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Annual Report of the Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Lewiston, for 1857-8

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,

OF THE

Town of Lewiston,

FOR 1857-8.



LEWISTON:
PRINTED AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.
1858.

REPORT.

The Supervisor of Schools of the town of Lewiston, respectfully presents the following as his Report, for the year ending March 8th, 1858:

DISTRICT NO. 1.

JOHN N. SMALL, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 84. One school house, valued at \$350. Spring Term, 27 days—Miss SUSIE WOODARD, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 38, average attendance, 30. Teacher's wages per week, including board, \$4,50.

This short term was finishing up what really belonged to the previous year. General satisfaction was given by the teacher. Not much could be done in so short a period.

Summer Term, 36 days—Miss MARY R. CUSHMAN, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 49; average attendance, 39. Teacher's wages per week, including board, \$5,00. This term was much shorter than was anticipated, from previous engagements in the Seminary by the teacher. We hardly need say that Miss Cushman is one of our best teachers; possessing many very desirable qualifications, which were well employed in the school—evinced in the fine progress made.

Fall Term, 50 days—Miss ABBIE L. STETSON, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 53; average attendance, 36. Wages per week, including board, \$4,50. The average attendance this term was much too small. The fault could not in justice be attributed to the teacher. Miss Stetson spared no pains in her untiring efforts to promote the best interests of the school. Those continuously present made rapid progress.

Winter Term, 66 days—Mr. D. W. PEABODY, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 56; average attendance, 49. Wages per month, including board, \$39,00. This is the third term Mr. Peabody has taught this school. Has proved himself every way capable of the

task. With a natural talent for teaching, combined with an excellent education and gentlemanly manners, he could hardly have failed of success. We like the plan of retaining teachers where they merit such treatment. The school passed a good examination. Much labor and pains had evidently been employed, to have reached so satisfactory a result. Some of our best scholars are found here. There should be no poor ones, from the advantages enjoyed. The reading classes, especially one, invoked the admiration of all present. The prosperity of the school has more than equalled our expectations during the winter past. It is large, and should be graded—which would give a much better school, and use of the funds appropriated.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

M. O. BUTLER, ESQ., AGENT.

Advisory Committee—Dr. A. Garcelon, E. Adams, Esq., and Prof. W. T. Webster. Whole number of scholars in the District, 1050. School-houses, 4; valued at \$12,000. Schools, 8; terms three each for the year.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

MAIN STREET.—Summer Term, 55 days—Miss ELLEN AMES, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 83; average attendance, 60. Fall Term, 46 days. Whole number, 68; average, 50. Winter Term, 48 days. Whole number, 45; average, 38. Wages of teacher per week, including board, \$4,00.

This is an interesting school of small children. Miss Ames has been its teacher some two years. The school has improved well under her care. Her talent for teaching would have had more efficiency, if more forcible. The school is too large for one teacher. It has some pert little readers.

FRANKLIN STREET.—Summer Term, 55 days—Miss JULIA A. PREBLE, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 106; average attendance, 73. Fall Term, 50 days. Whole number, 101; average, 75. Winter Term, 50 days. Whole number, 102; average, 74. Wages per week, including board, \$4,00.

Miss Preble commenced with the year, and has done the school, as well as herself, ample justice. She carried forward what had been

well begun by a former teacher. The discipline was good, the instructions well adapted to young minds. Greater improvement still should be studiously sought. The school should be divided.

BATES STREET.—Summer School, 55 days—Miss S. A. GARCELON, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 93; average attendance, 57. Fall Term, 50 days—Miss EUNICE FERNALD, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 92; average, 44. Winter Term, 50 days—whole number, 98; average 65.

Miss Garcelon, at the close of the Summer Term, resigned her place as teacher. The school prospered well during her connection with it. The discipline might have been too lenient. Miss Fernald undertook the difficult task thus vacated, and has done good service. The scholars, many of them, at least, have been but poorly governed at home, and need a good disciplinarian, as well as a patient and persevering instructor. It has some promising scholars. It is too large for one teacher, and should be divided.

I N T E R M E D I A T E S C H O O L S .

MAIN STREET.—Summer Term 53 days—Miss SUSIE E. WOODARD, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, sixty; average attendance, forty-five. Fall Term, 47 days—whole number of scholars, 62; average, 50. Winter Term, 47 days—whole number, 55; average, 47. Wages per week, including board, \$4.00.

Although Miss Woodard brought some experience and considerable talent as a teacher with her, yet her first term was not what we had expected. Some of the scholars did well, but as a school it made but little proficiency. The two last terms were a decided improvement on the former. Miss Woodard applied herself closely to the task, and the scholars made rapid progress. Quite a number have, during the year, become connected with the Grammar School. We have listened to some excellent reading and well recited lessons here. The school has done well.

FRANKLIN STREET.—Summer Term, 55 days—Miss ANN A. CLARK, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 56; average attendance, 46. Fall Term, 50 days—whole number of scholars, 63; average, 38. Winter Term, 50 days—Miss CARRIE J. BLAISDELL, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 88; average, 68. Wages per week, including board, 4.00.

Miss Clark did good service in this school; was exact and thorough, both in government and instruction. The school lost a capable teacher in her resignation.

Miss Blaisdell, for the last term, has filled the place with general acceptance. The school with a little more order would have improved more. As a whole, it was worthy our support, and justly merited confidence. This school embraces scholars of unusual interest. Proper encouragement from parents, as well as teachers, will place it ultimately among the first. Miss Blaisdell will make a very successful teacher. The average attendance was far too small.

BATES STREET.—Summer Term, 55 days—Miss **MARTHA MITCHELL**, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 55; average attendance, 42. Fall Term, 55 days—whole number, 50; average, 42. Winter Term, 50 days—whole number, 55; average, 50. Wages per week, including board, \$4,50.

This school has been under the charge of Miss Mitchell since its opening. We have expected much from this school, and not been disappointed. It has from term to term marched steadily forward. The government has been good, the instructions well suited to the capacity of the scholars. We should judge some twenty were fitted for the Grammar School. The reading was excellent, and the lessons recited worthy of praise. The school promises much.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Mr. A. G. HAM, Teacher, assisted partially by Miss **PRISCILLA BROOKS**. Summer Term, 55 days—whole number of scholars, 69; average attendance, 52. Fall Term, 50 days. Assisted partially by Miss **JENNIE GRAY**. Whole number of scholars, 68; average 46. Winter Term 50 days. Assisted by **Mrs. A. G. HAM**. Whole number of scholars, 100; average, 86. Wages of Mr. Ham per month, including board, \$45,00. Average wages of the Assistant Teachers per week, including board, \$5,00.

This school is one of the most valuable and promising in town. It has been raised to a high rank by the untiring and invaluable labors of Mr. Ham. His long connection with the school has disclosed a knowledge of its wants, and opened an effectual door for meeting them. What had been disorderly and chaotic, has successfully been brought to order and systematic arrangement. The school is now a model one, promising to reach the ideal of such institutions.

The improvement during the last two terms, has been so perfectly obvious, that merited commendations have been on the lips of every one since its last examination. Some classes in Grammar and Arithmetic, as well as Geography, did themselves much honor. In reading, the tones of the voice, articulation, emphasis, cadence, all were of a high order, and highly gratifying. Without looking over, any person in the remotest part of the room could hear with ease and distinctness, the utterance of every syllable and word. Good reading is one of the most desirable attainments for our public schools. The lady assistants have done themselves much credit in the aid they have rendered Mr. Ham. They share the satisfaction of having contributed their part to so desirable an end. This school is too large for the room it occupies. It should be divided, and occupy the whole building. Money appropriated here is well and economically appropriated. It returns *fourfold* to the bosom of general intelligence, as well as public virtue and morality.

HIGH SCHOOL.

WARREN T. WEBSTER, A. B., Principal. Assistant Teacher, Miss PRISCILLA BROOKS. Summer Term, 54 days—whole number of scholars, 39; average attendance, 26. Fall Term, 50 days—A. R. CRANE, A. B., Principal. Assisted by Miss JENNIE GRAY. Whole number of scholars, 60; average attendance, 50. Winter Term, 50 days—Miss LYDIA P. BURDIN, Assistant. Whole number of scholars, 75; average, 65. Wages per month, Mr. Crane, including board, \$75,00. Wages per month, Mr. Webster, including board, \$80,00, Lady Teachers per week, \$5,00.

It is well known that Mr. Webster, who for a few years past, has, with uncommon ability, filled the place as principal of our High School, resigned for a more lucrative situation elsewhere, much in opposition to the wishes of the entire district. His loss as a teacher, as well as citizen, has been much felt and regretted. Mr. Webster is hardly equalled in either natural or acquired ability as an instructor. His place was supplied at the beginning of the Fall Term, by Mr. Crane, who came well recommended from previous success, and protracted experience earned in the arduous and every-day toils of the school room.

The school may not have been all, in every respect, we could have wished, still it has been a good school. The labor of the teachers, as well as the industry of nearly all of the pupils, is worthy our congratu-

lations. A few only, during the Winter Term, were disposed to make the teachers some trouble, which, to some extent, at least, interrupted the general good of the school. This insubordination was readily quelled, and success returned to crown the exertions of genuine faithfulness.

Miss Brooks is a superior teacher, as is well known to the public. Miss Gray filled her place quite well. Miss Burdin has enjoyed superior advantages of education, and an experience of many years as a teacher, all of which were happily employed for her scholars.

The High School is, by far, the most expensive of any in town, not less than \$100 per month. It ought to be the best in town, accomplishing the most for the public good. It numbers some excellent scholars, and some who totally disregard the ample privileges provided by a generous district. There has been, and is still, though strong exertions have been made to oppose it, a tendency to leave the English branches, but superficially understood, for the ancient and modern languages. With much effort could any be induced to take up some of the most valuable studies, such as History and Physiology, from a passion for a little smattering of French. It can hardly be justice to devote so large an amount of the public funds to this school, unless it can be made to realize more for the general good, especially when the other schools are so crowded with pupils, with such limited means in comparison to wants. While we would not underrate the advantages of a High School, we would not neglect the more effective early efforts for the younger class of minds, now too young for labor, but who must, from a necessity of things, pass from the means and best season of school education to the sterner toils of life very soon. Let the root of the tree receive proper nourishment and culture, and the branches, with the trunk, will take care of themselves. The High School, as a whole, has done pretty well during the year past.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

DR. A. BURBANK, AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the district, 78. School House valued at \$2500. Summer Term 65 days—MISS CELIA A. KNOX, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 36; average attendance, 21. Fall Term,

22 days—Miss MELISSA J. HAM, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 36 ; average, 23. Wages, including board, per week, \$4.00.

This was Miss Knox's first attempt at teaching. A responsible school for a new beginner, certainly, yet it was very well conducted. Miss Knox has traits of character which will qualify her, in time, for one of the best approved among teachers. Her government may be a little too easy. Miss Ham has enjoyed some practice in the art, which was brought to aid, not only in the discipline, but general improvement of the scholars. Miss Ham possesses a very happy talent for teaching, firm, yet pleasant, social, yet not too familiar, with well conceived and adjusted ideas of school wants ; with some more practice, will make a superior teacher. The school gained somewhat during these terms.

Winter Term, 66 days—Mr. CHARLES S. PERKINS, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 55 ; average attendance, 45. Wages per month, including board, \$32.00.

Mr. Perkins, when entering for the first time upon the duties of a teacher, had one of our most arduous and responsible schools before him ; also the best of school facilities, with some of the best scholars. With a larger experience, he would undoubtedly have succeeded better ; still the school, as a body, did admirably well. Some few, boys, we are sorry to say, were not favorably disposed towards Mr. Perkins, making some trouble, proving an injury to the school. If *all* the scholars had done what a large majority did, we have no hesitation in saying, it would have been unequalled in town. Mr. Perkins possesses every necessary quality for a successful teacher. The reading was most excellent. A class in Algebra, one in Grammar, and another in Arithmetic, appeared to great advantage at the examination ; as well as other lessons, evidently well committed and thoroughly understood.

This school should be graded. Judging from the past enterprise of the district in providing one of the best, if not *the* best house in town, they will allow no facilities to pass unimproved, which shall contribute to the general good.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

EDWARD ESTES, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 30. School House valued at \$100. Summer Term, 66 days—Miss CAROLINE B. AMES, Teacher.

Whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 12. Wages per week, including board, \$3,00.

Miss Ames, though young, proceeded admirably with this school. She was industrious, and deeply interested in the progress of her scholars. It appeared well under the management employed. Miss Ames only needs some more practice, to excel in the avocation of her choice.

Winter Term, 66 days—Mr. ISAAC H. ESTES, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 19; average, 15. Wages per month, including board, \$26,00.

The progress which had already been inaugurated was without abatement continued up to the close of this term, which is a very desirable feature in schools having a change of teachers from summer to winter. The one following, carrying forward the labors of the preceding to its happiest results, so that nothing be lost. Mr. Estes did this. The school, though one of the smallest, ranks well. Some excellent readers in this school. We think a strong, capable lady teacher might do equally well. The district is deserving a much better school house than it now has. Shall not some steps be soon taken in this direction.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

HOSEA FULLER, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 37. School house valued at \$200. Summer Term, 44 days—Miss ADELAIDE BUCKNAM, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 23; average attendance, 18. Wages per week, including board, \$3,50. Fall Term, 60 days—Miss SOPHIA A. GARCELON, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 19; average, 16.

Miss Bucknam made with this school, her first effort; further efforts will give greater ability. The natural endowments for an efficient teacher are not wanting, but more development. The school did pretty well during this term.

Miss Garelon has a pleasant and happy way of instructing, as well as governing her pupils. Much was accomplished for the school while under her care.

Winter Term, 75 days—Messrs. JACOB A. FIELD and E. H. GERRISH, Teachers. Whole number of scholars, 29; average, 24. Wages per month, including board—Field \$24, Gerrish \$26.

Mr. Field taught only twenty-two days. The District being dissatisfied with his services, he voluntarily withdrew. Mr. Field will suc-

ceed better with another trial. Mr. Gerrish, considering the circumstances, has done remarkably well ; brought the school forward finely. With a natural talent both for teaching and governing, the school has prospered well during his connection with it. Dignity of character, ease of communication, affability of manners, with a knowledge of human nature, are the most prominent causes of this gentleman's success. The District committed an error in withdrawing sympathy from Mr. Field in his toils, which is inseparably connected with the best good of any school.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

SIMON CARVILLE, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 20. School house valued at \$25. Summer Term, 55 days—Miss ELIZA J. LIBBY, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 12 ; average 8. Wages per week, including board, \$3.00.

This is the smallest school in town, but by no means the poorest in scholarship. The average attendance, and interest taken by the parents as well as scholars, *good*. Miss Libby did well for the school ; will make a valuable teacher.

Winter Term, 60 days—Miss AUGUSTA A. DAGGETT, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 9 ; average, 8. Wages per week, including board, \$5.50.

Miss Daggett is one of our best teachers ; of long experience, quick of apprehension, industrious and kind, she presses the scholars forward not only rapidly but understandingly. The school made excellent proficiency during the winter. The average attendance was the best in town. The examination, according to the opportunities enjoyed, was not exceeded by any. The District by all means should have a new and pleasant school house.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

NATHANIEL FOSS, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 55. School house valued at \$75. Summer Term, 61 days—Miss MARY A. TARR, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 30 ; average, 25. Wages per week, including board, \$3.33.

Miss Tarr is one of our best teachers. Her efforts were well rewarded in the decided improvement made by her scholars, and the universal satisfaction of the District. There are encouraging promises given for the future, in the general intelligence and studious habits of the school.

Winter Term, 55 days—Rev. SILVANIUS WARREN, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 42; average, 34. Wages per month, including board, \$30.

The school during this term was not all we had anticipated, from the ability and long experience of the teacher—although the progress of the school was considerable. Other and more important engagements contributed something, no doubt, to this result. If Mr. Warren had devoted his whole attention to the school, it must have done remarkably well. The scholars, as well as the District, are not only deserving, but abundantly able to have a good and convenient house. Let the District act at once in the matter, and provide for their children a suitable house.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

WILLIAM R. WRIGHT, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the district, 40. School house valued at \$260. Summer Term, -- days—Miss LYDIA E. EMERY, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, —; average, —. Wages per week, including board, \$—.

Miss Emery's talent for teaching was usefully employed in her school. The pupils were interested in their studies, and made very acceptable improvement.

Winter Term, 65 days—Mr. ALBERT S. BROOKS, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 26; average, 20. Wages per month, including board, \$28.

This school might have prospered up to reasonable expectations, under the services of Mr. Brooks, if he had enjoyed the full co-operation of the entire District. A few, and only a few, raised some objections which militated somewhat against its welfare. The school, however, made considerable gains on the past. Mr. Brooks toiled with commendable care and diligence, and as a whole, brought the school forward to an interesting examination—especially with some of its members.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

PARRIS BOND, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 40. School house valued at \$100. Summer Term, 61 days—Miss EMILY MCKENNEY, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 17; average, 13. Wages per week, including board, \$2,80.

This school was small during the summer, but made some advancement, especially in reading. The kindness of the teacher was agreeably returned by the pupils. The school was too small for the number of scholars in the district.

Winter Term, 54 days—Mr. W. H. LARRABEE, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 34; average, 26. Wages per month, including board, \$25,80.

Mr. Larrabee used his best endeavors for the general good of the school. Without previous practice as a teacher, he labored under some disadvantages which were readily overcome, and the happiest results secured. The school, considering the shortness of the term, did itself honor. Here are found some of our best scholars, in this remote portion of the town, with less than half the advantages enjoyed by the scholars of our village. This school has evidently been favored with the best of teachers in times past. The reading of some was superior. The lessons in Algebra and Grammar were well understood and recited. This District should have a better house, and the best of teachers, as it most assuredly deserves.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

PETER GLIDDEN, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 77. School house valued at \$300. Summer Term, 88 days—Miss LOUISA GIVEN, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 43; average attendance, 35. Wages per week, including board, \$3,25.

This term was unusually long, giving rare opportunities for improvement. Miss Given labored industriously to secure this end. The school, in all respects, was not what we could have desired; yet by no means was it either a poor or lost opportunity to the scholars. With more force, Miss Given would have done better. As a teacher, she has many valuable traits.

Winter Term, 72 days—Mr. Z. R. WRIGHT, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 56 ; average attendance, 42. Wages per month, including board, \$36.

This is one of our largest and most important schools ; favored with some eight months' schooling, besides private instruction to quite an amount. During the winter term the average attendance has been quite too small. With ample means of instruction, the whole District should have been alive to every possible advantage to be derived. We were sorry to see so few of the large scholars present at the closing examination. We must in justice say, those present did themselves honor. The school, though it may not have been all we could have desired, still has done considerable, and might have done more with better attendance. Mr. Wright is an old teacher, and has met with good success elsewhere—and with some in his school of the past winter.

DISTRICT NO. 11—IN LISBON.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

DAVID N. MOULTON, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 42. School house valued at \$150. Summer Term, 55 days—Miss DELINDA A. JACKSON, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 30 ; average, 22. Wages per week, including board, \$2,75.

Miss Jackson is a capable teacher. She makes her efforts happily tell upon the good of her pupils. Her discipline and mode of instruction are critical and exact. Much was done for this school during its summer term.

Winter Term, 50 days—Mr. SELDEN GILBERT, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 34 ; average, 28. Wages per month, including board, \$28.

The school in this District ranks high, considering its advantages. The parents as well as scholars evidently appreciate educational privileges. Mr. Gilbert is a spirited and efficient teacher. Perfect harmony has existed among all parties, co-operating in endeavors to make theirs the best possible school. Many of the larger scholars, also some smaller ones, appeared admirably well at the examination. The reading was good ; the lessons thoroughly committed. The District should have a better house, and larger means.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

HENRY GARCELON, ESQ., AGENT.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 20. School house valued at \$25. Summer Term—no school.

Winter Term, 50 days—Mr. FREEMAN H. MERRILL, Teacher. Whole number of scholars, 19; average, 16. Wages per month, including board, \$28.

Mr. Merrill rendered this school important service. Understanding the wants of his scholars, he was qualified to reach them by his own natural and acquired qualifications as a teacher. We were happily disappointed in the talent displayed, and attainments made by the school. The love of all was won by the teacher, and his, happily in return, by the District. A new and suitable house is greatly needed, with more money devoted to school purposes. No investment of means will make better returns.

GENERAL REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

We have already alluded to the miserably poor school-houses in a number of the Districts. Better houses must be provided, or suffer material loss. Will not such districts awake to immediate action. The excess of improvement made in a few years would more than compensate the investment.

AGENTS.

A school agent occupies one of the most responsible places in town. The wisest and best use of the funds, with the prosperity of the school, depends materially upon the agent. The most intelligent and reliable persons of the several Districts should invariably be chosen. Persons incapable of partialities or mercenary motives, who will independently act for the greatest good of the schools; employing teachers of some age and experience, especially in the larger and more difficult ones;—men who will not hazard the welfare of a whole term of school for a few paltry pence.

TEACHERS.

The teachers as well as agents of the several schools, during the year past, have done as a body, considerably well; quite as well, it may be,

as in years past. Still, there remains much room for improvement. There cannot be a good school without a competent teacher. It is not only necessary for a teacher to be well qualified in a knowledge of the sciences, but in human nature, with the best rules of government and discipline. The scholar must be made to understand that the lessons acquired are not merely for recitation purposes, but for the infinite future. No person should practice greater thoroughness than the teacher. What is *thoroughly* done is done forever. The principles of knowledge must be grasped firmly and understandingly, or suffer almost a total failure.

There is a strong tendency to pass hurriedly over, without fully comprehending principles, and too much indulged by both parents and teachers, for the sake of a pleasing examination. A correction of this evil has been carefully and earnestly sought by your supervisor, and other interested persons.

P A R E N T S .

Parents are naturally supposed to take the deepest interest in the schools, having more at stake. Now, parents have it in their power to make or break a school. By frequent visits and a cordial co-operation with the teacher, a good school may generally be expected; without such sympathy the best not unfrequently become quite worthless. When parents listen to every silly report brought by children, taking exceptions to necessary and wholesome corrections, justifying the child in his disobedience, the foundation is being laid for the ruin of both child and school. Parents must feel the responsibility of their position.

B O O K S .

The schools are generally very well supplied with books. A too frequent change of text books is undesirable. Those now in use are valuable—all which may be necessary for the present. Others have been published of late, equally if not more valuable. The Progressive Series of Readers, the First and Second Class Readers, by G. S. Hillard, Spelling Book by J. S. Worcester, Parker's English Composition, with Heriman's System of Penmanship, are works of much merit.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. S. BURGESS, SUPERVISOR.

Lewiston, March 1, 1858.