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## Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1873

Oxford (Me.)

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

# FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE

TOWN OF OXFORD,

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1873.

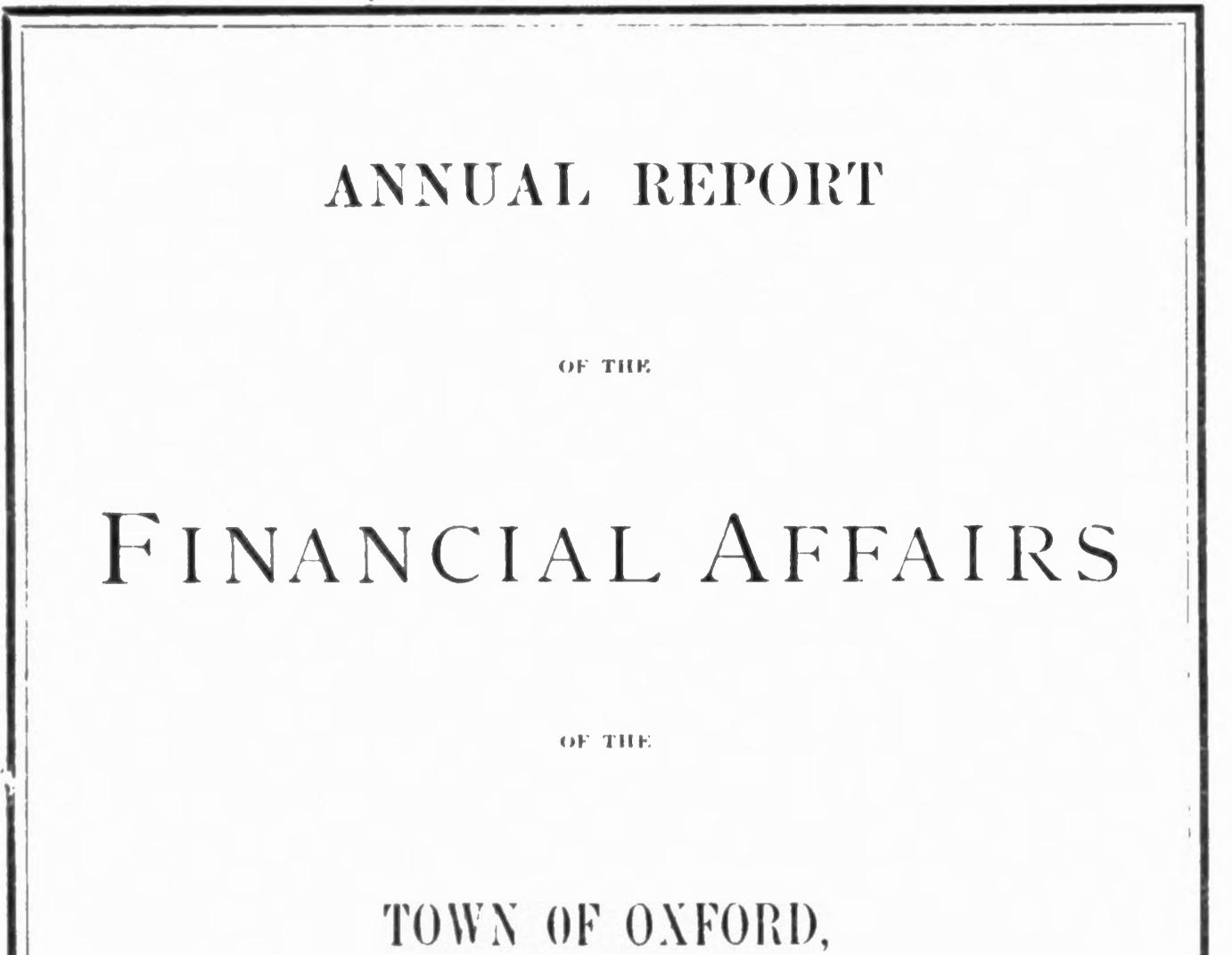
COMPILED BY THE SELECTMEN.

LEWISTON : PRINTED AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.

1873.



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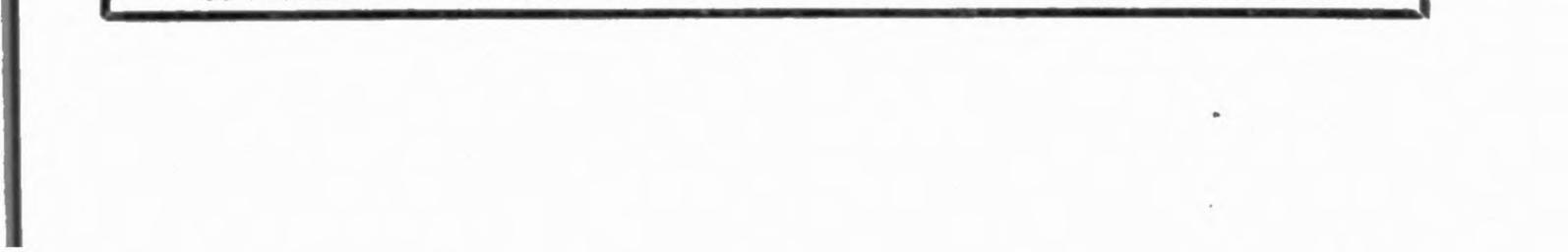


FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1873.

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## FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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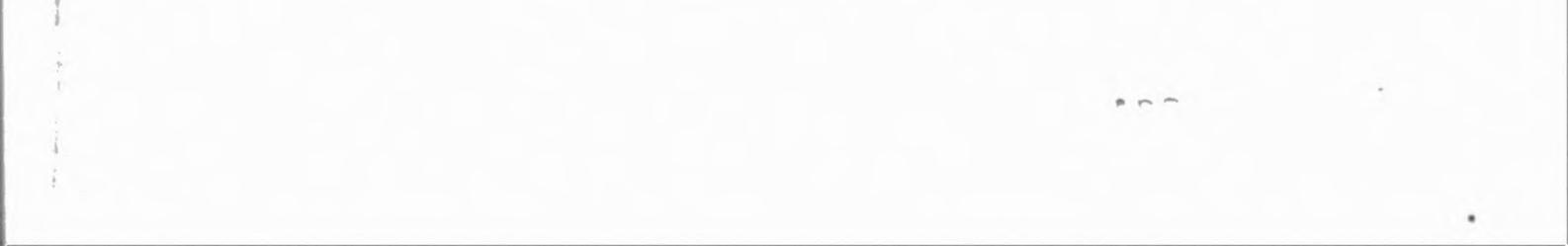
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## TOWN OFFICERS, 1872.

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Treasurer,	• •	•		GEORGE E. HAWKES.
Agent,	• •	•	٠	GEORGE P. WHITNEY.
Superintending School Con	nmittee	, .		JACOB L. HORR, M.D.
				FREEMAN B. ANDREWS,
	•			HOWARD D. SMITH.
Constable and Collector,		•		SETH H. FAUNCE.
Auditor,	• •	۰		CHARLES F. DURELL.

## 203015

## STATISTICAL REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

### VALUATION

Of the Town of Oxford, as taken l	by the Assessors, April 1st,
1872 :	
Real estate,	\$158,409 00
Personal estate,	37,364 00
Total valuation,	\$195,773 00
Valuation in 1871,	197,998 00

Decrease, \$2,225 00

No. of Polls, 1871, 339; No. in 1872, 346.

### TAXES FOR 1872.

Amount raised for schools,	\$1,325	00
To defray town charges, support of poor, pay debts	,	
&c.,	1,800	00
To purchase town library,	300	00
Tax on dogs,	73	00
Delinquent highway taxes of 1871,	117	25
Overlaying,	158	77
State tax,	2,959	18
County tax,	596	30
Total sum assessed,	\$7,329	50
HIGHWAY TAX.		
Amount raised,	\$2,000	00
Overlaying,	67	79
Total assessed,	\$2,067	79

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### TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk,			\$ 2	31
John J. Perry, Selectman,	\$75	25		
Cyrus H. King, "	31	50		
Julius F. Fuller, "	25	50	132	25
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer,			35	00
George P. Whitney, Agent,			20	00
Charles F. Durell, Auditor,				
Seth H. Faunce, Collector,			124	50
Seth H. Faunce, Constable,			9	00
Jacob L. Horr, S. S. Committee,	\$14	50		
Freeman B. Andrews, "	47	50		
Howard D. Smith, "	18	50	80	50
			A 10.1	

Total,

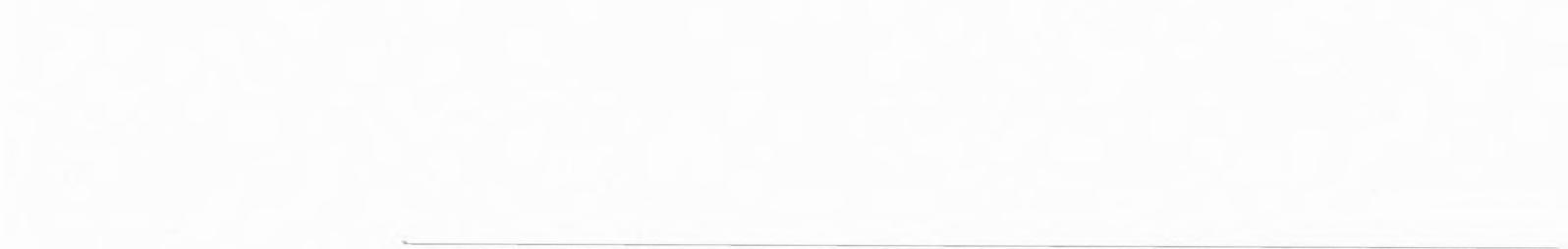
\$404 36

POOR ON FARM, MARCH 1, 1873.

Abigail Leavitt, aged		88 years.			
Mary Moore,		48 "			
Eliza Dean,	6 6	47 "			
Charlotte Ham,	"	18 "			

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock —				
2 oxen,	\$176	00		
6 cows (\$38),	228	00		
2 heifers (\$30),	60	00		
3 sheep (\$4),	12	00		
2 swine (\$12 50),	<b>25</b>	00	\$501	00
Hay —				
8 tons, first quality, (\$10),	\$80	00		
9 tons, second quality (\$8),	72	00	152	00
Furniture,			210	77
Farming tools, all kinds,			192	75
Provisions on hand,			227	51
Total personal property,			\$1,284	03



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## OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

Amount paid Franklin Sargent, one year's a	service,		
ending March 14, 1873,		\$200	00
Interest on farm, stock, tools, &c.,		120	00
Tax on farm and stock,		30	00
Raid for clothing for paupers, and bedding,		57	19
for grass seed sown on farm,		17	75
for corn and meal to winter out stock	k, spring		
of 1872,		112	06
for one yoke of oxen,		156	00
boot between bull and cow,		10	00
blacksmith's bill for year,		18	75
for tools, wares, dishes, &c., carried or	n to farm		
during the year,		26	25
for two pigs,		4	00
for oats and buckwheat to sow,		8	00
for meadow grass,		5	00
for flour, meat, groceries, provisions,	&c., dur-		
ing the year,		192	09
Total,		\$957	59
Cr.			
By two oxen sold,	\$220 00		
one heifer sold,	$26 \ 00$		
stuff sold off of farm, &c.,	123 84		
increase of property on farm,	$184 \ 25$		
paid for cutting fifty-one cords wood,	51 00		
hauling fifty one cords wood to depot,	81 60		
		\$686	69
Total cost of poor on town farm,		\$270	90
COST OF POOR NOT ON	FARM.		
Webber & Cates' bill, small-pox at Bridgton	. estim.	\$100	00
Noyes children,	,,	•	00
John Ordway's family,		6	00
David W. Dinsmore, funeral expenses,		16	
Polly Wardwell, estimated,			00

Martha Gammon, at Insane Hospital from March 1,

\$87	-77
7	00
11	50
55	00
14	90
	7 11 55

Total cost of poor not on farm, \$329 17

### TOWN FARM IN ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF.

CR.

Cash received for wood sold Thomas & Perry,\$200 00Thomas & Perry's indorsed notes for same,3,150 00Fifty-one cords of wood at depot,234 00

\$3,584 00

DR. Paid for shingles to cover barns, \$68 25 for nails, shingling and repairing, 6 47 for shingling and making barn doors,  $24 \ 65$ for cutting and hauling fifty-one cords wood to depot,  $132 \ 60$ \$231 97 ٠ Balance of credit to farm, \$3,352 03 ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1872. Total amount of assessment, \$7,329 50 State tax, \$2,959 18 County tax, 596 30 Money raised for schools, 1,325 00 Discount on sums paid before Sept. 15, 1872, 194 61 Discount on sums paid before Jan 1, 1873, 36 53 Abatements made on tax bills, 1872, 56 16

Available amount from cash taxes,

\$2,161 72

\$5,167 78

7				
Received from sale of wood, Received balance of II. tax paid into	\$200	00		
Treasury,	11	40	\$211	40
Total receipts for the year,			\$2,373	12
ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR TH Town officers' bills, Expenses of poor on farm, Expenses of poor not on farm, Expenses of Mrs. Harrison Gammon, Medicines and medical attendance on poor, Interest on debt, Incidental bills not included aboye,	\$404 270 167 161 30 400		2 1872.	
Total expenses for year,			\$1,565	93
Receipts above expenditures,			\$807	19

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## GAINS FROM LAST YEAR.

Town officers' bills, 1871,	\$469 50
Town officers' bills, 1872,	404 36
Gain,	\$65 14
Expense of poor on farm, 1871,	\$781 00
Expense of poor on farm, 1872,	270 90
Gain,	\$510,10
Expense of poor not on farm, 1871,	\$366 85
Expense of poor not on farm, 1872,	329 17
Gain,	\$37 68
Annual expenses, 1871,	\$3,737 65
Annual expenses, 1872,	1,565 93
Gain,	\$2,171 72

## FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN, MARCH 1, 1873.

Debts due from the Town :				
Outstanding notes,			\$1,708	00
Outstanding orders,			7,373	
Interest due on notes and orders,				30
Due school districts,			371	
Town officers' bills,			404	
Town library fund,			300	
Amount claimed on Harrison road case,			151	
Due county on Welchville road case,				70
Other bills unsettled, including am't due S	Sargent		525	
o vier bind and o vier, moraang an o ado k	Jan Son V			
Total,			\$10,947	70
Available resources to meet the same : —				
Money in the Treasury,	\$632	52		
Thomas & Perry's notes for wood,	3,150	00		
Accrued interest on the same,	110	<b>26</b>		
Stock on farm,	501	00		
Hay on farm,	152	00		
Furniture on farm,	210	77		
Farming tools on farm,	192	75		
Provisions on farm,	227	51		
17,000 hemlock lumber on hand (\$11),	187	00		
51 cords wood at depot (\$4 60),	234	00		
Due from Poland on Joseph Tripp's acct.,	53	00		
Due from Woodstock on Carver bill,	25	51		
Due from collector of 1871,	48	71		
Due from collector of 1872,	1,638	14		
Total available resources,			\$7,303	17
Total debt of town above available assets	,		\$3,644	53
BALANCE SHEET.				
Total debt,			\$10,947	70
Cash assets, outside of personal prop-				
erty on town farm,	\$6,079	14		
Personal property on town farm, esti-				
mated at its cash value,	1,284			
Town farm, estimated cash value,	3,500		\$10,863	17
			¢10,005	11
Total debt above total assets,			\$84	53

## REPORT OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee chosen at the last annual March meeting to examine into the financial standing of the town, have attended to that duty and submit the following report.

We find that on the 1st day of March, 1872, there were<br/>outstanding orders against the town amounting to<br/>0utstanding notes,\$6,33531Outstanding notes,3,17000Outstanding unsettled accounts against town,1,21717Taxes abated since on bills of 1871,5000

\$10,772 48

If to this we add other items of indebtedness on page 9 of printed report, we have a total indebtedness March 1, 1872, of \$11,782 36.

In our examination of the books and records of the town, we find errors made in former settlements amounting in all, principal and interest, to the sum of \$565 60. There were mistakes *against* the town, and the amount has been paid into the treasury, so that this sum should be deducted from the total indebtedness (\$11,782 36), which would leave the real liabilities of the town, March 1, 1872, \$11,216 76.

In the item of "unsettled accounts" (\$1,21717) we included \$365 00 paid D. W. Thurston for personal damages received in 1871, in consequence of a defective highway. Our examination has been thorough and exhaustive, and we are satisfied the results arrived at by us are correct.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. PERRY, GEORGE P. WHITNEY, BENAJAH PRATT, Committee.

OXFORD, Feb. 18th, 1873.

## REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

We have prepared the foregoing Statistical Tables with a good deal of care, and believe them substantially correct. In doing this we have followed the statistics of last year's printed report — except so far as they are changed, or varied by the report of the Committee on Finance. As a basis to ascertain the financial condition of the town, we specially call attention to this report.

The town farm account speaks for itself. It will be seen that the expenses of the poor, on the farm, have been reduced down to a comparative low figure. Acting under the special instructions of the town, on the 29th day of July last we sold at auction the wood on seventy-five acres, on the easterly end of the farm, as run off by a committee in 1867, for \$3,350. We believe it a good sale for the town. Fifty-one cords of wood have been cut and hauled to market by Mr. Sargent, and sold for \$4 60 per cord. We have shingled the two large barns, and made new doors on the northerly side of the same. The tables show a large reduction in the annual expenses for the past year — leaving a surplus of over \$800, which has been appropriated towards the payment of the old debt. Instead of one hundred dollars unsettled bills, as appeared by the printed report of March 1, 1871, the Finance Committee found over twelve hundred dollars, including the Thurston claim of \$365. Nearly all of these have been adjusted the past year, and got out of the way. The Agent and Selectmen have filed a new petition for the discontinuance of the so called Harrison road. If there ever was any necessity for this road none exists now. The indictment on this road has been continued. But one suit remains against the town --- that of Emery Andrews & Co., to recover back the tax of 1871, paid by them. This will be made up "Law" at the March term for the full court.

The roads in this town are in a bad condition, and growing worse every year. The highway tax, in a large number of the districts, melts away in the snows of winter and in the end disappears, with but little or no improvement to the highways. Surveyors neglect to be sworn, in nearly all of the districts, and there is a general "looseness" in the management of the highway taxes. We recommend that a Road Commissioner be chosen for the whole town, and that a sum of money be raised and expended under his direction, on such roads as most need it. The State valuation in this town was reduced by the Legislature of 1871, \$18,000, and by the Legislature of 1872, \$20,-000. It is now too high, in comparison with other towns, and in many instances unequal, as it now stands upon our books. We recommend raising the following sums at the next annual meeting :—

 For schools,
 \$1,400
 00

 For annual expenses, pay debts, &c.,
 1,600
 00

 For repair of highways (money),
 500
 00

 For repair of highways (highway tax),
 2,500
 00

 For town library, to be assessed in 1874 and 1875,
 300
 00

A rigid economy and careful systematic management of the affairs of the town, will in a few years relieve us of our indebtedness, without resorting to onerous taxation. All of which is respectfully submitted in behalf of the Selectmen.

JOHN J. PERRY, Chairman.

## SCHOOL REPORT.

The Superintending School Committee submit the following Report : — The whole number of scholars in town, according to the last census, is 636. Money raised for the schools by the town, \$1,325 00 Money received from the State, 560 33

#### DISTRICT NO. 1. DAVID H. MILLETT, Agent.

Number of scholars, 22. Summer Term, 33 days. Miss ANNIE E. ESTES of Poland, Teacher. Scholars registered, 18; average, 17. Instances of tardiness, 9; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 7. Wages of teacher, \$3 50 per week.

Winter Term, 33 days. Miss ESTES, Teacher. Scholars registered, 23; average. 21. Instances of tardiness, 17; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 8. Wages of teacher, \$3 50 per week. We were much pleased with this school, both in point of order and the very marked improvement of the pupils. The method of instruction was good, and it seemed as if both scholars and teacher vied with each other in making the school a success. We think no school in town can show so good rank in scholarship according to its amount of money.

### DISTRICT NO. 2. JOSEPH PERKINS, Agent.

Whole number of scholars, 28. Miss NELLIE STEVENS, Teacher. Summer Term, 42 days. Scholars registered, 17; average, 16. Instances of tardiness, 51; of dismissal, 17; not absent one half day, 3. Wages of teacher, \$3 00 per week.

Winter Term, 60½ days. Miss ELLA CHADBOURNE, Teacher. Scholars registered, 22; average, 19. Instances of tardiness, 34; of dismissal, 27; not absent one half day, 4. Wages of teacher, \$550 per week, including board.

Miss Stevens came well qualified, and by her faithful labors showed herself well adapted to the wants of the school. The deportment, method of instruction, and thoroughness in studies were excellent, and surpassed anything of the kind we have ever witnessed in this school.

Winter Term. The teacher was kind to her pupils, and seemed to have the good will of each, but the deportment and method of instruction were not such as to meet with approval of your Committee.

### DISTRICT No. 3. J. C. DENNER, Agent.

Scholars returned, 226.

Grammar School. - Summer Term, 40 days. Miss Rose S. BURNS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 35; average, 25. Instances of tardiness, 60; of

dismissal, 84; not absent one half day, 3. Wages of teacher, \$6.00 per week. Many of the scholars made good improvement, but there was want of interest on the part of some which made some discord and unpleasantness. The order was not perfect.

Primary School. - Summer Term. 40 days. Miss LIZZIE BURNS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 40; average, 31. Instances of tardiness, 92; of dismissal, 67; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, \$4.00 per week. This school did not prove as successful as we could wish. Miss Burns failed in point of order, and although her scholars made fair progress, the confusion destroyed all interest to us.

Grammar School. - Fall Term, 60 days. Mr. FERNALD J. SAWYER, Teacher. Scholars registered, 37; average, 29. Instances of tardiness, 278; of dismissal, 137; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, \$45 per month. Mr. Sawyer has shown himself an excellent teacher in other schools, but here, he failed sadly in government, and there was so little interest in the school that it proved an unprofitable term.

Primary School. - Fall Term, 55 days. Miss Rose S. BURNS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 54; average, 36. Instances of tardiness, 185; of dismissal, 22; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, \$6 per week. This term was more successful than the Summer Term, but parents interested themselves more to find fault than to aid the teacher in her labors, or for the best interests of their scholars.

If our teachers could have more encouragement from parents in this district, we should find a great change for the better in our schools.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4. S. A. WEBBER, Agent.

Scholars returned, 49. Summer Term, 44 days. Miss HATTIE A. SAWYER, Teacher. Scholars registered, 26; average, 20. Instances of tardiness, 145; of dismissal, 15; not absent one-half day, 3. Wages of teacher, \$3 25 per week.

Winter Term. FERNALD J. SAWYER, Teacher.

Miss Sawyer is a teacher of some experience, and taught a very successful school.

The Winter Term, under the charge of Mr. Sawyer, was very successful. Good improvement was made and the order was perfect.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5. W. L. STANTON, Agent.

Scholars returned, 27. Summer Term, 35 days. Miss EMMA C. BAR-ROWS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 15; average, 12. Instances of tardiness, 4 (?); of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 0. Wages of teacher, 82 75 per week.

Winter Term, 411 days. HOWARD D. SMITH, Teacher. Scholars registered, 20; average 18. Instances of tardiness, 30; of dismissal, 11; not absent one half day, 5. Wages of teacher, \$33 per month, including board.

Miss Barrows did a good work in this school and we hope the district will secure her services for another summer.

The Winter Term was taught by one of your Committee, who believes that the school will compare favorably with any in town, both as regards scholarship and deportment.

### DISTRICT No. 6. ROBERT THOMAS, Agent.

Scholars returned, 20. Summer School, 40 days. Miss DELIA DOWNING, Teacher. Scholars registered, 13; average, 10. Instances of tardiness, 7; of dismissal, 1; not absent one half day, 3. Wages of teacher, \$2 50 per week.

Winter Term, 55 days. Miss ANGIE WASHBURN, Teacher. Scholars registered, 14; average, 12. Instances of dismissal, 3; of tardiness, 5; not absent one half day, 2. Wages of teacher, \$3 50 per week.

This was Miss Downing's fourth term in this district, from which we conclude that the district were well satisfied with her management.

Miss Washburn's school made a very good appearance at the closing examination in most of the branches taught. We are very sorry to say that we were not quite satisfied with the recitations in Arithmetic, both Mental and Written. We think thoroughness is the chief requisite in anything worth possessing. Order excellent.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7. HORATIO K. PRATT, Agent.

Scholors returned, 49. Summer Term, 55 days. Miss ALICE PRATT, Teacher. Scholars registered, 27; average, 22. Instances of tardiness, 11; of dismissal, 2; not absent one half day, 5. Wages of teacher, \$2 50 per week.

Winter Term, 66 days. Mr. LUTHER MAXIM of Paris, Teacher. Scholars registered, 30; average, 24. Wages of teacher, \$30 per month.

This was Miss Pratt's first attempt at teaching, and was a very successful one, above the average of beginners. Miss Pratt, with experience, will make one of our best teachers.

Mr. Maxim is one of the ablest instructors to be found in our schools, and comes to the work with an earnestness which has inspired his pupils with a worthy emulation. In addition to the branches usually taught, the Higher Mathematics and Languages received good attention, and the promptness with which answers were given is the only praise which need be bestowed on teacher and scholars.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8. SAMUEL H. BUMPUS, Agent.

Scholars returned, 11. Summer Term, 42 days. Miss EMILY L. BUCK-NAM, Teacher. Scholars registered, 9; average 7. Instances of tardiness, 13; of dismissal, 6; not absent one half day, 6. Wages of teacher, \$1 75 per week.

Winter Term also taught by Miss Bucknam, who showed herself well adapted to the wants of this school. Although the number of scholars was small she found no time to be idle. The agent did not notify us of the close of the Winter Term, therefore it received but one visit, but judging from the improvement shown at the first term, we should say that Miss Bucknam was a successful teacher in this school.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10. SAMUEL E. WATERMAN, Agent.

Scholars returned, 87. Summer Term, 33 days. Miss ANNIE C. HOLMES, Teacher. Scholars registered, 36; average, 30. Instance of tardiness, 127; of dismissal, (?), not absent one half day, 5. Wages of teacher, \$5 00 per week.

Winter Term, 50 days. Miss HOLMES, Teacher. Scholars registered, 42; average, 37. Instances of tardiness, 203; not absent one half day, 9. Wages of teacher, \$7 per week. Miss Holmes is one of our best educators. She is at home in the school room, and possesses a faculty for securing the best of order, and we were highly pleased with the very marked improvement of her school.

#### DISTRICT No. 11. ANSON MARTIN, Agent.

Scholars returned, 23. Summer Term, 25 days. Miss ROSE S. BURNS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 22; average, 17. Instances of tardiness, 54; of dismissal, 22; not absent one half day, 6. Wages of teacher, \$3.30 per week.

Winter Term, 38 days. Miss EMMA C. BARROWS, Teacher. Scholars registered, 19; average, 16. Instances of tardiness, 20; of dismissal, 0; not absent one half day, 8. Wages of teacher, \$4 00 per week.

Miss Burns met with good success in this school.

Miss Barrows worked hard to make this school equal to her former efforts in this town, and the scholars made fair improvement in their studies, but the deportment was not such as to warrant our approval.

#### DISTRICT NO. 12. DANIEL YEATON, Agent.

Scholars returned, 20. Summer Term, 39 days. Miss ELLA CHADBOURN, Teacher. Scholars registered, 15; average, 14. Instances of tardiness, 24; of dismissal, 4; not absent one half day, 9. Wages of teacher, \$3 25 per week.

Winter Term, 48 days. Miss LUCY W. FILES of Poland, Teacher. Scholars registered, 14; average, 13. Instances of tardiness, 10; of dismissal, 2; not absent one half day, 5. Wages of teacher, \$5 00 per week.

Miss Chadbourn gave very good satisfaction in this district.

Miss Files is an experienced teacher, and did well for the school. One of the main features of the school was thoroughness, and she made it a point to have perfect recitations. We think Miss Files may safely be classed among our best teachers.

In making this report, I will here say that although by right it devolves upon another, I find, at a late hour, that I must do it myself. During the school year I have had under my supervision the following schools, to wit: Nos. 1, 2, 8, 11, 12, the Winter Term of No. 6, and, in connection with Dr. J. L. Horr, Nos. 3, and 10. I have made it my business to visit these schools to learn, as far as possible, how well each individual school was fulfilling the great design of a " common district school;" to ascertain where to give credit to the teachers, and when to bestow praise upon the scholars.

It is conceeded by every thinking mind that the whole superstructure of education is based on the home life and home culture, and thus we come at once to the fact that the parents of scholars are every day making either high or low the rank of our schools. If, therefore, you wish for the fullest benefit from the large amount of money which it costs each year to send your children to school, you must begin each one, over "against his own door," and see that you send good children to these schools, and then it will be right for you to inquire whether our teachers are training them into good scholars, and until you are interested enough to see to that, you have but little claim to parental affection for your children, and much less, that in any way you are a benefactor of your race. Again, I repeat, the corner stone is laid at home, under the rooffree, and if your child goes out from your home well taught to respect his parents, it is just as natural that he should grow up into a good scholar as that the tree grows upward, or the leaves of autumn fall to the ground. An oak will be an oak, no matter how tenderly it may be nurtured, or how rough the blast may sweep over it. Its germ was an acorn, and God intended it for an oak. No human agency can change the great underlying principle, but when that tree is young, a few moments' pruning and a little care

in its tender years will so shape its future, that it will develop into a beautiful tree, and on the other hand, if the tender shoot is choked by brambles, bent down by hedges, and torn by rude blasts, then no pruning can strengthen its trunk, no care can bring beauty to its stunted form. Now at once get up from this careless indifference, and act each one his own part; do not leave this great work to others alone. Send your children to school in season, send them every day, and do not let yours swell the list of truants. Now look at the record of District No. 3, you will see that of 226 scholars in the district, only 2 (Georgie Kavanaugh and Amy Rawson) attended the schools every day. There is something wrong in this district, the matter cannot be helped by the teachers, or by one alone, but all must do their part in this noble cause; then we may reap more fully the fruit of good home influence, and see the ennobling effects of a good education.

#### TEACHERS.

Although most of our Teachers will compare favorably with the best in the county, yet we think that the standard of scholarship of a few is not so high as it should be.

#### AGENTS.

We call your attention to Sec. 61 of the School Laws, to wit: Each School Agent shall return to the Superintending School Committee, in the month of April annually, a certified list of the names and ages of all persons in his district, from four to twenty-one years, as they existed on the first day of said month, leaving out of said enumeration all persons coming from other places, to attend any college or academy, or to labor in any factory, or at any manufacturing or other business.

> F. B. ANDREWS, For the Committee.



