

1875

Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending March, 1875

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE
TOWN OF OXFORD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1875.

COMPILED BY THE AUDITOR.

LEWISTON :
PRINTED AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.
1875.

APR 19 1945

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TOWN OFFICERS, 1874.

Clerk.....THOMAS BAKER.
Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of Poor..SETH H. FAUNCE,
SAMUEL B. WATERMAN,
SILAS N. WRIGHT.
Treasurer.....GEORGE E. HAWKES.
Agent.....GEORGE P. WHITNEY.
AuditorSEBASTIAN S. SMITH.
Superintending School Committee.....FREEMAN B. ANDREWS,
HORACE H. HALL,
HOWARD D. SMITH.
Collector and Constable.....SULLIVAN FULLER.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION

Of the Town of Oxford, as taken by the Assessors April 1st,
1874:—

Real Estate,	\$171,047 00
Personal Estate,	73,461 00

Total Valuation,	\$244,508 00
Valuation in 1873,	200,806 00

Increase,	\$43,702 00
Number of Polls, 327.	

TAXES FOR 1874.

State Tax,	\$2,573 64
County Tax,	575 73
Town Tax in Support of Schools,	1,325 00
“ “ Poor, Pay Debts, etc.	2,000 00
To purchase Hearse,	150 00
For Free High School,	300 00
Tax on Dogs,	75 00
Delinquent Highway Tax, 1873,	444 11
Overlaying,	175 00
Total amount committed for collection,	\$7,618 48

HIGHWAY TAXES, 1874.

Amount raised,	\$2,500 00
Overlay,	20 90
	\$2,520 90

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk,	\$1 50
Seth H. Faunce, Selectman, etc.,	89 83
Sam'l B. Waterman, "	50 25
Silas N. Wright, "	61 50
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer,	35 00
George P. Whitney, Agent,	18 25
Sebastian S. Smith, Auditor,	7 50
Sullivan Fuller, Collector,	114 28
Sullivan Fuller, Constable,	4 50
F. B. Andrews, S. S. Committee,	67 30
H. H. Hall, "	21 00
H. D. Smith, "	7 00
Total Town Officers' Bills,	<hr/> \$477 91

POOR ON TOWN FARM, FEB. 15, 1875.

Abigail Leavitt, aged	90 years.
Mary Moore, "	50 "
David Cates, "	75 "
Geo. W. Peabody, "	70 "
Harriet Maddox, "	27 "
Barbara Hamlin, "	72 "

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock, Hay, Furniture, Tools, etc. :—

2 oxen,	\$200 00
4 cows,	160 00
1 two-year-old with calf,	30 00
4 two-year-olds,	80 00
3 one-year-olds,	36 00
3 sheep,	15 00
2 swine,	32 00
19 hens,	9 50
12 tons hay, first quality,	168 00
6 tons hay, second quality,	48 00
2 tons straw,	10 00
115 bushels oats,	69 00
Furniture,	107 83

Farming tools,	\$245 58
Provisions,	223 25
Total personal property,	<u>\$1,434 16</u>

OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

Amount paid C. A. Records, to Feb. 15, 1875,	\$252 09
Amount paid for labor on farm,	91 67
Interest on farm, stock, and tools,	30 00
Cash paid for—	
Clothing and bedding,	30 75
Tobacco,	24 67
Boots, shoes, and repairing same,	1 35
Coffee (27 lbs.) \$8 93 ; tea (18½ lbs.) \$10 54,	19 47
Grass seed,	7 69
Corn and meal,	8 05
1 cow, \$30 ; 2 one-year-old heifers, \$38 00,	68 00
Blacksmithing, iron, coal, and nails,	11 11
Tools, wares, and dishes,	22 38
Flour, meat, groceries, provisions, &c.,	315 35
Coffin for Eliza Dean,	14 75
Digging grave for Eliza Dean,	3 00
Less property on the farm than last year,	70 27
	<u>\$970 60</u>

CR.

By oxen sold,	\$190 00	
Sundries sold,	177 43	
Cash paid Shurtleff (old debt),	16 93	
Cash paid for meal (old debt),	5 00	
	<u>389 36</u>	
		<u>\$581 24</u>

COST OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

Mr. Traverse,	\$17 00
John Ordway,	6 37
Alexander Denneston,	4 18
Mrs. Holt,	34 06
Mrs. Hamblin,	3 00
For keeping tramps,	4 75
	<u>\$69 36</u>

NOTE.—Amount claimed by New Gloucester and
Poland for Morey and Hyer families, \$14 00

ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1874.

Total amount of assessment,		\$7,618 53
State tax,	\$2,573 54	
County tax,	575 73	
Money raised for schools,	1,325 00	
Money raised for Free High School,	300 00	
Discount on sums paid before Sept. 15, 1874,	201 31	
Discount on sums paid before Jan. 1, 1875,	42 20	
Abatement on bills of 1874,	77 68	
	<hr/>	\$5,095 46
Available amount from cash taxes,		\$2,523 07

RECEIPTS OUTSIDE OF TAXATION.

Received of E. Andrews & Co. for costs,	\$32 67	
for oxen sold,	158 75	
of Thomas & Perry,	1,182 00	
of Greenleaf boy for tuition,	1 50	
for license,	2 00	
highway tax paid to treasurer,	145 82	
of Rawson & Chapman,	173 53	
	<hr/>	1,696 27
Total receipts during year,		\$4,219 34

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1874.

Town officers' bills,	\$447 91
Expense of poor on farm,	581 24
Expense of poor not on farm,	69 26
Medical attendance for poor,	30 00
Paid interest on debt,	192 87
Expended on highways and bridges,	426 55
Blank books,	10 74
Sealing weights and measures,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$1,761 07

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN, FEB. 15, 1875.

Outstanding notes,	\$1,382 00
Outstanding orders,	8,583 92
Interest on notes and orders now due,	808 81
Due school districts,	537 20
Town officers' bills not paid,	129 08
Due Lewiston Journal Office for printing Reports of 1872-3,	60 00
Due F. E. Shaw for advertising (old bill),	10 00
Due Charles Records for services on farm,	224 76
Due Dr. Stevens,	30 00
Amount claimed in Joel Crooker case,	131 93
Amount claimed in Harrison road case,	153 00
Due John J. Perry,	188 00
Other bills,	11 55
	<hr/>
	\$12,250 25

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO MEET SAME.

Money in treasury,	\$554 70
Thomas & Perry's note and interest,	1,207 50
Sargent's note and interest,	84 00
Cash received of Denison for wood,	138 36
Due from State—	
Mill tax,	590 59
Savings bank tax,	402 92
On account of High School,	162 62
Pensions paid widows,	120 00
Due from Raymond,	8 08
Due from Vassalboro,	19 74
Due from Gray, on account of D. H. Blake and wife,	33 37
Due on account of Mrs. Hale and family,	18 54
Received of Poland on account of Tripp family,	5 98
Due from collectors,	2,857 29
	<hr/>
	6,203 69
	<hr/>
Debt above resources,	\$6,046 56

LIST OF TOWN ORDERS DRAWN

From February 16th, 1874, to February 15th, 1875.

No.		
127.	A. L. Hersey, medical attendance on Tripp's family, ,	\$12 25
128.	A. L. Hersey, doctoring poor for year 1873,	23 00
129.	E. J. Colcord, teaching in district No. 3,	150 00
130.	Charlotte Chadbourne, boarding teacher,	45 00
131.	A. G. Hinds, boarding teacher,	33 00
132.	Thomas Baker, goods furnished district No. 3,	14 25
133.	H. Emma Child, teaching in district No. 3,	60 00
134.	L. Augusta Nelson, interest on Order No. 130 — taken up,	1,315 93
135.	L. Augusta Nelson, interest on Order No. 129 — taken up,	1,145 80
136.	Horace Sanborn, teaching in district No. 4,	72 00
137.	J. J. Perry, bills marked A, B, and C, 1871-2-3,	85 00
138.	S. H. Faunce, abatement of taxes, 1872,	67 07
139.	S. H. Faunce, abatement of taxes, 1873,	29 90
140.	S. B. Waterman, services as selectman, 1873,	43 75
141.	S. H. Faunce, collecting taxes in full, 1872,	31 93
142.	S. H. Faunce, services as constable, 1873,	4 50
143.	S. H. Faunce, part pay't collecting taxes, 1873,	50 00
144.	G. E. Hawkes, services as treasurer,	35 00
145.	Thomas Baker, services as clerk,	1 50
146.	William N. Thomas, services as selectman,	48 00
147.	A. Shurtleff & Son, provisions for town farm,	216 96
148.	A. L. Hersey, medical attendance, Mrs. Morey,	1 75
149.	Joseph Farris, abatement of taxes, 1872,	7 75
150.	S. H. Faunce, abatement Jos. Farris' tax, 1873,	13 44
1.	Howard D. Smith, teaching in district No. 5,	79 50
2.	Sam'l T. Beal, notifying Mr. Carter, Road Com'r,	8 85
3.	Francis Holden, town reports,	25 00
4.	Francis Holden, services as selectman,	80 00
5.	S. S. Smith, services as auditor, 1873,	5 25
6.	Francis Holden, paid town of Poland—Hyer family,	5 00
7.	Francis Holden, paid for Hyer and Tripp families,	33 16
8.	Nathaniel Churchell, bills of 1871,	3 10
9.	Josiah Bucknam, bridge plank, 1871,	28 01

10.	W. W. Wilkins, boarding teacher, district No. 1,	\$6 07
11.	Seth T. Holbrook, repairs and moving wood,	16 50
12.	Chas. Records, overseer town farm, 1873,	200 00
13.	Chas. Records, overseer town farm, 1873,	150 00
14.	Clara A. Merrill, teaching, district No. 10,	62 50
15.	Geo. W. King, boarding teacher, district No. 10,	27 50
16.	Silas E. King, sawing wood, district No. 10,	7 75
17.	Freeman B. Andrews, services as S. S. committee,	49 37
18.	A. M. Paine, wood furnished,	7 50
19.	Elmer V. Walker, supplies to Wm. Irving,	6 00
20.	Samuel B. Waterman, wood,	12 18
21.	Robt. C. Thomas, boarding teacher, district No. 6,	16 80
22.	Sullivan Fuller, abatement on bills, 1870,	17 66
23.	Fogg & Hoyt, blank books,	8 00
24.	Howard D. Smith, services as S. S. committee,	21 00
25.	Horace H. Hall, services as S. S. committee,	11 00
26.	S. S. Smith, wood for John Hale,	1 50
27.	Hiram Gilbert, taking care town house,	5 00
28.	Horace H. Hall, cash paid for school apparatus,	52 80
29.	Horace H. Hall, cash paid for school apparatus,	10 50
30.	A. C. Welch, wood for district No. 5,	13 75
31.	Cora E. Richards, teaching, district No. 12,	25 60
32.	Horatio K. Pratt, work on highway,	25 60
33.	Horatio K. Pratt, work on highway,	12 00
34.	Timothy Rowe, building culvert, district No. 8,	15 00
35.	Silas Downing, work on highway,	6 70
36.	Henry W. Coy, highway money paid S. Rawson & Co.,	20 64
37.	Benjamin Sanborn, interest on note,	12 00
38.	A. T. Stone, boarding teacher, district No. 12,	7 80
39.	T. L. Robinson, bridge plank,	31 26
40.	Saml. B. Libby, boarding teacher, district No. 2,	17 00
41.	W. H. H. Bryant, teaching, district No. 3,	99 00
42.	Charlotte Chadbourne, boarding teacher, district No. 3,	41 25
43.	Nellie F. King, teaching, district No. 3,	60 50
44.	Charlotte Dudley, teaching, district No. 7,	40 00
45.	Nathan Dudley, boarding teacher, district No. 7,	20 00
46.	Julia Hall, teaching, district No. 4,	31 50

47.	Simon Billings, wood and repairs,	\$11 15
48.	Julia Battles, teaching, district No. 2,	24 00
49.	Clara A. Merrill, teaching and board, district No. 10,	72 50
50.	J. L. Woodsome, boarding teacher, district No. 4,	13 50
51.	S. T. Holbrook, paid for sand,	15 20
52.	Lizzie Everett, teaching, district No. 11,	30 00
53.	Cora C. Clifford, teaching district No. 6,	27 50
54.	C. S. Russell, repairs on school house, district No. 4,	4 15
55.	Hattie Hubbard, teaching, district No. 8,	25 00
56.	Henry Everett, work on highway,	1 32
57.	A. S. Fuller, contract on Hackett road,	15 00
58.	S. N. Wright, repairs on poor farm house,	4 55
59.	Charles Swift, work on highways,	17 80
60.	Sullivan Fuller, discount on taxes, Sept. 15,	201 31
61.	Joseph Robinson, abatement on taxes,	50 00
62.	Robt. Thomas, boarding teacher, district No. 6,	19 75
63.	Silas Downing, work on highways,	9 30
64.	J. D. Holt, teaching Free High School,	100 00
65.	A. G. Hinds, boarding teacher, district No. 3,	30 25
66.	Nathan Dudley, repairs on school house, district No. 7,	65 00
67.	Alpheus Morse, building culvert and filling,	18 00
68.	W. S. Dodge, assisting Mrs. Gammon to Pitts- field, 1872,	15 40
69.	Silas E. King, nails for Welchville bridge,	2 12
70.	George W. Staples, work on bridge,	14 50
71.	S. N. Wright, work on bridges and cash paid out,	29 50
72.	S. H. Faunce, work on bridges,	27 35
73.	Elmer H. Chapman, work on bridges,	5 25
74.	A. L. Faunce, work on bridges,	11 81
75.	Nellie F. King, teaching, dist. No. 3,	71 50
76.	Emma King, teaching, dist. No. 3,	55 00
77.	A. G. Hinds, boarding teachers, dist. No. 3,	60 50
78.	S. T. Holbrook, repairs on school-house,	12 60
79.	S. T. Holbrook, working on highway,	3 39
80.	S. B. Waterman, money paid out and work, Wardwell road,	57 72

81.	S. B. Waterman, work on Welchville bridge,	\$5 75
82.	Josiah Bucknam, lumber for Welchville bridge,	29 08
83.	Thomas Baker, coffin for Traverse,	14 50
84.	D. B. Perry, coffin and box for Mrs. Blake,	16 75
85.	A. Morse, work on roads,	3 47
86.	J. D. Holt, teaching Free High School,	248 00
87.	Thomas Baker, curtains &c., for school house, district No. 3,	17 55
88.	Josiah Keen, taking care school rooms, district No. 3,	9 00
89.	D. B. Yeatten, wood,	4 75
90.	James L. Holden, work on highways,	3 55
91.	Alice M. Pratt, cash paid for board,	18 00
92.	Alice M. Pratt, teaching, district No. 10,	36 00
93.	H. H. Bryant, teaching, district No. 2,	80 00
94.	W. B. Robinson, wood for district No. 11,	4 25
95.	Robert Thomas, wood for district No. 11,	10 00
96.	Seth T. Holbrook, two one-year old heifers— town farm.	38 00
97.	S. B. Waterman, one cow for town farm,	30 00
98.	H. D. Smith, teaching, district No. 4,	21 00
99.	G. W. Farrington, work on road,	8 45
100.	Thomas L. Robinson, bridge plank and timber,	85 93
101.	Orin Jones, wood for Mrs. Holt,	4 00
102.	David L. Millett, wood and repairs,	10 11
103.	Merrill M. Durgin, teaching, district No. 1,	50 00
104.	Electra Files, teaching, district No. 12,	63 00
105.	Levi B. Fickett, boarding teacher, district No. 12,	15 00
106.	Samuel M. Keen, services as agent, district No. 12,	4 50
107.	Sullivan Fuller, discount on taxes, Jan. 1, 1875,	42 20
108.	Clara A. Merrill, teaching, district No. 10,	34 00
109.	D. B. Perry, coffin for Eliza Dean,	14 75
110.	Washington Dean, digging grave for Nath'l Rowe,	2 50
111.	J. D. Holt, part pay teaching, district No. 3,	50 00
112.	Charles Bean, part pay teaching, dist. No. 5,	15 00
113.	J. L. Woodsome, boarding teacher, dist. No. 4,	16 00
114.	Julia Hall, teaching, district No. 4,	40 00

115.	W. H. Pratt, repairs on school house, district No. 3,	\$11 63
116.	S. H. Bumpus, work on highway,	23 55
117.	Nathan McAllister, getting weights and measures sealed,	2 50
118.	Jacob Dean, stringers for inlet bridge,	3 00
119.	Elmer V. Walker, supplies for town farm,	55 00
120.	Anna L. Favor, teaching, district No. 6,	30 00
121.	Belle Merrill, teaching, district No. 9,	35 91
122.	Geo. R. Paine, digging grave for Eliza Dean,	3 00
123.	F. B. Andrews, teaching, district No. 11,	73 64
124.	Silas N. Wright, cash paid County Treasurer—Harrison road,	113 30
125.	Geo. E. Hawkes, blank book for orders,	2 74
126.	Robert C. Thomas, boarding teacher, dist. No. 6,	13 60
127.	Geo. P. Whitney, cash paid Strout & Gage, Bridgton case,	125 00
128.	Bennie M. Pratt, teaching in district No. 7,	105 00
129.	Lemuel Crooker, milk furnished Mrs. Holt,	1 92
130.	Sullivan Fuller, abatement on taxes 1874,	27 68
131.	Sullivan Fuller, part pay collecting taxes 1874,	60 00
132.	D. P. Horr, stationery and blank books,	7 56
133.	Silas N. Wright, goods furnished Jos. Tripp,	1 73
134.	Silas N. Wright, cash paid in Crooker case,	8 20
135.	Whitney & Clark, supplies to Mrs. Irving,	14 87
136.	Whitney & Clark, supplies to Mrs. John Hale,	4 12
137.	Whitney & Clark, meal for town farm,	6 25
138.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to Mrs. Holt,	17 59
139.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to Mrs. John Hale,	13 92
140.	Durell & Hawkes, nails for bridge,	3 77
141.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to Mrs. A. Lovering,	5 51
142.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to Azariah Jackson,	8 08
143.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to Mrs. Irving,	1 87
144.	Durell & Hawkes, supplies to John Ordway,	2 65
145.	Seth H. Faunce, collecting taxes 1873,	53 00
146.	Seth H. Faunce, abatement on tax 1871,	23 68
147.	Seth H. Faunce, abatement on bills 1872,	30 91
148.	Lottie F. Hammond, teaching in district No. 3,	50 00
149.	A. G. Hinds, boarding teacher, district No. 3,	27 50

150.	Seth H. Faunce, cash paid in Crooker case,	\$38 52
151.	Durell & Hawkes, goods for town farm,	3 92
152.	Thomas Baker, goods for town farm,	41 86
153.	Thomas Robinson, supplies to Jos. Tripp,	4 25
154.	Thomas Robinson, supplies to John Ordway,	2 77
155.	James L. Holden, wood for Mrs. Irving,	3 00
156.	Charles Records, services on town farm,	100 00
157.	Silas E. King, supplies to D. H. Blake,	5 75
158.	Silas E. King, nails for covered bridge,	1 61
159.	Silas E. King, supplies to Mrs. Denniston,	4 18
160.	Thomas Baker, services as town clerk,	1 50
161.	Silas N. Wright, looking up pauper's residence,	2 75
162.	Silas N. Wright, cash paid in Crooker case,	7 00
163.	George P. Whitney, cash paid on Harrison road case, 1873,	14 49
164.	Geo. P. Whitney, services as Town Agent, 1873,	18 25
165.	S. S. Smith, abatement on taxes 1869,	44 21
166.	Seth H. Faunce, services as selectman,	89 83
167.	S. N. Wright, services as selectman,	61 50
168.	Howard D. Smith, services as S. S. committee,	7 00
169.	Geo. P. Whitney, services as town agent,	18 25
170.	Seth H. Faunce, services and cash paid in Crooker case,	7 00
171.	Geo. P. Whitney, cash paid out in Crooker case,	34 85
172.	S. B. Waterman, going to Harrison for Mrs. Hamlin,	3 00
173.	S. B. Waterman, expense burying Mrs. Blake,	10 87
174.	S. B. Waterman, looking up Mrs. Hale's res- idence,	3 00
175.	S. S. Smith, committee on town books,	5 25
176.	S. B. Waterman, keeping tramps,	1 00
177.	S. B. Waterman, services as selectman,	50 25
178.	S. E. King, supplies to town farm,	101 71
179.	H. H. Hall, services as S. S. committee,	21 00
180.	Geo. E. Hawkes, services as treasurer,	35 00
181.	McKeen & Blake, bolts for bridge,	2 05
182.	A. G. Hinds, keeping tramps,	3 75
183.	F. B. Andrews, taking census scholars,	1 75
184.	Geo. W. Bean, teaching in district No. 5,	85 00

185.	Solon G. Walker, repairs on school house, district No. 5,	\$4 00
186.	Elmer V. Walker, supplies to town farm,	8 58
187.	Sullivan Fuller, services as constable,	4 50

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

This report contains a list of all orders drawn since the sixteenth of last February, at which time the report of last year was closed, to the fifteenth day of February inst.; and I think it advisable that the municipal year hereafter close on the fifteenth of said month.

The report, I believe, embraces nearly every item of indebtedness against the town.

The appraisal of property on the town farm is, I think, nearer the real value than it has been for many years past, especially on the household furniture—that being rated more than 50 per cent. less than in former years.

I regret that the system of book-keeping proposed during the past year has not been carried to that state of completeness it should have been.

I would recommend that the S. S. Committee require school teachers to impress upon the minds of pupils the utility of expressing ideas with brevity.

S. S. SMITH, *Auditor.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

APPROPRIATION.

Money raised by the town,	\$1,325 00
Amount unappropriated last year,	294 65
Amount received from the State from bank tax and interest on permanent school fund,	402 92
Amount to be received from the State from mill tax, estimated,	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,222 57
Divided per capita among the schools,	\$2,015 05
Divided among the smaller districts,	207 52
	<hr/>
	\$2,222 57

DISTRICT No. 1.—DAVID MILLET, Agent.

The Summer Term was under the instruction of Miss JENNIE N. HUBBARD of Paris. She proved herself faithful and earnest, and we can truly say that we were never better satisfied with the improvement of all the pupils in this school than at this term.

Winter Term, taught by MERRILL M. DURGIN of Poland. This was Mr. Durgin's first term. We think that he, like most beginners, confined himself too much to the questions and answers found in the books, yet are of the opinion that the improvement of the school warrants us in saying that it was a successful term.

DISTRICT No. 2.—SIMON H. ELDEN, Agent.

Summer Term, taught by Miss JULIA BATTLES of South Paris. This was her first attempt at teaching. We found her well qualified in her studies, and are sure that she spared no pains to have her scholars improve. The closing examination proved that her efforts were not in vain. The order was not what it should have been.

Winter Term, taught by Mr. H. H. BRYANT of Bethel. Mr. Bryant taught an excellent school, and his patrons have good reason to be proud of the improvement of their scholars while under the instruction of such teachers.

DISTRICT No. 3.—S. T. HOLBROOK, Agent.

Summer Term, Primary School was taught by Miss NELLIE F. KING of Paris. Miss King is an experienced teacher. She labored faithfully, and we

do not hesitate to say that this was one of the best schools enjoyed in this department for a long time.

The Grammar School was taught by Mr. Wm. H. H. Bryant of Bethel, who proved himself to be not only a good instructor but an excellent disciplinarian.

Fall Term, the Primary Department was taught by Miss EMMA KING of Paris. Miss King exhibited great patience and perseverance with her school of forty-eight little restless children. These very excellent qualities were productive of good results in the progress of the pupils in their studies, but were taken advantage of by them in their deportment. We believe that she worked hard and earnestly, but there was a decided lack in the discipline; and we feel that good discipline, especially in this school, is of great importance.

The Grammar Department was taught by Miss NELLIE F. KING. Quite a number of the pupils usually attending this department passed to the High School during this term, relieving the teacher of a multiplicity of classes,—a difficulty which teachers have to contend with in almost every school in town. Miss King fully repaid the district for this relief, by giving to the classes under her charge the benefit of an excellent drill. The closing examination is worthy of notice for orderly deportment and prompt and correct recitations. The term was creditable to both teacher and pupils.

The Winter Term, Primary Department, was taught by Miss LOTTIE F. HAMMOND of Paris. Miss Hammond has had considerable experience in teaching, and her management of her bright and active family of little ones was, in the main, very satisfactory. A fair degree of discipline was maintained, and good progress made in the studies pursued by them. The teachers who have labored in this school, during the past two years at least, have established for themselves enviable reputations as teachers in other fields of labor, and their work in this school has, in many points, shown that their good name was well earned. We are confident, however, that to make a first-class school in this department, we require nothing less than a special genius in the teachers' profession.

The Winter Term, of the Grammar School was taught by Mr. J. D. HOLT; Mrs. J. D. HOLT, assistant. The attendance was larger than at any previous term in this department. Mr. Holt's method of teaching is practical in character, and the efforts of these teachers were crowned with success.

DISTRICT No. 4.—SIMON BILLINGS, Agent.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss JULIA HALL of Norway, who is a thoroughly trained and competent teacher. Miss Hall's management of her school was very satisfactory to us, and we wish she had received the cordial support of *all* her patrons.

DISTRICT No. 5.—SOLON G. WALKER, Agent.

There was no summer school in this district. Mr. C. W. BEAN of Bryant's Pond, has been employed to teach the Winter Term, which is in session at the time of making this report, and yet to be visited by your Committee.

DISTRICT No. 6.—ROBERT THOMAS, Agent.

Summer Term, taught by Miss CORA CLIFFORD of Paris. We were not very favorably impressed by the appearance of the school at our last visit, yet we think that the scholars showed good improvement in some of their studies.

Winter Term, taught by Miss ANNA FAVOR of Paris. Miss Favor was well qualified for this position, save in ability to govern. She strove hard to make her school a success, and her classes showed a good degree of advancement; yet the first requisite of a good school was wanting, and it seemed to us that some of the boys needed a few practical lessons with illustrations not found in the books.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—NATHAN DUDLEY, Agent.

Summer Term, taught by Miss CHARLOTTE DUDLEY. We found the order good, the scholars interested, and recitations well rendered. It seemed to us, however, that the teacher was too much confined to the text books to attain the best results.

The Winter Term was under the tuition of Mr. BENNIE PRATT of this town. We were much pleased with the appearance of the school, both at the opening and close. The government was mild but firm, the instruction good, and the class exercises showed that we have scholars in this district who are thoroughly in earnest in their studies.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—NEWELL THOMAS, Agent.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss HATTIE HUBBARD of Paris. We found Miss Hubbard doing a good work for those attending her school, and successful in her efforts to interest her pupils in their studies. We did not visit this school at its close, but from the general satisfaction expressed, and the earnest words of commendation which we have received from some of the older pupils, we are confident that Miss Hubbard met with excellent success.

The Winter Term of this school was taught by Miss EMMA BARROWS of Paris. This, too, has been a profitable school, Miss Barrows having fully sustained her former good reputation as a teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—SAMUEL WATERMAN, Agent.

The Winter Term for 1873-4 closed too late to be reported last year. It was under the instruction of Miss CLARA A. MERRILL, who fully sustained her reputation as a faithful and capable teacher. The closing examination was attended by several of the patrons of the school, who expressed themselves much pleased with the exercises of the day, which were certainly creditable to teacher and pupils. Miss Merrill had charge of the following Summer Term, and did very excellent work in it.

The Fall Term was taught by Miss ALICE PRATT of this town, who has already received good reports from your Committee. The school was smaller than usual, owing largely to the fact that quite a number of the larger pupils attended the High School. Miss Pratt had good success in this school, and the pupils made good progress, but the order, during our visit at the close of the school, was not up to the standard which we hope to see maintained in our schools.

The Winter Term was commenced by Miss MERRILL, but her ill health interfered with the regular progress of the school. Four weeks from the commencement of the school she received an offer of a desirable situation in a Female College in Indiana, which she decided to accept. Miss Merrill's labors in the school-room have been of much value to the district, and if her faculty for meeting the many unreasonable requirements of a few parents and pupils—

a matter which every teacher usually has to contend with—equaled her efficiency in the school-room she would be exceedingly popular wherever she had charge of a school.

Mr. LUTHER MAXIM of Paris, has been employed to finish the term. He labors under great disadvantages, by reason of the multiplicity of classes, but we believe that he is doing good work in the school.

DISTRICT No. 11.—JONAS STROUT, Agent.

The Summer Term was taught by Mrs. LIZZIE EVERETT, who gave very general satisfaction to her patrons.

The Winter Term was taught by one of your Committee, who thinks that the school made good progress in the branches taught; and he wishes to say to his patrons that if they want their children to receive the full benefit of their schools they must be in earnest in the matter themselves, and see that their children study at home, and send them to school every day *in season*.

DISTRICT No. 12.—SAMUEL KEEN, Agent.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss CORA RICHARDSON of Greenwood. We think that those scholars who attended this school with a determination to do right, made good progress, but in our judgment the school was not as profitable as it might have been if the teacher had received the support and co-operation of *all* her patrons.

Miss ELECTRA FILES of Raymond, taught the Winter Term. Miss Files brought with her the experience gained in teaching more than twenty terms. We have never known the pupils of this school to show greater improvement in their studies than while under Miss Files's instruction.

Having given this hasty report of the schools for the past year, we think that our task would be but poorly done did we not make some further remarks in regard to them, in order, if possible, to awaken in the minds of both parents and children a renewed interest in the cause of education. The industry and ability exhibited by our teachers and scholars, for the past year, have been highly commendable, and will compare favorably with any year since we have been connected with the schools; and we think that the friends of education have reason to take courage for renewed effort in coming years. We know that our schools are not doing what they ought to fit our children for usefulness in after life, and regret that more is not being done by those to whom a large share of the work belongs. No doubt most of you assent to the truthfulness of this statement; but few of whom have ever tried to divine the cause, and but a majority of that few are thoroughly aroused to the interests at stake, and are willing to apply the remedy. It is highly important that we should come to a right understanding in the matter, and to that end let us look at the underlying principles upon which every good school depends, and notice more especially that part of it which can never be done by the teacher. First of all, learn your children to respect and obey you at home, and after the traits of affection and obedience have been developed at home, and you have provided the necessary books and a comfortable school-room, you have a right to expect a corresponding improvement in them at school. And even after you have done all this for your own, your work is not finished; you must be ever ready to speak and act in favor of good scholars, good behavior, and good schools. In the estimation of every true man, the school should be, next to home, the

most sacred place on earth; and as every man nourishes and defends his own home, so he should foster and guard one of the best and most ennobling institutions yet known to man.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Let us take a glance at the school-houses and see how they compare with our homes. We find in District No. 1, a good house, but it wants underpinning and out-buildings, and it is without wall maps or globe, and the blackboard is scarcely large enough for one scholar. District No. 2 has a good house, but no maps, globe, or out-buildings. District No. 3 has a fine house, and we regret exceedingly that in so good a building the means of ventilation are so defective. The lot needs grading and fencing. District No. 4.—The house is comfortable, but needs to be furnished with maps, globe, and more blackboard room, placed so that the small scholars can reach it. District No. 5.—The school-house is good, but has no maps or globe. District No. 6.—This house is large and convenient, but some slight repairs are indispensable; the walls and ceiling are so begrimed with smoke that the room is anything but pleasant, and we recommend that the room be whitened, and that the walls be decorated with a good set of outline maps, and the desk with a globe. District No. 7.—The house is quite comfortable, but we think more blackboard room is needed in a school of this size, and that it should be so arranged as to accommodate the small as well as the large scholars. You cannot afford to let your scholars go without maps and globe. District No. 8.—Cannot you get the much-needed apparatus for your scholars? District No. 10.—This district has a good house for warm weather, but the heating apparatus is entirely inadequate to warm the room properly in winter. By actual experiment it was ascertained that there was forty degrees difference in the temperature between the upper and lower parts of the room, during some of our late cold weather. District No. 11.—This is a poor house for a good school. It needs underpinning, new floor timbers and floor, better seats and desk, new doors and new blackboards; in fact, nothing short of a thorough repairing will render this house suitable for the needs of the district; and a globe and outline maps would be as well appreciated by the scholars here as elsewhere. District No. 12.—This house is quite comfortable, but needs maps, a globe, and a blackboard to accommodate large and small scholars. There should be, also, a few seats and desks suitable for small scholars.

We have taken you around to see your property, and you know that all we have said about it is true, and doubtless think there is much to be done for the schools that does not belong to teachers, but “who of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature,” or can add these needful comforts and appliances to your school-rooms? When we consider that the actual school life of our children is but five years, we begin to realize that time is more precious than money and see the importance of giving them every advantage that our means will allow. Every teacher who is qualified for his position knows that with a good set of maps and a globe he can teach a class more geography in three weeks than can be learned in ten weeks in the ordinary way.

ATTENDANCE.

The irregular attendance spoken of in our last report, has not been fully corrected during the past year. Here is a work which must be done mainly at home; and if you have any love for your children, and regard for the schools, make it manifest by their prompt and regular attendance.

STUDY AT HOME.

Finally, let me call your attention to the importance of having your children study at home. You should see that they are at home in the evening, and that they occupy some part of the time in looking over the lessons for the next day; and there are few, if any, parents in this town who do not have time and ability to help their children in their studies. The young man or woman who devotes to study only six hours of the time during school days, and spends the evening for amusement, has but a limited time for culture. A good student must be diligent in hours out of school, and that diligence must not be of a nature to detract from or be more interesting than the school studies of the day.

HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR SCHOOLS MOST EFFECTIVE?

There are three conditions necessary to the right solution of this problem. First, a correct public sentiment must thoroughly permeate every household; second, scholars must go to school to learn; and lastly, none but the best teachers must be employed. Now, if we have the first and second requirements our work is more than three-fourths accomplished, and any teacher of moderate ability can secure better results than the best could even hope to without them. Bring to our schools the first and second, and the third must and will surely come. Thus we think that we have clearly shown you that there is yet a great amount of this work that belongs to you to do, and that you must do it or it will necessarily remain undone. But when you and your sons, and your daughters, take sickles and reap the grain yourselves, then, and not before, will come the harvest of best results from our common school system.

TO AGENTS.

The Agents of Districts Nos. 3 and 10 have furnished their schools with some apparatus, during the past year, which has been used to good advantage by their teachers; while from all of them, with the exception of a few instances, we report a most cordial interest and support in our efforts for the improvement of their respective schools. And to this fact do we attribute much of the success attending our schools during the past year.

TEXT BOOKS.

In the matter of text books, we believe it is most decidedly for the interest of the town to take advantage of the law empowering them to furnish text books for the schools. If this is brought up for your consideration in the town meeting, as we hope it may be, we urge you to give it your candid and earnest attention.

THE TOWN SYSTEM.

We are of the opinion that the *town system* possesses many advantages over the *district system*, and recommend it to your earnest consideration.

THE FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

In accordance with your vote at a town meeting held in April, we have established a Free High School at Oxford Village, and have had one term of eleven weeks. The act that authorized your vote made it incumbent upon your Committee to decide what attainments of scholarship were necessary to

qualify pupils for admission to the school. Upon consideration of this matter, we came to the conclusion that we had not more than forty scholars in town, who would attend the school, that were fitted to take High School studies. This number would oblige us to employ an assistant, and we believed, in view of the expense incurred, that it would be more satisfactory to the town to allow a larger number to attend. This would induce some to go who would not longer have attended the common school, and would give an opportunity to others to attend during the long vacations of their district schools without any increase in the expense of the school. The rank was fixed so that it was thought that about fifty scholars would attend. We did not think it desirable to establish a regular course of study on account of the varied attainments of its pupils, but we believe that after a few terms such a course will prove both practicable and beneficial. After a careful consideration of several applications, and a correspondence with several teachers whom we thought desirable for such a school, we engaged Mr. J. D. HOLT for Principal. Mr. Holt has fully sustained the good opinion formed of his capacity as a teacher from the excellent recommendations and references furnished by him at first. He employed as his assistant Miss CLARA I. KNIGHT of Bethel, who proved a most efficient and faithful teacher in her department of the school. An excellent degree of interest was manifested in the school, and the examination at the close showed very plainly that good work had been done by the teachers and pupils, and the remarks of several citizens of the town who were present at examination, made it very evident that your Committee were not alone in being pleased with the progress of the school. The number of pupils attending school was fifty. Mr. Holt was paid \$340 for the term, furnishing an assistant himself at a cost of \$110. Of the above amount, \$162.62 has been replaced by the State, and \$14.65 has been received for tuition; thus leaving \$137.25 of the original appropriation unexpended. On the strength of this balance we have arranged for another term, of ten weeks, commencing March 2d, with Mr. Holt as Principal and Mrs. Holt as his assistant. Mrs. Holt has held this position in the winter term of school in District No. 3, and has very ably seconded Mr. Holt's successful labors there. We believe that the results of their teaching warrant us in considering ourselves fortunate in securing them as teachers. Should you wish the school to continue beyond the spring term, it will be necessary to make an appropriation for that purpose, and we recommend that you raise \$350 this year. Already we are receiving inquiries in regard to the coming spring term, which indicates that it is having its desired effect in promoting a much needed interest in educational matters and arousing the dormant energies of the pupils of our common schools.

Gentlemen, your Committee have been called to work in a new field, which we well knew at the start would require much labor and thought, but we did not realize fully the amount of effort necessary to the establishment of a good High School. We have always been ready to explain our course to all who asked for information. We desire to extend our thanks to the many friends of the school who have been very ready to assist us by their co-operation and advice. There is a prospect of a much fuller attendance this spring than during the fall term, and we believe the town is fully warranted in sustaining the school.

F. B. ANDREWS,
For the Committee.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Teachers.	No. of Dist.	No. Scholars in Dist.	No. attend'g School.	Average.	Instances of Tardiness.	Instances of Dismissal.	Not absent half day.	No. visits by citizens.	Length Sch. in days.	Wages per mo. exclud- ing board.	Wages per wk. exclud- ing board.	Price of Bd. per week.
Jennie N. Hubbard	1	16	19	17	20	7	6		40		\$3 50	Given
Merrill M. Durgin			18	16	68	78		1	44	\$25 00		"
Julia Battles	2	29	16	14	20		2		44		3 00	\$2 12
H. H. Bryant			20	18	28	23	3	16	44	30 00		2 50
Nellie F. King	3	219	44	35	216	8	3	7	55		5 50	2 75
Wm. H. H. Bryant			50	42	48	61	9	45	55	36 00		3 75
Emma King			41	35	80		6	6	55		5 00	2 75
Nellie F. King			38	34	69	10	11	5	55		6 50	2 75
Lottie F. Hammond			59	51		12		5	50		5 00	2 75
J. D. Holt			67	57	36	52	17	16	50	55 00		4 00
Julia Hall	4	35	18	14	84	16	2		49½		3 50	1 50
Julia Hall			18	15	27	7	3	1	44		5 00	2 00
C. W. Bean	5	34	15	10	30	5	2	5	66	21 00		3 00
Cora E. Clifford	6	22	9	8	66	3	1	2	50		2 75	1 94
Anna F. Favor			17	14	89	12	4	2	44		3 75	1 67
Charlotte Dudley	7	59	26	20	37	18	1	5	55		4 00	2 00
Bennie M. Pratt			26	20	12	10	3	12	66	26 00		2 25
Hattie Hubbard	8	10	13	12	31	14	2	6	50		2 50	Given
Emma Barrows			9	7					66		4 00	"
Clara A. Merrill	10	78	35	25	83			10	50		5 00	\$2 50
Alice M. Pratt			30	23	50	8	2	5	44		4 50	2 50
Lizzie Everett	11	23	16	14	35	10	4	3	30		3 00	2 00
F. B. Andrews			12	10	273	30		2	47½	23 00		2 00
Cora E. Richardson	12	31	16	12	7	8	3	8	32		4 00	Given
Electra Files			18	15	5	14	2	2	60		5 25	\$1 25

