conant,</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Son of Seth W. and Eliza Conant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Bethiah Keith,</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wife of Asa P. Keith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Silas W. Grosvener,</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Formerly of Paxton, Me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hitty Holmes,</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wife of Cornelius Holmes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Morris M. Keith,</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Son of William and Roena Keith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Calvin M. Perkins,</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Son of Calvin and Betsey Perkins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Jonah Benson, Jr.,</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Son of Jonah and Chloe Benson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Cause</td>
<td>Relationship to Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 9</td>
<td>Nathan Bassett,</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td>Son of Joseph and Hannah Bassett.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>James Fraher,</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
<td>Son of Patrick and Ann Fraher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Joseph Barrows,</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Dropsy</td>
<td>Son of Joseph Barrows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Alice D. Morgan,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Convulsions</td>
<td>Daughter of Benjamin D. and Esther Morgan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Mary Fraher,</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
<td>Daughter of Patrick and Ann Fraher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Edwin Wilbar,</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Son of Marshall and Abbie Benson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Austin T. Benson,</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Cholera Infantum</td>
<td>Formerly of Carver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wm. B. Wrightington,</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Diarrhoea, in the Army,</td>
<td>Son of Noah and Hannah Crapo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nahum E. Prophett,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Son of Wm. and Elizabeth Prophett.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Mary J. Barnes,</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Disease of Brain</td>
<td>Daughter of Harrison and Mary A. Barnes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lewis G. Lowe,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dropsy</td>
<td>Son of Lewis G. and Joanna Lowe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Deliverance Bolton,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Old Age</td>
<td>Daughter of Joseph and Mary Bolton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Lydia Witherell,</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Canker Rash</td>
<td>Widow of Nathaniel Witherell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Margaret Eagan,</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Eagan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Elizabeth F. Ellis,</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Canker Rash</td>
<td>Daughter of Cyrus and Lucy Ellis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Michael Eagan,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canker Rash</td>
<td>Son of Daniel and Elizabeth Eagan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Daniel Eagan,</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Canker Rash</td>
<td>“”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rev. Stetson Raymond,</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>“”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>James Frawley,</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Inflammation</td>
<td>“”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>James M. Harvey,</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Typhoid Fever</td>
<td>“”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Polly Hooper,</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Scrofula</td>
<td>“”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEWIS HOLMES, *Town Clerk.*
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR 1864-5.
REPORT.

THE School Committee invite the attention of their fellow-citizens to the several topics embraced in their Annual Report.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

Since our last Report, there have been many changes of teachers, and one in the Superintending Board. Mr. W. H. Alden finding it difficult to visit schools, while himself engaged in teaching, resigned the office of committee, in the early part of the year, and Dr. L. G. Lowe was appointed in his stead.

The following statement exhibits, in brief, the names of the teachers employed for a longer or shorter period in the public schools during the year, and also the changes that have occurred in the corps of instructors:—

FIRST DISTRICT.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Summer, Mr. Oliver Howard. This, his second year; he having enlisted in the army near the close of the term, the school was closed by Mr. Henry F. Howard.

The Winter Term, Mr. Chas. H. W. Wood.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, Miss Mary J. Alden. This her second year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL, Miss Fannie K. Pratt.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Summer Term, Miss Cordie E. Perkins.

Winter Term, Mr. E. W. Holmes.
THIRD DISTRICT.

Mr. W. H. Alden and Miss Amelia F. Alden. This completes their second year in this school.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Summer Term, Miss Laura F. Fuller.
Winter Term, Mr. E. W. Holmes. This school was kept early in the season, to enable the teacher to fulfill an engagement in the school in the Second District.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

Miss Harriette M. Washburn.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Summer, Miss Augusta W. Williams.
Winter, Miss Narcissa Y. Chase.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

Miss Jennette C. Harlow.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

Summer, Miss Charlotte Leach.
Winter, Miss Marcia E. Jackson.

NINTH DISTRICT.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Summer, Miss Caroline Sampson.
" " Winter, Mr. James H. Leonard.
PRIMARY " Summer, Miss Ellen M. Holmes.
" " Winter, Miss Caroline Sampson.

TENTH DISTRICT.

Miss Eugenia Hall.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

Summer, Miss Sarah A. Dunbar.
Winter, Miss Cordie E. Perkins.
TWELFTH DISTRICT.

Summer, Miss Mary E. Messenger.
Winter, Miss Lettie Pratt.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

Summer, Miss Sarah F. Pratt.
Winter, Miss Augusta W. Williams. Miss W. having resigned on account of sickness, after teaching a few weeks, Mr. F. M. Lawrence has taken the school.

Of these twenty-five teachers, twelve have taught in this town previous to the present year, three have remained in their places for the past two years, and a fourth would have remained, but for the call for troops, to which he felt constrained to respond. Four others have continued through the year in the same schools: one remained in the same house, but was transferred from one school to another for the Winter Term. Two others have changed schools, but remained in town during the year: one has taught the Winter Term in each of two contiguous districts, in one of which he was employed a year ago also. Three have been employed as substitutes for those who were providentially prevented from fulfilling their respective engagements. Two of our schools have been taught by gentlemen during the year; and three by ladies in Summer, and by gentlemen in Winter. Thus it will be seen, that of the seventeen teachers needed in order to fill the quota required in our public schools, four only held over from last year, and seven only have taught the same schools respectively during the year just closed.

It must be evident, that these frequent changes preclude the possibility of the adoption, and of the consistent carrying out, of any broad, comprehensive, and thorough system of instruction. The best teachers have no opportunity to show what they are able to do. The influence of these constant changes
is evil, and only evil continually, without one solitary advantage or redeeming feature. We shall never see our schools become what they should be, while the present order of things remains. In this particular, we see a painful contrast between our custom and that of many towns in the Commonwealth, and even in this county. There are numerous instances in which teachers remain in the same situations for many years; constantly growing in usefulness, and in the strength of their hold upon the public confidence and esteem. They have thus ample time to carry out their well-laid schemes for the benefit of their pupils, and the results are in a high degree commensurate with these wise and well-directed endeavors. When shall we learn the grand secret of combining profit and economy?

With the manner in which the teachers under our supervision during the year past have performed their work, we are not disposed to find fault. They have generally done all that could have been reasonably expected of them; and a very large proportion seem to us worthy to be retained, and encouraged in their work. In some instances, indeed, there is an apparent lack of adaptation to the particular positions which they have occupied; yet, even in these cases, we discover traits which fit the individuals for an honorable and useful share in the business of instruction. We frankly admit, that out of the entire number of teachers in our public schools the past year, there is scarcely one who in favorable circumstances would not probably succeed in teaching acceptably. Some out of the number have done admirably; and, with all the disadvantages under which they have labored, have still been able to show what they might do if they had the opportunity.

We do not propose to discuss the merits of particular individuals. We are becoming more and more fully persuaded, that the custom of so doing is seldom useful, and sometimes unjust. It is impossible for us to hold the scales of criticism with so even a hand as to give each one his due award of
praise or blame. In pursuing the course which we have chosen, we are happy to find ourselves sustained by the highest and most conclusive authorities in matters relating to the public schools of Massachusetts. Yet candor obliges us to add, that we by no means feel satisfied with the results of the combined labors of teachers, committees, parents, and other friends of the young, in behalf of education in our midst, during the past year. As already intimated, there are imperfections and evils still existing, the removal or mitigation of which should engage the earnest attention of us all. It is one of the prescribed duties of the School Committee, to make such observations on the state of the schools, and such suggestions concerning them, as in their judgment the general welfare demands.

Some of the imperfections and evils alluded to, we will now endeavor briefly to discuss.

I.—Defects in the Prevailing Method of Primary Instruction.

One of the worst and most general faults in our schools at the present time, in our opinion, relates to the method of dealing with the smaller children. This class of scholars do not generally enjoy a due share of attention in our mixed schools. There is not thought enough given to the question, How shall the little children be taught and governed? We fear that our teachers do not generally qualify themselves duly for the delicate and difficult task of awakening interest and pleasure in the minds of their youngest pupils. This class of scholars too often fail to be kept agreeably and profitably employed. In many instances, they have nothing to do for six mortal hours daily but to read and spell ten or fifteen minutes, and then to sit still, and hear the recitations and blunders of the rest for the remainder of the day. They do not enjoy even the small favor of being permitted to stand a suitable portion of the time, much less to walk about and
relieve their weary limbs. What a blessing it would be to the little folks, if they had no painful and unnecessary restraint to endure!—if the seasons of entire quiet of limb and body were short, and the opportunities of free and agreeable exercise were frequent and ample!

We wish to see all the members of our primary schools, and all the little children in every one of our schools, supplied with a greater and more agreeable variety of employments. No class of pupils have a more frequent need of black-boards, slates, pencils, drawing and writing paper. No class have a greater need of skilful and suitable teaching. In no part of their labors more than in those for their younger pupils do our teachers need that peculiar instinct and sagacity, or else that rare self-culture, which qualifies one to teach with entire success. We do not believe that the little children and the older scholars should be subject to precisely the same regulations and rules. The little ones should in some way enjoy a freedom from restraint, and relief from sitting, such as would be inexpedient and unnecessary for the older scholars.

Let the first years of a child's life be spent in learning facts; in studying visible, tangible nature; in learning truths adapted to young and tender minds; in educating the eye, the ear, the touch, the memory; and let the study of obscurer truths, and abstruse principles, and intangible objects, as well as the fuller exercise of the reasoning faculties, be assigned to a later period of youth.

We are happy to know, that, in holding these views, and in expressing our dissatisfaction with much of the teaching prevalent in schools designed for small children, we substantially agree with many of the most successful and distinguished teachers in our land; and, still more, that these views so readily receive the sanction and approval of so large a number of those intelligent and sagacious female teachers who have succeeded so admirably in the work of primary instruction.
II. — The Want of a Public High School.

It is well known, that this town is required by law to maintain a public High School ten months in the year, for the benefit of the more advanced pupils. You have as yet, however, preferred to omit the establishment of such a school, and to incur the penalty for neglect. At the same time, you have made no adequate provision for the education of those youth for whom such a school is best adapted. A large number of the young people of both sexes, to whom such a school would be a signal blessing, are compelled to seek the advantages they need in academies and private schools, while another numerous class enjoy no suitable opportunity for acquiring a thorough English education. It is the long established policy of this Commonwealth, to make the education of her children thorough, comprehensive, general, and free. The law requiring towns of a proper size to maintain schools where a thorough business education may be acquired, is as old as the government itself. Through all revolutions and changes, the same principle has been steadily adhered to — generally sustained by public sentiment — and heartily adopted by many of the most intelligent communities in the State. The principal cities and larger towns in Massachusetts have adopted an effective system of graded schools, including the public High School, where an excellent education is placed within the reach of every youth. The requirements of the law, in this regard, are carried out with a particularity and zeal which plainly show the high esteem in which this educational system is held. Two of the Bridgewaters have already adopted the plan, to which the public necessity and legal obligation alike point. This ancient and wealthy town, unsurpassed by few in material prosperity, intelligence, and refinement, from some cause remains among the inglorious few that have hitherto neglected to establish a public High School in obedience to law.

In the absence of any suitable provision by the town for the
wants of the advanced pupils, the Committee have authorized
the teachers of our mixed schools to give instruction in
Algebra, Physiology, and in those other branches which are
left discretionary with us by law. Yet any such arrangement
is but an inadequate remedy for the grave defect that now
exists. Some of our mixed schools present a formidable
array of studies and classes. The most superficial glance is
enough to discover the extreme inconvenience and comparative
unprofitableness of the present school system.

III. — INEQUALITY IN THE SIZE OF THE SEVERAL SCHOOL
DISTRICTS.

We are aware, that an entirely equal and impartial distribu-
tion of the scholars in town among the several schools is
impossible; or, if it were possible, it would still be extremely
difficult and impracticable. Nor is it necessary, for the effi-
ciency of our schools, that there should be anything like an
absolute equality in respect to numbers. The more compact
sections of the town will necessarily have the larger schools;
or, what is better, they easily admit of graded schools, while
the more scattered sections of our population generally find it
convenient to put up with smaller schools. Yet we respect-
fully submit, that several of our schools are inconveniently and
unprofitably small: five of the districts containing less than
twenty-five scholars each, between the ages of five and fifteen,
according to the statistics of last year.

Yet there seems to be no necessity for this state of things,
depending upon the situation or scattered condition of the
people among whom these schools are located. It is obvious,
that many and important changes in the relative sizes and
centres of the several neighborhoods have occurred since the
existing school district system was established. Were we
to re-district the town, we should depart widely from the
present arrangement. The public money is distributed with
astonishing inequality among the pupils in the several districts.
Last year, a pupil in the First District drew $2.54 of the school money, while one in the Twelfth drew $9.06. Yet if we would give all our children anything like equal advantages of education, this inequality in the expense of teaching scholars in different schools is unavoidable. The advantages of the pupils in these smaller schools are, after all, inferior to those enjoyed in most of the larger. We believe few of our fellow-citizens have failed to see, and to regret this evil, and to ask, how shall it be remedied? We see difficulties in the way of a perfect adjustment of our district system. We are not of the number of those who are blind to obvious facts, and who are resolved never to see the obstacles that lie in the path in which they desire to go. We know it will require wisdom, and a spirit of conciliation, to readjust the subdivisions of the town, originally made for the maintenance of schools.

IV. — School-Houses.

Intimately connected with the subject of School Districts, is that of School-houses. Changes in districts generally lead to the removal, abandonment, or erection of school-houses.

We feel constrained once more to allude to this topic, already discussed in previous reports.

While the district system remains, every district is required under penalty to provide a suitable house for the use of the public school. Yet it is well known, that several of the structures used for school-houses in this town are in a deplorably wretched and dilapidated condition. We do not suppose that any respectable citizen is satisfied to have this fact remain; and doubtless the inhabitants of the several districts, where these houses are found, are perplexed as to what duty or expediency requires. If the district system is to continue, and the present boundaries are to remain unchanged, and this fact could be ascertained, then the duty of the people in those districts would be clear. But if there is to be a material modification or abolition of our district system, it would seem
reasonable for them to await the action of the town. We allude to this subject now, in order that we may have before us the principal facts which are to aid us in coming to a correct decision of our future policy.

We beg leave in this place, however, to call the attention of the members of the First District to the condition of the furnaces in the school-house. We are aware, that the indefatigable agent has more than once reminded the good people of the village of the necessity of important repairs, or else of an entire renewal of the heating apparatus. The room of the primary school is absolutely unfit to be used in cold weather, on account of the unwholesome and offensive gases with which it is often filled. On no account would we consent that a child of ours should be thus exposed. We trust that the enlightened and humane citizens of this district will provide an immediate and adequate remedy.

V. — THE DISTRICT SYSTEM.

From the preceding topic we naturally and easily turn to this.

By statute of the Commonwealth, you will be called upon next year to vote once more upon the question, "Shall the District System in this town be abolished?"

There is doubtless still a lingering preference for the district system in the minds of many. It may seem to some like the surrender of vested rights, to relinquish the entire care of our several schools, to deliver our district privileges into the hands of the town. If the present arrangement actually secured to the several neighborhoods, or to the people in their homes and persons, any important and essential advantages, there surely would be some reason in adhering to the district system. We should be unwilling to see our fellow-citizens adopt any measure which involves the abandonment of a valuable principle or privilege.

Neither are we disposed to change our district system,
imperfect and inconvenient as it is, till the public mind is in a measure prepared for it. We doubtless might have some good teachers and some good schools under the existing system; and there would doubtless be some poor teachers and unprofitable schools under the best system in the world. It requires a fortunate combination of favoring circumstances to produce schools of a high order, and to meet the wants of the people. At the same time, to create an extensive dissatisfaction by a modification of our educational system would be unadvisable. Unless our fellow-citizens are generally convinced of the advantages to be derived from the abolition of the district system, we cannot advise a change. But, if convinced by fair reasoning, if constrained by the force daily accumulating of proof coming from the experience of others, they would cheerfully conform to the progress of events, and gladly give a full and fair trial to a method which promises to add so much to the efficiency of our schools, we should greatly rejoice. We have a deep conviction of the superior value of the town over the district system. We should be glad to see the people of Bridgewater thoroughly united in the adoption of the proposed change. We believe such a measure would contribute vastly to the value and economy of our schools.

Desirous of contributing our part toward the forming of a correct public sentiment on this subject, we respectfully submit the following considerations:

The object sought, in the establishment of public schools, is to place a good English education within the reach of all, in every district school; and then, by the High School, to afford to all who may choose it a more advanced course of study. In this town, we have never had a school in every district in which a good English education could be acquired; and it is not easy to see how we ever can have under the present arrangement. It is the united testimony of more than one hundred towns and cities, embracing more than one-half the children in the State, that the district system is the great
obstacle—the root of all others—in the way of common school advancement. It is unquestionably true, that the best schools are found where the district system does not exist. The limits of this report will not allow us to discuss the subject as fully as its importance demands, but only to call attention to some of the evils arising from this system.

First. The district system stands in the way of a more perfect organization of the schools. In this town it provides a house and teacher for ten or fifteen scholars in one district, and imposes upon a teacher the care and instruction of seventy scholars in another. Such an arrangement of the schools does not, and cannot, give the instruction which every parent desires for his child. In the small schools, both teacher and pupil must lack the enthusiasm in their work which comes from the association of larger numbers; while in the large school there is not time enough in the daily exercises for thoroughly teaching each class, and the teacher is led to adopt such methods as the character and organization of the school will best allow, and which, at the same time, perhaps, will make the speediest show of progress. Again, the classification of the pupils under this arrangement is necessarily very imperfect, making the number of classes in some of the schools altogether too great for thorough instruction by one teacher. The remedy for these inequalities is, to organize the schools in such a manner as to equalize the number of children in each school, and then, as far as possible, to distribute those of the same age and similar attainments in separate schools, or in separate departments of the same school, under a teacher carefully selected with reference to his fitness for his particular work. It would be comparatively easy to effect this adjustment, if the impassable boundaries of the district lines did not preclude all enlargement or curtailment of the schools of the town. Experience has fully shown, that changes in district lines are effected only after long delays, and with great trouble. The remedy is to be found only in the abolition of the districts.

Second. "A good system of public instruction is one which
most easily secures and retains the services of the best teachers.”

All the other appliances of instruction are in vain without good teachers. But under the district system, it is difficult to secure the best teachers, or to retain them when they have been tried and approved. “Teachers, like other workmen, must be trained in their calling; they are peculiarly susceptible to moral influences, to that encouragement which arises from an intelligent recognition of their services, and from a continuation of and promotion in them; and when these are held out, their interest becomes enlisted on the side of their duty, and is made to depend on their proficiency. These conditions are all violated under the present arrangement. In fact, it would be hard to contrive a worse plan than the one we now have for the selection of teachers.” The Prudential Committee engages a teacher; he is sent to us for examination. Of course, we can refuse a license if we are not satisfied. But it is not a pleasant thing to do under any circumstances: and the second candidate may not be any better. On the other hand, were the selection of teachers in the hands of the School Committee, having to provide teachers for all the schools in the town, they would receive more applications, have a larger number to select from, and have more interest in keeping the run of good teachers; and, with the same body of teachers, a great deal is gained by giving to each a school adapted to his capacity. Success is often dependent upon this adaptation. Under the district system, the Committee cannot exercise this power of substitution.

Again, “under this system there is a more frequent change of teachers than under any other.” Each year, a new Prudential Committee is generally chosen, and, in many cases, each term a new teacher, thus rendering a uniform, progressive system of instruction impossible. A district may have an excellent teacher, but the new Prudential Committee, having his own private preferences and plans, refuses to re-engage a tried and approved teacher, and there is no remedy. With
such frequent changes of teachers as are inevitable under this system, it is not reasonable to expect that our schools will become what we desire them to be, or that they can long retain the confidence of an intelligent public.

Third. This system perpetuates a class of school-houses entirely unfit for use. Several of them are to be found in town; but, as we have already referred to them, we will make no further allusion to them now.

Fourth. The district system is much more expensive in proportion to what it accomplishes, than the town system. It is the testimony of the town of Abington, and of all other towns which have recently abolished the district system, that a given sum of money will accomplish more, expended by the town through the School Committee, than in any other way. It will give longer and better schools, more instruction, and of a better quality.

We have thus presented a brief and imperfect statement of some of the objections to the continuance of the district system. For a more full discussion of the subject, we would refer you to the annual reports of the Secretaries of the Board of Education, from which we have freely quoted.

VI. — WANT OF PARENTAL CO-OPERATION WITH TEACHERS.

We now beg leave to mention one other want of our schools; one which does not so much concern the town, in its corporate capacity, as it does the parents personally. We now allude to the too frequent lack of co-operation between parents and teachers.

This may seem to some a hackneyed theme, yet surely it is not an unprofitable one. It is in the power of parents to add greatly to the efficiency of our schools, by suitable expressions of interest and sympathy.

To whatever cause this lack of co-operation may be traced, it is unquestionably a prolific source of much of the indifference to study, the idleness, and disobedience observable in so many of our schools.
This fault in parents may be the result of thoughtlessness and indifference; it may spring from dislike of the teacher. Some, perhaps, have not been favored with the teacher of their choice, or they have imbibed a prejudice against the one who is employed in their school. The children too easily discover this dislike, and they go to school without feeling the obligation as they should, to yield implicit and cheerful obedience to the teacher, deeming it of little consequence how they behave, and how little they study. They go prepared to be pleased with nothing, and to find fault with everything, because the teacher is not Miss ———.

In this state of things, it becomes difficult for the teacher to maintain proper discipline; and severity is sometimes demanded, in order to check insubordination. Next comes the charge of partiality, to which the parents lend a ready ear, and thus the value of the school to their children is still further diminished, and its general usefulness impaired.

Would it not be well for those parents who are dissatisfied with the teacher, or those who blame him for his management of his school, to investigate the matter fully? to visit the school for themselves, and learn by personal observation whether the injustice and partiality complained of actually exist? Even if the complaints are just, would it not be much more honorable as well as useful for them not to foster prejudice and dislike in their children’s minds in respect to the teacher, and thus to weaken his power for good over them?

There are other parents who say and do nothing indeed to encourage their children in a captious and irritable spirit towards their teacher, yet they too readily let the pressure of business interfere with a due regard for the progress of their children in their studies. The whole business of instruction is left with the teacher, and the children experience no stimulus or encouragement at home to do their best at school. The result is not, perhaps, that they become disobedient and idle, but that they feel no suitable motive to grapple with difficulties,
and overcome all obstacles in their course. They lose courage and interest in the prosecution of study. The teacher vainly tries to awaken in them the spirit of persistence and enthusiasm. There is wanting just that kind of encouragement at home which might have made them persevering and hopeful.

On such parents we would urge the importance of manifesting more interest in their children's improvement. One of the best means of doing so, perhaps, next to seeing that their children attend regularly, is to visit the school. This encourages the teacher, and stimulates the children to do as well as they can. Let parents converse with their child about his lessons, and try to make him understand and love them. We doubt whether any amount of business or care can excuse parents from daily watching over the progress in learning of those for whom they chiefly devote their own lives to severe and protracted labor. We take it, that the intellectual and moral improvement of our children concerns us more than all other family interests whatever. If all parents would give due heed to this subject, we believe they would contribute vastly to the efficiency and value of our schools.

These are times which demand renewed exertions in behalf of popular education. A new day is dawning on our land. The triumph of Intellect, of Justice, of Law, and of Constitutional Freedom, we trust, is nearly achieved. The government is re-establishing its sway over the territory of the insurgents, and intelligence and the principles of true liberty are spreading through the land. This is not a time for us to relax our exertions to render our public schools a still greater blessing to the rising generation, and to our common country.

Fellow-citizens, let us not in our endeavors in this behalf, be found behind the most enterprising and liberal towns in this Commonwealth.

Let our public schools receive our closest and most patient attention, and our most enlightened and generous effort. We submit, that there are yet many defects to be remedied, much
possible good not yet attained. With every friend of the young, and every well-wisher to the community, we desire to see our schools taking a high rank in respectability and usefulness. We take this occasion to express our cordial sympathy with every judicious effort to save our youth from intemperance, as well as from every other vice to which they are exposed. We assure the friends of temperance and good morals, of our desire to co-operate with them in every suitable way to preserve the youth around us from the contaminations of evil; and we here express the wish, that all our fellow-citizens would heartily co-operate in the endeavor to make our public schools the nurseries, not only of learning, but of sobriety, purity, and virtue.

The law authorizes the School Committee to expend one-fourth of the money received from the State fund, in books of reference, maps, or apparatus, for the use of schools. We have deemed it advisable to furnish outline maps to as many schools as the amount of money would admit of. We have accordingly supplied the schools in the Fourth, Sixth, and Tenth Districts with sets of Cornell's Maps, designed for the school-room; and have likewise furnished a set of Tablets to the primary schools in the First and Ninth Districts, and also to the school in the Third District. We have had these special appropriations in view while distributing the remaining portion of the fund from the State.

We deem it proper to state, that, in view of an error in the last enumeration of scholars in the several districts, by means of which the eighth was deprived of its due share of the school money, we have, by the advice of the Selectmen, increased the appropriation to that district, to obviate this mistake.

We invite your attention to the accompanying tabular statement, as exhibiting many facts of deep interest to every citizen.

JAMES C. SEAGRAVE.
JOHN A. LOTHROP.
LEWIS G. LOWE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT.</th>
<th>No. of children between 5 &amp; 15.</th>
<th>No. of Scholars attend'g School.</th>
<th>Average Attendance.</th>
<th>Percentage of Attendance.</th>
<th>Length of School in weeks.</th>
<th>Wages of Teacher per week.</th>
<th>Money received by each district from Town and State.</th>
<th>Amount for each child between 5 and 15.</th>
<th>Cost Per week of educating each child.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>.82</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>47</td>
<td>42.2</td>
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<td>.86</td>
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<td>.72</td>
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* Average.

The figures in the last column being found by dividing those in the one before it by the number of weeks of school during the year, will not be perfectly correct, as some of the districts have spent more, and some a little less, than their appropriation for the year.