

1873

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Auditor and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Litchfield, for the Year Ending March 1, 1873

Litchfield (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AUDITOR
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,

For the Year Ending March 1, 1873.

GARDINER:
H. K. MORRELL & SON, PRINTERS, HOME JOURNAL OFFICE.
1873.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield:

Your Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for the municipal year ending March 1, 1873, present the following report, giving the sums received, and from what sources, to meet and pay the payments by the town; also showing for what purposes and to whom payments have been made.

SCHOOLS.

Sum voted by town, March 11, 1872.....	\$1,250 00
Balance on Selectmen's book March 1, 1872.....	318 07
State School Fund for 1871.....	44 46
" " 1872.....	187 39
" " 1865.....	10 59
	1,810 51
Paid S. S. Committee and others.....	1,321 72
• Amount of School Funds undrawn March 1, 1873...	\$488 79

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

Sum voted by Town, March 11, 1872.....	\$800 00
Overlayings,	217 99
Delinquent Highway Taxes, from 1871.....	44 10
	\$1,062 09
Services of Town Officers, allowed by Auditor.....	267 36
Wm. Lyle, Plank furnished Road Dist. No. 3.....	1 22
Z. W. Douglass, Labor on Road Dist. No. 13.....	3 00
G. W. Earl, Services as Constable for 1871.....	6 00
James Chase, in full for collecting taxes for 1870....	25 31
H. M. Temple, Labor on Road Dist. No. 23.....	4 50
I. W. Springer, Recording Inventory and Assessment	5 00
N. Dingley & Co., Books and Stationery.....	11 87

H. K. Morrell, Printing Selectmen's and Treas. Rep'ts	\$15 00
G. N. Thurlow, Lumber for Road Dist. No. 36.....	7 25
Wm. E. True, Labor on Road Dists. Nos. 13-27.....	15 37
M. H. True and others, Labor on Road Dist. No. 27.	10 37
J. L. Allen, Labor on Jack Bridge.....	2 00
N. Dennis and others, Labor on Road Dist. No. 13..	8 26
Thos. Jack, Labor on Road Dist. No. 23.....	2 00
Isaac Smith, Plank for Dist. No. 32, in 1870-1.....	10 78
John Woodbury, Running out Nutting Road.....	1 50
James Sawyer, Labor on Road Dist. No. 13.....	3 00
M. B. Hutchins, Building Bridge in Dist. No. 19....	75 00
Jesse Hatch, Labor on Patten Mill Bridge.....	9 00
Nath'l Dennis, Expenses as Town Treasurer.....	2 50
Nath'l Dennis, Services as Treasurer to Sept. 25th...	17 25
Wm. M. Cunningham, Labor on Road Dist. No. 28..	5 00
Jesse T. Bartlett, Labor on Road Dist. No. 13.....	5 90
D. Smith & Son, Timber for Road Dist. No. 1.....	2 25
Wm. G. Williams, Services as Selectman, Mar. 1. '72	1 50
Sam'l H. Tarr, Hauling Stone, Patten Mill Bridge...	100 00
A. F. Briery, Railing Patten Mill Bridge.....	24 00
M. W. Adams, Raising Patten Mill Bridge and other Labor.....	33 50
John Patten and others, Labor on Patten Mill Bridge	113 23
I. Starbird & Son, Powder and Fuse for Town use...	3 79
John Brown, Plank for Dists. Nos. 1 & 20.....	21 75
Robert Edgecomb, Labor on Bridge in Dist. No. 16..	13 50
A. P. Nutting, in full for building Road from I. T. Turner's to A. P. Nutting's.....	50 00
W. M. Hattin, Hauling Lumber for Tibbetts Bridge, in 1871.....	5 00
Wm. Cunningham, Labor and Material on Bridge and Ledge in Dists. Nos. 36-39.....	13 27
John Woodbury, Expenses for Witnesses opposing petitions of O. S. Edwards and J. L. Allen.....	10 25
G. W. Sawyer, in part pay Collecting Taxes '71....	60 00
D. S. Springer, Blanks, Postage and Expenses as Se- lectman and Overseer of Poor.....	14 75
S. Patten, Plank for Buffee Landing and other bridges	25 17
James Chase, Expenses as Treasurer.....	4 08
J. L. Allen, Expenses as Selectman.....	2 00
W. O. G. Robinson, Hauling plank for bridges.....	3 25
Abated in James Chase's Tax bills for 1865.....	6 75
Abated in G. W. Sawyer's Tax bills for 1871.....	13 70
Abated in G. W. Sawyer's delinquent Highway Tax bills for 1871.....	3 60
Abated in W. M. Hattin's Tax bills for 1872.....	5 40
	<hr/>
	\$1,045 18
Balance in favor of Town.....	\$16 91

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Sum voted by town for Support of Poor..... \$600 00

Paid Services of Overseers on Poor Farm for
the year ending January 1, 1873..... \$226 00

Rec'pts over supplies for year ending Jan. 1, '73, 68 19

Cost on the Poor Farm..... 157 81

Pauper Bills off Farm.

Paid for Support of Hannah Higgins..... 40 00

“ Mrs. Kendall..... 40 00

“ Lydia Hanscomb..... 40 00

“ Rebecca Hutchinson..... 42 00

Town of Manchester for Medical Aid fur-
nished Viola Smith..... 38 25

Town of Manchester for Nurse and Sup-
plies furnished for Viola Smith..... 30 00

S. Powers, Attend'g Funeral of J. Clifford, 3 00

James E. Chase, for Supplies furnished

John Gatchell and family..... 1 82

Cost off the Poor Farm..... \$235 07

“ on “ 157 81

Total cost of Poor..... 392 88

Balance in favor of Town..... \$207 12

*Stock and Property on Town Poor Farm, as estimated by the
Overseers of the Poor, Feb. 28, 1873.*

Stock on the Farm..... \$445 00

13 tons of Hay at \$12.50 per ton..... 162 50

Provisions, &c..... 150 50

\$758 00

Names and Ages of Paupers on Poor Farm.

Christiana Meader, from Jan. 1 to Oct. 20, 1872.. Age, 67 years.

Mary Nevins..... “ 70 “

Julia Tibbetts..... “ 51 “

William Jewell..... “ 68 “

Lorenzo Gatchell..... “ 7 “

Alonzo Gatchell..... “ 6 “

James B. Gatchell..... “ 2 “

Fred. E. Hutchinson and wife were hired to take charge of the
Poor Farm and the poor on it one year, at \$220.00. The year
expires April 1, 1873.

Voted to pay Principal and Interest.....	\$500 00
Paid interest on Town Debt.....	158 10
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of Town.....	\$341 90

RESOURCES.

To make the various payments for the Town the resources have been as follows :

Balance on Selectmen's book March 1, 1872.....	\$1,608 69
Assessed and committed to Collector and Treasurer..	2,117 99
Received of John G. Robie, for sale of Babb Farm..	149 00
Received of Overseers of Poor Farm, receipts over supplies for fourth quarter.....	192 90
Delinquent Highway Taxes from 1871.....	44 10
	<hr/>
	4,112 68

Paid out—

Abatements, Roads, Bridges, Incidentals, \$1,045 18	
Support of Poor.....	585 78
Interest on Town Debt.....	158 10
	<hr/>
	1,789 06

Balance on Selectmen's book March 1, 1873.. \$2,323 62

D. S. SPRINGER,	} <i>Selectmen</i> <i>of</i> <i>Litchfield.</i>
JOHN PATTEN,	
JOHN L. ALLEN,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following report shows the amount of money received and paid out during the municipal year ending March 1, 1873; also a statement of the town debt, and the amount due the town from the several collectors.

	Dr.
Balance in the Treasurer's hands March 1, 1872.....	\$360 52
Rec'd from James Chase, Collector for 1865.....	6 75
" " " " 1870.....	22 74
" Geo. W. Sawyer, " " 1871.....	1,281 08
" same on acc't delinquent highway taxes..	13 25
" W. M. Hattin, Collector for 1872.....	1,150 00
on sale of Babb Farm.....	149 00
from State Treasurer for Schools, 1871.....	44 46
" " " 1865.....	10 59
" Fred. E. Hutchinson, for receipts over sup- plies on Town Poor Farm.....	192 90
	\$3,231 29
	Cr.
Paid for Support of Schools.....	\$1,269 24
on Town Debt.....	158 10
for Support of Poor.....	562 78
Incidental expenses.....	1,049 43
Cash in Treasurer's hands March 1, 1873,	191 74
	\$3,231 29

STATEMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

	Dr.
Outstanding notes and interest on same to Mar. 1, '73,	\$2,645 47
	Cr.
Due from G. W. Sawyer, Collector, 1871, on money taxes.....	\$543 29
Due from the same on account of delin- quent highway taxes.....	23 11
Due from W. M. Hattin, Collector, 1872,	2,217 99
" " on account delin- quent highway taxes.....	44 10
Cash in Treasurer's hands.....	191 74
	\$3,020 23

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES CHASE, *Treasurer.*

LITCHFIELD, March, 1873.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Agreeably to the duties assigned, I have examined the books and accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the current year, and find them properly cast and vouched, and that they agree.

THOMAS HOLMES, *Auditor.*

LITCHFIELD, March 1, 1873.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Town of Litchfield:

In accordance with the requirements of law, the Superintending School Committee submit their annual report for the year ending March 1st, 1873:

FINANCIAL.

Amount of money voted by the Town for School purposes.....	\$1,250 00
Amount received from State.....	232 85
Amount apportioned to Districts.....	1,515 41
Amount apportioned to each scholar, \$3.05½.	

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS, NOTICED IN ORDER.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—R. J. D. LARRABEE, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$207.77; number scholars in district, 63.

Summer Term. Miss ETTA GOODWIN, teacher. Number of scholars in attendance, 34; average 27. Length of term, 59 days.

Miss GOODWIN brought to her work a large experience, having been successful as a teacher for a number of years, and this school, under her instruction, was not an exception. All the classes did well, reading classes in particular. A rule requiring scholars to give definitions of words in their own language we think commendable, and even worthy of imitation in others. The order was not as good as it should have been, yet it was better than it usually is in this school. We commend Miss G. to employers as a faithful and competent teacher.

Winter Term. S. C. WHITMORE and C. E. WINSLOW, teachers. Mr. WHITMORE made his first attempt at teaching here. He is a young man of good ability and a good scholar. At our first visit we found the school composed almost wholly of small children, demanding constant care and a firm hand to guide them aright. Mr. W. was pleasant and cheerful in his management,

and seemed to have set out on the right way to success, though at that early day in the term the children were uneasy and too much confusion was apparent. One evil in this school, which we have not been able to remedy, is the great number of classes. Mr. W. being compelled to close his labors at the end of the eighth week, we took occasion to look into the condition of the school, which we found more quiet and orderly than on our first visit. Many of the classes had made a good beginning, while some had not made as good progress. The pupils however seemed to have conceived a strong affection for their teacher, which many of them manifested by their regrets at his leaving them. The whole number under Mr. W.'s charge was 40; average 35. Term, 40 days.

The school was continued in charge of Mr. C. E. DINSLOW, one of our well-tried teachers, who has proved himself master of his business. At our visit made at the end of his first week, we found the whole school moving on its toes, and we venture the assertion that there is little danger of keeping it too quiet, at least for the next term or two. Mr. D.'s method's of teaching are very nearly right, being careful, systematic and practical at the same time. We look upon Mr. D.'s work in this school as almost invaluable, considering the results, present and future, which may be derived from it. The school is still in session at this time of reporting. This District gets six months for its school year.

DISTRICT No. 2.—WESLEY FROST, *Agent*.

Amount of Money, \$70.26. Whole number of scholars in District, 23.

Summer Term.—Miss CARRIE DUNN, Teacher. Whole number attending, 33; average, 30; length of term, 30 days.

Miss DUNN entered upon her duties without experience, but well qualified otherwise for her work. This school is rather backward, and needs continued thoroughness in teaching. At our last visit the order was good, and improvement general in all the classes; though we doubt not the interest of the school was somewhat abated by a vacation of a week in the term, owing to sickness of the teacher. We believe Miss DUNN will make a successful teacher, and would recommend her to the favorable notice of future employers.

Winter Term.—Mr. F. J. BUKER, teacher. Number attending 32; average, 25. Length of term, 40 days.

Mr. Buker is one of our most successful and able teachers, and gave this school just such a drill as it needs each and every term. At our first visit the classes were well arranged and doing good work under mild though firm discipline. Because of a severe storm, no second visit was made, though we have no fears that the school was other than profitable to all concerned.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—GEO. N. GROVER, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$122.20. Number of scholars, 40.

Summer Term Miss EMILY SMILEY, teacher. Number of scholars in attendance, 24; average, 20. Length of term, 40 days.

This school, under the instruction of good, honest, thorough teaching, will, in a few years, compare very favorably with any other of its size in town. Such teaching we think it received from Miss SMILEY. The neat and tidy appearance of the school-room, the thorough work of the teacher, the good order and advancement of the scholars in the studies pursued, together with a goodly number of parents present at the closing examination, gave unmistakable proof of a profitable term of school. We consider Miss S. one of our best teachers.

Winter Term—Mr. F. J. BUKER, teacher. Number attending, 24; average, 20; length of term, 40 days.

We were fortunate in securing Mr. B. as teacher for this term, as success seems to follow his efforts always. At our first visit we felt sure that this school would be no exception to the rule. Every one seemed to have something to do, and was earnestly at work upon it. At the closing examination we were pleased to see many of the parents and friends of the children, who were well satisfied that they had no need to complain. This school was a good one. The parents of this district can not afford to employ poor teachers hereafter, if they would continue the good work already so well begun.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—ISAAC HALL, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$91.65; number of scholars in district, 30.

Summer Term—Miss MARY A. SAWYER, teacher. Number of scholars in attendance, 20; average, 17; length of term, 40 days.

Miss SAWYER entered this school with a determination to succeed. At our opening visit we found the teacher actively performing her duties, and the scholars very orderly and attentive to their studies, and we are pleased to say that the united labors of both teachers and scholars brought its reward, a decided improvement of the scholar in every branch of study pursued. The order in the school was good and the term a success.

Winter Term—Miss EMILY SMILEY, teacher. Number attending, 22; average, 18; length of term, 30 days.

Miss S. has already been mentioned as one of our best teachers and she did real good work in this school, which requires thorough, faithful and persevering labor to bring it up to its proper standard. At the closing visit we were well pleased with the appearance of the several classes. The small children had made good progress in reading and spelling. One class in arithmetic would compare very favorably with any other class of like conditions in town, and, on the whole, we could not hesitate to pronounce this a profitable term.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—SAMUEL SMITH, Agent.

Amount of money, \$82.48. Number of scholars in district, 24.
Summer Term—Miss ESTELLE POWERS, teacher. Number attending, 12; average, 9. Length of term, 40 days.

This was Miss P.'s second term in this little school, which is made up altogether of small scholars, and not enough of them to make interesting work for a teacher. Of course the order was good, and many little practical things were taught beside the usual branches, and at the close we could see that an advance had been made, though not as much interest was shown on the part of scholars and teacher as we like to see; and the amount of labor accomplished was not all that we looked for.

Winter Term—S. POWERS, teacher. Whole number attending, 17; average, 11. Length of term, 40 days.

MR. POWERS is a veteran in the profession of teaching, having taught in all grades, from the highest to the lowest, his last term being one of the latter class, composed mostly of small scholars, though we were pleased to find two or three pupils well advanced; but on the whole there were hardly scholars enough to rouse the energy and call out the things of interest, "new and old," from the storehouse of a well cultivated mind. Nevertheless, at the close we found everything pleasant and quiet—general improvement evident in all classes, particularly among the little ones. The classes in arithmetic had been well dealt with, and had made good progress; and we felt that the term had been a profitable one.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—CHARLES DILL, Agent.

Amount of money, \$73.32. Whole number of scholars, 24.
 No summer term.

Winter Term—WILBUR BERRY, teacher. Number attending, 18; average, 16. Length of term, 40 days.

MR. BERRY brought to his work a thorough knowledge of the branches to be taught, and a determination to teach well; and we are glad to report that, although this was his first school, he was able to carry out his good intentions to the letter. At the close we were well satisfied. The order was good, classes were ready with illustrations and analysis in the many principles taught, and really reflected credit upon their teacher, and did themselves honor. We were well satisfied with this school, and recommend Mr. B. to future employers as one whom they may safely employ. The parents of this district have just finished, at heavy expense, a fine school building, which will compare favorably with the best wooden buildings of this class in any towns around us. We hope to see other districts do likewise.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—ORRINGTON BERRY, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$100.81. Number of scholars, 33.

Summer Term—Miss MAGGIE BAKER, teacher. Number of

scholars in attendance, 17; average, 16. Length of term, 40 days.

This district is the home of Miss **BURKE**. At the earnest request of many of the parents, together with the necessary qualifications for the work, she was engaged to take charge of this school. At the first visit, the appearance of the teacher showed that she loved her pupils, and the quiet, orderly and submissive disposition of the scholars gave evidence that they loved her in return; consequently much was accomplished. We think if Miss **BURKE** had a little more energy, she would rank higher as a teacher; but, upon the whole, it was a good school.

Winter Term—Mr. M. A. **SPEAR**, teacher. Number attending, 28; average, 25. Length of term, 35 days.

Mr. **SPEAR** is a Litchfield boy, and a thorough scholar in common branches, and did good service in this school—one of the best in town, containing, perhaps, more advanced scholars than any other. At our first visit we found a good organization, and all parties well under way, orderly and quiet. Mr. S. was thorough and critical in his teaching, and at the close we could see plainly the result of such training. One class in fractions deserve special notice for their thorough understanding of this most important part of arithmetic, gained mostly, as the class testified, during the short term of seven weeks under Mr. **SPEAR**'s drill. The school was well under way when the funds run short; but the parents are still rolling the stone with Mr. **CHARLES TIBBETTS**, an able scholar, for teacher, Mr. **SPEAR** being called away by private business.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—No Agent.

Amount of money, \$12.22; number of scholars, 4. No school for the year.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—RUFUS SMITH, Agent.

Amount of money, \$171.18; number of scholars, 56.

Summer Term—Miss L. C. **SMITH**, teacher. Number attending, 57; average, 21; length of term, 40 days.

Miss **SMITH** brought to her work education and experience, tact and talent. She taught a good school. The order was good, the classes were systematically arranged and faithfully taught, and at the closing examination manifested clearly the effects of critical training. Classes in geography could not be excelled by any other classes in town. We consider Miss S. one of our best teachers, and we hope she may be retained in the schools of our own town, as we can hardly afford to let neighboring towns call off all our best scholars and teachers.

Winter Term—Mr. A. T. **SMITH**, teacher. Whole number, 30; average, 25; length of term, 50 days.

This school has long stood among the very first in town, and still sustains a high place; though as the oldest and most ad-

vanced go out, their places are not filled, hence the school is decreasing in numbers year by year, like most of our schools throughout the town; nevertheless, we found a good lot of *good* material here, and a master well able to manage it. The teaching was practical and faithful in all branches, and at the closing examination classes were prompt and ready in recitation and did themselves high honor. Classes in geography were almost perfect. To the parents belongs a share of the credit for the proficiency made by their children in this branch, as they have supplied their school-room with excellent geographical maps. We urge upon other districts the importance of doing the same for their own children.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—NATHANIEL LIBBY, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$51.93; number of scholars in district, 17. *Summer Term*—Miss ADA TRACY, teacher. Number of scholars in attendance, 10; average, 5; length of term, 32 days.

Miss TRACY entered this school with a good purpose, we think, to interest and instruct her scholars as best she could, but irregularity in attendance, and failing health on the part of the teacher, rendered the final results not so satisfactory as would be desired.

Winter Term—Miss EMMA MALLETT, teacher. Number attending, 9; average, 7; length of term, 30 days.

This school is very small and backward. Your committee are doubtful as to the propriety of sustaining a school under such circumstances as this one is situated. The children need more and better instruction than they can possibly secure in this district, or in any district under like circumstances. Though, we believe, Miss MALLETT labored earnestly for the benefit of her pupils, no great interest could be aroused and maintained in a school so small in numbers. Not being aware of the time of closing, no second visit was made. We urge upon the consideration of the town that something must be done to relieve districts of this kind, to give them larger and better schools.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—GRANVILLE BAKER, Agent.

Amount of money, \$177.19. Number of scholars, 58.

Summer Term—Mr. E. C. ADAMS, teacher. Number attending 35; average, 30. Length of term, 45 days.

We were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Adams, an able scholar and experienced teacher, whose circumstances were such during the summer that we were able to engage him for this school. At our first visit we saw in the appearance of all parties strong omens of success, and at the close of the term we were well satisfied. Mr. A.'s methods of instruction are of the right kind, being thorough and practical, such as will tend to make useful citizens of the boys and girls who are continued under this kind of training. No school in town has more or better material

than this one, and we do not hesitate to place this term in the front rank. Vocal music was introduced by the teacher, and at the public examination several pieces were nicely executed.

Winter Term—GEORGE C. SMITH, teacher. Whole number, 38; average, 25. Length of term, 33 days.

Your committee felt that in the appointment of Mr. SMITH to this school they had secured the labors of one of our first class teachers. At our first visit we were well convinced that a good school was almost certain as a natural result of the faithful, honest work of the teacher, together with the earnest efforts of his pupils, which they seemed willing to make. We suggested, however, the introduction of more system in the evolutions of the classes, and left them, feeling that the way was clear for a successful term.

About the fourth week we were called to investigate a case of discipline which was thought too severe. The full board met upon the day appointed, and proceeded to a full and impartial investigation of the case, and a careful consideration of all the facts elicited; and in coming to a conclusion in the matter, considered 1st, whether the subject of the discipline had committed offence demanding severe punishment; 2d, if so, was the punishment properly administered? 3d, if not, was the offence of the teacher sufficient to warrant expulsion? Upon these points, which seemed to be the only ones at issue, your committee concluded, 1st, that severe punishment was required; 2d, that the punishment was improperly administered; 3d, that though the punishment was improperly administered, being partly inflicted upon the head of the pupil, which ought never to be done save in actual self-defence, the offence of the teacher was not sufficient, considering all the facts and circumstances, to warrant his expulsion; consequently he was permitted to go on with the school. This action appeared to cause dissatisfaction on the part of those who differed with the committee, and at a loss to their children they withdrew them from the school, so that at the close we found less than half the whole number. Those present had made good improvement, evincing the result of honest, thorough training. The order was good, the teacher careful and critical in his instructions, as well as practical; and could the absent children have attended regularly we have no doubt this school would have stood among the very first in town.

DISTRICT NO. 12.—ANTHONY ASHFORD, Agent.

Money apportioned, \$67.21; number of scholars, 22.

Summer Term—Miss MARY BARTLETT, teacher. Number of scholars in attendance, 12; average, 10; length of term, 50 days.

At the first visit to this school we found the teacher at home with her little flock, and the appearance of both teacher and scholars was such as to warrant the belief that it would be

one of profit to the district. The order was good, the school-room clean and neat, and the manner of teaching thorough. As we had no notice of its close no second visit was made, consequently we can give no report as to final results, but we learn from reliable sources that it was a good school.

Winter Term—Same teacher. Number attending, 12; average, 9; length of term, 60 days.

This was Miss BARTLETT's third term here and we are glad to report that she is continually improving as a teacher, and the school is doing the same under her care. We were much better pleased with the success of this term than we expected to be. We had some fears that in the winter Miss B. might not prove herself equal to her task, in governing and managing, but we do not care for better order or a more pleasant school. The teaching was good in every respect. We consider this one of our profitable terms.

DISTRICT NO. 13.—WILLIAM H. DUSTIN, Agent.

Amount of money, \$61.10. Number of scholars in district, 20. No summer term.

Winter Term—Mr. HENRY TAYLOR, teacher. Number attending, 13; average, 12. Length of term, 40 days.

Mr. TAYLOR, possessing all of the qualifications required for a school of this character, entered upon his labors with a determination to succeed, and a conscious ability which greatly aided him in finding his way to the affections of his pupils and the good graces of their parents. This accomplished, he had nothing to do but to teach. At our first visit, Mr. TAYLOR, though making his first attempt as a teacher, had become master of the situation. Active himself, he had, even at that early day, infused much of his own life into the pupils, so that everything wore a lively appearance, though all were orderly and pleasant. At the closing examination we were pleased to meet a house full of parents and friends of education, who were well pleased with the condition of the school; and your committee feel so well satisfied that they deem it proper to state that no other school in town, in so short a term, did so much work, in so faithful and practical a manner, as this little school in District No. 13. This is honor for both teacher and scholars, in a town where there were so many good schools, and so few poor ones. Mr. TAYLOR and his friends ought to feel a just pride in his success. We recommend him to the favorable notice of other employers; and to the parents in the district, we give warning, that nothing short of good teaching will be accepted in their school hereafter.

DISTRICT NO. 14.—No Agent.

Amount of money, \$103.05; number of scholars, 34.

No summer term.

Winter Term—J. D. BAKER, teacher. Number attending, 12; average, 10; length of term, 50 days.

This was Mr. BUKER's second term in this school, which is too small to be very interesting to teacher or scholars. Mr. B., by his persevering industry and faithful attention to duty, succeeded in doing good work, and many of the classes appeared better than we ever saw them before. No reading classes in town had received better instruction or had made better progress, and, though some scholars were absent at the closing examination on account of sickness, the recitations were interesting and reflected honor upon all parties. Mr. BUKER is an earnest, faithful, industrious worker, and success will follow labor of that kind in all proper positions.

DISTRICT NO. 15.—W. F. TIBBETTS, Agent.

Amount of money, \$122.20; number of scholars, 40.

Summer Term—Miss MARTHA A. RANDALL, teacher. Whole number attending, 24; average, 16; length of term, 35 days.

Miss RANDALL was well qualified for her task and set to work in good earnest; for the interest of her school, and at our first visit we were well pleased with the general appearance of the school. Classes were well organized, and were handled by an easy system, which renders the school quiet and pleasant. Miss R. seemed to govern easily yet sufficiently. At the close we found some of the best classes that can be found in town or out. Reading and spelling classes in this little school challenge comparison with any others in any school of like grade.

Winter Term—ORAMANDAL SMITH, teacher. Number attending, 23; average, 18. Length of term, 40 days.

Mr. SMITH taught his third term here this winter, and we can say that in no school in town could he have found a smarter lot of scholars, and if he did not have a good school it was his own fault; for the scholars, each and all, did precisely what he asked them to do, and joined him heartily in every respect. Mr. Smith really believes that he taught a good school, not withstanding the fearfully dilapidated condition of the antiquated edifice used by this District as a school-room. We hope soon to be able to report this school-house as on the mending hand.

In concluding our report, we ask liberty to call the attention of the parents of the town, who believe in the common school as the "People's College," to some few of the most important matters demanding prompt action at their hands. Pardon us, if we refer to your Supervisor's Report for 1871-2, wherein he called your attention to the importance of supplying your school-rooms with maps, charts, globes and necessary apparatus for the better instruction of your children. This suggestion in that matter has not been heeded, or if so, never acted upon in a single instance. We consider this matter one of great importance to the educational interest. A comparison of classes which for two years have

been taught geography from maps, and have carried map drawing themselves almost to perfection, with other classes under equally as good instruction without the aid of maps, etc., furnishes conclusive evidence of the very great utility of school apparatus. As before mentioned, we shall not enter upon an argument, in order to convince those already well satisfied, that this matter should receive immediate attention. In connection with this, we suggest another step, the equalization of school facilities in the several districts. While the school officers have labored faithfully and perseveringly for years, to establish a reputation for our town, and we believe with a degree of success, which the friends of learning may well be proud of, they have neglected to urge upon us at all proper times, the justness and necessity of an equitable apportionment of our increasing school funds. This is a matter which the town cannot much longer neglect. To some action it must soon come, as the magnitude of the evil of the present condition of things forces itself upon its notice. The great disparity of school privileges existing between district's as at present constituted, may be readily seen by reference to our report now before the town. For example, we apportion to District No. 5, \$82.48; to No. 11, \$177.19; to No. 10, we apportion only \$51.93, while to No. 9, we give \$171.18, nearly four times as much as to No. 10. To District No. 8, we assign \$12.22 for the support of their year's school, while District No. 1 manages to get along with \$207.77. So this great injustice goes on, and as all may see at once, the disparity in the school-room is even greater than in the unequal distribution of money. We do not feel it necessary to discuss this matter to any great length in this report, nor will we doubt that our people will look to this matter, and though perhaps slow, as they should be, in accepting new dogmas and theories which at first sight may seem to be inovative and rash, we believe they are willing to examine the merits of the case, and when they have leisnrely looked over the ground, they will by force of their sound judgment, and keen sense of right, gravitate towards truth, justice and equality; and the sooner, when some of the self evident facts of the present system are brought under their calm consideration. Exercising this faith, we content ourselves for this time, by simply setting the matter before you, and asking you to consider, that, under the present rule, these facts are patent, without investigation: 1st, many very small schools; 2d, many poor school-houses; 3d, short schools, and poor ones if we try to lengthen them by cheap teaching; 4th, an unequal division of the school money, giving to some of the larger districts as much, or more than they really need, and to others much less than would be absolutely necessary to keep their children from dark ignorance. These evils may be readily obviated by legitimate action of the town in dividing the school money, so as to afford to all scholars within its limits equal

school privilege. Your committee have pursued the same course the past year as heretofore, laboring earnestly to secure higher grade teaching in all the schools, and in this matter we know that for some years past, we have been making sure, though somewhat slow progress. We feel pleased to report less absolute failures during the year just ended, than for any other in the decade past. In only one case has there arisen any disturbance, and that we are sorry to say in one of our best schools. Between committee and school agents have existed the most pleasant and harmonious relations and action. In two or three instances only, have agents requested the privilege of selecting and hiring their own teachers, and in every case the request has been readily and cordially granted. While only two or three have made such request, all have understood that it would be willingly granted if made. But working together, we believe for the best interest of all the schools, we have succeeded by carefully watching our opportunities in securing good teaching, at very reasonable rates, our Winter schools costing on an average only $24\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per month, against 27 dollars last year. Our Summer schools costing us 3 dollars per week, against \$3.63 last year. These low figures must not be taken as a standard for future years, as the tendency of wages is inevitably upward. And now in closing, we say that our material interests unite with our moral and social welfare, in calling upon you as a town, to make every reasonable effort to liberally maintain and improve our common schools.

C. S. AYER,	}	<i>S. S. Committee of Litchfield.</i>
M. S. H. ROGERS,		
ORAMANDAL SMITH,		