

1877

Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending Feb. 15, 1877

Oxford (Me.)

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1876

John Robinson

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Financial Affairs,

OF THE

TOWN OF OXFORD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 15, 1877.



PORTLAND,

M. N. & F. G. RICH, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,

1877.

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TOWN OFFICERS, 1876.

Clerk, - - - - -	THOMAS BAKER.
Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor,	SETH T. HOLBROOK. ROSCOE BROWN. SEBASTIAN S. SMITH.
Treasurer, - - - - -	GEORGE E. HAWKES.
Agent, - - - - -	GEORGE P. WHITNEY.
Supervisor, - - - - -	HORACE H. HALL.
Collector and Constable, - - - - -	SETH H. FAUNCE.

Report of Selectmen.

VALUATION

Of the Town of Oxford, as taken by the Assessors, April 1st,
1876:—

Total Valuation,	\$186,541:00
Total Valuation in 1875,	187,039.00
	<hr/>
Decrease,	\$498.00
Number of Polls, 346.	

TAXES FOR 1876.

State Tax,	\$1,931.08
County Tax,	642.56
Town Tax for Support of Schools,	1,325.00
To pay Debts and defray Town Charges,	2,500.00
To build Martin Road,	325.00
To Repair Stanton Bridge,	800.00
For support of F. H. Library,	50.00
Delinquent Highway Tax, 1875,	277.04
Overlay,	227.79
	<hr/>
Total Assessment,	\$8,078.47

HIGHWAY TAXES, 1876.

Amount raised,	\$2,000.00
Overlay,	49.85
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	\$2,049.85

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk,	\$1.88
Seth T. Holbrook, Selectman, etc.,	15.00
Sebastian S. Smith, “	12.00
Fayette Bicknell, “	7.50
Seth T. Holbrook, “	116.00
Roscoe Brown, “	81.75
Sebastian S. Smith, “	68.50
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer,	30.00
George P. Whitney, Agent,	10.00
Seth H. Faunce, Collector,	153.49
Seth H. Faunce, Constable,	6.00
Horace H. Hall, Supervisor,	67.00
A. L. Hersey, “	11.50
	<hr/>
	\$575.62

POOR ON TOWN FARM, FEB. 15, 1877.

Mary Moore,	David Cates,
Harriet Maddox,	George W. Peabody.
	Cyrus E. Staples.

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock, Hay, Furniture, Tools, etc. :—

4 Oxen,	\$250.00
6 Cows,	240.00
2 three-year-old Steers,	65.00

1	“	“	Heifer,	35.00
2	two-year-old	Steers,		50.00
2	“	“	Heifers,	50.00
1	Yearling,			10.00
4	Sheep,			12.00
4	Swine,			80.00
17	Hens,			6.80
15	tons	Hay, first quality,		180.00
3	“	second “		24.00
	Furniture,			107.65
	Farming Tools,			147.47
	Other Tools,			14.83
	Provisions,			216.
	Total Personal Property,			<u>\$1,591.82</u>

OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

Amount paid C. A. Records and family, to Feb. 15, 1877,	\$375.00
Amount paid for labor on farm,	10.20
Interest on Farm Stock and Tools,	30.00
Cash paid for sundries on Town Farm,	100.25
Balance on store bill to S. E. King,	233.36
Balance on store bill to Durell & Hawkes,	45.52
	<u>\$794.33</u>

CR.

Stock sold off the Farm,	\$84.50
Sundries sold off the Farm,	88.78
Property on Farm more than last year,	149.56
Mrs. Andrews' board,	9.50
	<u>\$332.34</u>
Cost of Poor on Farm,	<u>\$461.99</u>

COST OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

Mrs. John Hale,	\$9.00
Polly Davis,	2.62
Cyrus E. Staples,	53.18
Charles E. Morey,	42.22
William Stanley,	7.42
John Ordway,	11.75
John Hyer,	1.00
Seth B. Dudley,	31.44
Keeping Tramps,	18.00
	<hr/>
	\$176.63
Cost of Small Pox,	\$473.73
NOTE.—Amount claimed by Poland for Hyer family,	75.56

ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1876.

Total Assessment,	\$8,078.47
State Tax,	1,931.08
County Tax,	642.56
Money raised for Schools,	1,325.00
Discount on Tax paid before Sept. 15, 1876,	162.97
“ “ “ Jan. 1, 1877,	26.91
Abatement on Tax bills from 1871 to 1877,	245.64
	<hr/>
	\$4,334.16
Available Amount from Cash Taxes,	<hr/>
	\$3,744.31

RECEIPTS OUTSIDE OF TAXATION.

Money on Harrison Road,	\$75.34
Town of Woodstock,	4.50
Town of Raymond,	20.00
	<hr/>
	\$99.84

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1876.

Town Officers' Bills,	\$575 62
Expense of poor on farm,	461.99
Expense of poor not on farm,	176.63
Medical attendance on poor,	40.00
Paid interest on debt,	435.68
Expended on Highways and Bridges,	1,185.71
Blank Books and Stationery,	34.70
Repairs on Town Farm Buildings,	45.74
Insurance on Town Farm Buildings,	26.00
Small Pox,	473.00
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	\$3,455.07

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN, FEB. 15, 1877.

Outstanding Orders,	\$13,845.33
Interest now due,	164.00
Due School Districts,	773.95
Other bills,	10.00
Verdict and expenses in D. H. Blake's case,	800.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,593.28

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO MEET THE SAME.

Money in Treasury,	\$5.30
Due from Collectors Fuller and Faunce,	3,693.79
Due from Poland, J. Tripp bill,	26.64
Due from Madison and Cornville on account of Chas. T., Samuel A., and F. B. Young,	31.88
Due from Portland,	3.62
Non-Resident tax,	71.76
	<hr/>
	\$3,832.89
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Debt above Resources,	\$11,760.39

Schedule of Property on and not credited to farm.

11 M. Shingles,
900 Laths.

Mr. Records is engaged for another year on the town farm.

We have obtained a receipt from John J. Perry, in full of all demands against this town, by paying the sum of \$284.00. The decision in the D. H. Blake case has not been promulgated, but we thought it safe to add \$800.00 to the indebtedness of the town.

Daniel Stone has commenced a suit against the town for damages, as he alleges, caused by a defective highway. Nine M. of the Shingles on Town Farm last year, were laid on the Stanton Bridge, and thirteen M. on Town Farm buildings. This, gentlemen, includes our report for the year just past,—now let us adjourn to the town house, to unite for the interest of the whole town without fear or favor.

SETH T. HOBROOK,
ROSCOE BROWN,
SEBASTIAN S. SMITH. } Selectmen.

LIST OF TOWN ORDERS DRAWN,

From February 15th, 1876, to February 15th, 1877.

1876.

No.		
246	H. H. Bryant, teaching and board in Dist. No. 10,	\$135.41
247	Geo. E. Hawkes, abatement Non-Resident taxes	17.33
248	Alice Cross, teaching in School Dist. No. 5	60.85
249	Laura Dean, town order taken up	670.06
250	Laura Dean, Interest on town order	144.49
251	John L. Green, school money	7.36
252	T. J. Frost, boarding teacher Dist. No. 5	52.36
253	Seth H. Faunce, wood furnished engine hall	.75
254	Charlotte Dudley, teaching school in Dist. No. 8	48.00
255	J. D. Holt, " " 3	125.00
256	Jacob S. Martin, repairs on school house, Dist. No. 11	1.28

1876.

No.		
1	Town of Hebron, proportion of school money, Dist. No. 9	32.39
2	M. B. Pratt, teaching in Dist. No. 7	140.00
3	B. M. Pratt, interest on town orders	19.27
4	Walter Clark, printing town reports, 1876	25.00
5	Inhabitants of New Gloucester, supplies furnished C. E. Morrey and family	16.32
6	City of Lewiston, supplies furnished D. Edwards' family	28.60
7	Fayette Bicknell, services as Selectman, 1875	7.50
8	Seth T. Holbrook, " " "	15.00
9	S. T. Holbrook, 1 day to Lewiston and expenses,	4.00
10	A. R. Paine, wood and repairs on school house, Dist. No. 7	33.65
11	James S. Martin, labor on bridge in Richville	5.00
12	A. L. Hersey, services as supervisor, 1875	11.50

13	S. S. Smith, services as selectman, 1875	12.00
14	Anna Jordan, teaching in Dist. No. 3	25.00
15	Chas. Stone, services at pest house	44.00
16	Mrs. Mary Smith, services at James Davis'	3.00
17	A. J. Wardwell, labor on highway	15.00
18	S. T. Holbrook, expenses to Bethel.	6.50
19	Jacob T. Washburn, damage by water on highway	5.00
20	J. D. Holt, teaching in Dist. No. 3	20.00
21	Emily A. Davis, teaching and board Dist. No. 3	120.00
22	A. G. Hinds, boarding teacher Dist. No. 3	13.75
23	I. A. Caldwell, expenses to Norway for town	1.75
24	I. A. Caldwell, hauling wood, Dist. No. 3	4.00
25	Osgood McAllister, building fires, &c., Dist. No. 3.	7.00
26	H. H. Hall, wood furnished No. 10 Dist.	15.15
27	S. T. Holbrook, labor in Dist. No. 3	4.13
28	M. E. Vestry, use of Vestry for school in Dist. No. 3	18.18
29	Thomas Baker, articles furnished Dist. No. 3	5.84
30	Emma Shurtleff, teaching Dist. No. 7	18.00
31	J. D. Holt, paid for crayons and repairs Dist. No. 3	2.45
32	H. D. Smith, interest on town order	11.89
33	S. S. Smith, wood, &c., for pest house	5.50
34	S. Loton Weston, M. attendance at pest house	64.00
35	John G. Abbott, services at pest house	118.00
36	J. M. Abbott, " " "	4.00
37	Whitney & Clark, wood furnished pest house	12.96
38	Thomas Baker, supplies furnished pest house	12.62
39	Thomas J. Everett, repairs on school house, Dist. No. 4	5.75
40	Durell & Hawkes, supplies furnished pest house	32.48
41	Durell & Hawkes, " " "	4.63
42	Durell & Hawkes, " " John Ordway	6.50
43	Elmer V. Walker, " " pest house	2.45
44	Thomas L. Robinson, " " "	4.33
45	George H. Jones, medicines to pest house	4.55
46	D. P. Horr, " " "	.92
47	Geo. E. Hawkes, cash paid for advertising non-resident taxes	6.00
48	Washington Dean, for money hired	700.00
49	Mary A. Nelson, " "	200.00
50	L. Augusta Nelson, " "	200.00
51	Rosco Brown, " "	600.00
52	Mary A. Nelson, interest on town order	100.84
53	Hiram Gilbert, care of town house	5.00

54	Solon Rawson & Co., repairs on school house, Dist. No. 7	3.90
55	Lavinia Smith, money hired	300.00
56	Rosco Brown, interest on town orders	19.72
57	Silas Scribner, " "	60.32
58	S. T. Holbrook, expenses and time to Buckfield on pauper case	4.00
59	Ann Dean, interest on town orders	62.11
60	Ella F. Chadbourne, teaching in Dist. No. 12	26.00
61	Samuel A. Webber, wood furnished Dist. No. 4	9.00
62	Thomas Baker, coffin, &c., for Mrs. Leavitt	12.12
63	I. A. Caldwell, team to pest house	1.50
64	S. S. Smith, cash paid for blank books,	2.94
65	S. S. Smith, digging grave for Mrs. Levitt,	1.75
66	Adda A. Russell, teaching in Dist. No. 4	44.00
67	Timothy Rowe, building culvert,	10.00
68	Alice M. Pratt, teaching school in Dist. No. 7	55.00
69	J. B. Stanton, expenses in Job Dean case	5.00
70	Joseph T. Records, labor on town farm	10.20
71	Lucy A. Hobert, teaching in Dist. No. 10	74.25
72	Reuben Rich, horse sled for use of pest house	2.00
73	S. S. Smith, wood for Dist. No. 5.	15.00
74	S. S. Smith, house rent for Mrs. A. Jackson	3.00
75	L. M. Faunce, teaching Dist. No. 2	24.00
76	Bertie M. Phillips, teaching Dist. No. 1.	28.00
77	John J. Perry, council fees and cash paid out	200.00
78	Mrs. J. D. Holt, teaching in Dist. No. 3	30.00
79	John P. Jordan, labor on highway	20.75
80	Sullivan Fuller, expenses in D. H. Blake case	16.32
81	Emma E. Shurtleff, teaching in Dist. No. 6	40.00
82	J. D. Holt, teaching Dist. No. 3	90.00
83	M. T. Haskell, boarding teacher Dist. No. 12	12.80
84	Benjamin Sanborn, board and wood Dist. No. 2	23.50
85	S. G. Walker, cash paid for insurance Dist. No. 5	7.50
86	A. L. Faunce, services at pest house	32.00
87	A. L. Faunce, cash paid out for pest house	11.78
88	A. T. Stone, wood furnished Dist. No. 12	4.75
89	S. T. Holbrook, difference paid between cows	5.00
90	Wm. E. Cushman, for rent of pest house	70.00
91	E. V. Walker, goods furnished Mrs. J. Hall family	2.00
92	Rosco Brown, repairs on Staple bridge	43.73
93	A. G. Hines, boarding teacher Dist. No. 3	50.25

94	Roseo Brown, labor at pest house and cash paid out	8.00
95	C. S. Hayes, wood furnished Dist. No. 3	30.00
96	Chas. A. Records, cash paid out for supplies	29.58
97	Seth T. Holbrook, cash paid out for pest house	7.75
98	Ada Haskell, teaching in Dist. No. 5	18.00
99	County Treasurer, cost on Hackett road	66.90
100	H. K. Pratt, repairs on school house Dist. No. 7	20.00
101	G. T. Railway, freight on lumber for Stanton bridge	26.40
102	S. T. Holbrook, beef cow for town farm	13.00
103	Seth H. Faunce, discount on taxes	162.97
104	J. B. Haley, labor on T. F. buildings,	26.25
105	John J. Perry, fees in the D. H. Blake case	50.00
106	S. T. Holbrook, expenses to Paris Hill on Boynton case and to settle with J. J. Perry,	10.00
107	S. T. Holbrook, wood furnished John Ordway	3.25
108	J. D. Holt, teaching free High School, in part	100.00
109	Anson M. Martin, repairs on S. house, Dist. No. 11	6.00
110	Benjamin Dudley, stone work on Stanton bridge	500.00
111	Pollie Davis, damages on bedding at pest house	25.90
112	H. A. York, labor on Stanton bridge	48.00
113	B. Whitehouse, " "	13.50
114	B. M. Pratt, interest on town order No. 128	4.20
115	A. J. Crockett, labor on Stanton bridge	5.00
116	Hammond & Co., timber for Stanton bridge	27.72
117	G. T. Railway, freight on lumber for Stanton bridge	4.01
118	May L. King, teaching in Dist. No. 3	46.50
119	Mark Crockett, labor on Stanton bridge	41.25
120	Thomas Baker, goods furnished Mrs. A. Jackson	52.00
121	Orin Stevens, medical services	6.50
122	S. T. Holbrook, shingles and hauling for S. bridge	18.50
123	Edwin Clement & Co., lumber for Stanton bridge	129.51
124	Corá G. Knight, teaching Dist. No. 3	85.25
125	John F. Martin, building road	122.50
126	Lucy A. Hobert, teaching in Dist. No. 10	67.50
127	Mrs. J. D. Holt, teaching in Dist. No. 3	35.65
128	J. D. Holt, teaching Free High School, balance due	23.00
129	J. D. Holt, building fires, &c., Dist. No. 3	8.23
130	Jacob S. Martin, building new road	57.00
131	Seth H. Faunce, services as clerk Dist. No. 3	10.00
132	Town of Hebron, proportion of school money Dist. No. 9	38.00
133	J. F. Fuller, wood furnished Dist. No. 6	11.20
134	Rose Burns, teaching Dist. No. 11	24.50

135	Mrs. N. E. Burns, boarding teacher	14.00
136	Bell Merrill, teaching Dist. No. 8	35.00
137	W. M. and R. Cook, trunnells for Stanton bridge	9.00
138	A. S. Fuller, labor on Stanton bridge	1.50
139	Mrs. H. H. Hersey, teaching music in Free High School	15.00
140	Freeland Holmes library, current expenses	50.00
141	Fred Rowe, shingles and labor on Stanton bridge	2.75
142	Wm. M. Strout, wood furnished Dist. No. 11	8.50
143	W. L. Stanton, labor, lumber and boarding men on Stanton bridge	45.24
144	L. B. Hunt, teaching Dist. No. 12	52.00
145	D. B. Yeaton, boarding teacher Dist. No. 12	22.47
146	A. L. Faunce, rent of organ for Free High School	4.62
147	E. P. Cushman, teaching Dist. No. 2	38.25
148	S. B. Libby, boarding teacher Dist. No. 2	20.25
149	Rosco Brown, cash paid insane hospital for support of C. E. Staples	36.18
150	Lemuel Crooker, team to Mrs. Levett's funeral	1.50
1877.		
151	N. G. Frost, boarding teacher Dist. No. 5	10.50
152	Geo. E. Hawkes, advertising non-resident taxes	5.00
153	Otis Perkins, repairs on school house Dist. No. 1	11.68
154	Freeland Howe, insurance on S. house in Dist. No. 10	15.00
155	Horace Sanborn, labor on Stanton bridge	9.75
156	Thomas Baker, books of records,	21.46
157	Ada A. Russell, teaching in Dis. No. 4,	90.23
158	S. E. King, lime, glass, &c., Dist. No. 6,	11.28
159	Geo. A. Wilson, running line, Oxford and Paris,	2.50
160	City of Biddeford, and furnished C. A. Staples,	17.09
161	S. T. Holbrook, repairs on grounds in Dist. No. 3,	25.27
162	Geo. Hazen, surveying roads,	4.00
163	S. S. Smith, laying out private way, (Cumming's land,)	2.33
164	Rosco Brown, " " " " " "	2.33
165	S. T. Holbrook, " " " " " "	2.34
166	" cash paid out,	5.58
167	A. S. Fuller, repairs on school house, Dist. No. 6,	4.45
168	E. M. Thayer, hauling lumber for Stanton bridge,	13.75
169	R. S. Burns, teaching school, Dist. No. 11,	45.85
170	Mr. N. E. Barnes, wood furnished, Dist. No. 11,	4.50
171	Geo. Robinson, wood furnished, " 7,	2.50
172	J. S. Martin, Insurance on school house, Dist. No. 11,	9.15
173	Seth H. Faunce, discount on taxes Jan. 1, 1877,	26.91

174	E. M. Elden, teaching school, Dist. No. 6,	55.00
175	Hannah Jordan, " 1,	40.95
176	Freeman Brown, wood furnished Pollie Davis,	2.62
177	Rosco Brown, paid out for C. E. Morry as per bill,	25.90
178	Seth H. Faunce, abatement on tax bills 1871,	12.33
179	" " " " " 1872,	13.65
180	" " " " " 1873,	4.13
181	Sullivan Fuller, " " " " 1874,	105.10
182	" " " " " 1875,	66.15
183	A. H. Dam, wood furnished Dist. No. 1,	7.00
184	Benjamin Sanborn, repairs on school house, Dist. No. 2,	7.00
185	Thomas Baker, supplies furnished S. A. Young,	2.50
186	" " " Mrs. John Hale,	3.00
187	" nails and oil for Stanton bridge,	4.82
188	" oil, &c., for farm,	7.11
189	" paper and lime for pest house,	3.96
190	Durell & Hawkes, supplies furnished town farm,	45.52
191	" " " S. A. Young,	10.07
192	" " " F. B. Young,	8.62
193	T. L. Robinson, bridge plank,	38.34
194	do supplies furnished Mrs. John Hale,	4.00
195	do do John Hyer,	1.00
196	do do John Ordaway,	2.00
197	do do Wm. Stanley,	4.42
198	do do F. B. Young,	3.69
199	B. M. Pratt, teaching school Dist. No. 7,	113.75
200	Seth H. Faunce, abatement on tax bills 1876,	44.28
201	A. G. Hines, keeping tramps,	15.00
202	Solon Rawson & Co., wood furnished pest house,	1.00
203	Geo. E. Hawkes, services as Treasurer,	30.00
204	S. E. King, wood and repairs in Dist. No. 10,	15.12
205	Maine Insane Hospital, support of Mary E. Smith,	3.63
206	James H. King, articles furnished Dist. No. 7,	.83
207	Seth H. Faunce, notifying four town meetings,	6.00
208	do paid payment of collecting taxes 1876,	75.00
209	Charles A. Records, services self, wife and son on town farm,	310.27
210	Annie Porter, teaching school Dist. No. 8,	35.00
211	S. H. Faunce, money paid out for town,	5.95
212	Rosco Brown, looking up the Hyer case,	10.25
213	Orin Stevens, medical services for the town,	40.00
214	T. L. Robinson, supplies furnished S. A. Young,	3.00
215	Thomas Baker, services as Town Clerk,	1.88

216	Thomas Baker, articles furnished S. Dist. No. 3,	4.12
217	S. E. King, supplies furnished poor farm,	233.36
218	H. H. Hall, services as supervisor,	67.00
219	S. E. King, interest on town order,	12.84
220	Hawkes & Whitney, boiler mouth for poor farm,	.85
221	Geo. H. Jones, syringe and lime for town farm,	1.30
222	S. T. Holbrook, books, postage, stationery,	10.30
223	Rosco Brown, services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor ,	81.75
224	J. D. Holt, teaching school in Dist. No. 3.	140.00
225	Town of Buckfield, supplies furnished S. P. Dudley,	31.44
226	Freeland Howe, Insuring town farm building,	26.00
227	S. T. Holbrook, services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	116.00
228	G. B. Yeaton, breaking roads in J. Work Dist. ,	19.32
229	S. S. Smith, keeping tramps,	4.00
230	do services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	63.50
231	Error,	
232	Seth H. Faunce, abatement on S. H. tax, Dist. No. 3.	7.48
233	Leander Wardwell, building fires, S. Dist. No. 3,	8.00
234	S. G. Walker, labor on Harrison road,	2.50
235	S. S. Smith, supplies furnished Wm. Stanley,	3.00
236	S. S. Smith, abatement on taxes 1869,	4.74

SCHOOL REPORT.

COMMON SCHOOL FUNDS.

Amount raised by the town,		\$1,325 00
Balance unexpended April 1st, 1876,		222 75
Amount received from State,		
Bank tax and interest on school fund,	\$365 85	
Mill tax,	<u>520 15</u>	<u>886 00</u>
		\$2 433 75

DISTRICT No. 1.—OTIS PERKINS, Agent.

In the Summer term Miss Bertie M. Phillips taught her "first school" and it was decidedly a success. Her literary attainments were much better than teachers ordinarily commence with and her school made good progress.

Winter term, Miss ANNA M. JORDAN, teacher. Under Miss Jordan's instruction the school had the advantage of a teacher acquainted with their former progress, and this knowledge was used to good purpose. Excellent work was the result.

DISTRICT No. 2.—BENJ. SANBORN, Agent.

Summer term, Miss L. MAY FAUNCE, teacher. This term commenced after one of those long *vacations* which our smaller districts are too often obliged to suffer from, hence Miss Faunce labored under a serious difficulty. Her efforts were earnest and persevering, and good progress was made for so short a term.

The Winter term was under the instruction of Miss EDITH P. CUSHMAN, who labored with much energy and skill for her scholars. The exercises at the close of the term convinced us that it had been a profitable one to the district.

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

The Summer term of the Intermediate department was in charge of Mr. J. D. HOLT, who has also just closed the Winter term in the same school. Of the results of Mr. Holt's labors in the schoolroom it is hardly necessary to speak, since he is so well and favorably known in town. The courtesy, self-respect, confidence

and intelligence manifested by the pupils in this school at the closing examination of the Winter term, not only did them great credit, but accorded to their teacher the highest and truest praise possible for a teacher to obtain.

MRS. E. J. HOLT, was employed for the Fall term, but when the time arrived for the school to commence, her health was not equal to the task, and Miss Mary L. King was engaged to teach until Mrs. Holt should be able to take the school. Miss King brought to her duties a knowledge of superior methods of instruction, and our visits to her school satisfied us that good progress was the result. Mrs. Holt took charge of the school at the commencement of its seventh week, and conducted it to the perfect satisfaction of all connected therewith.

The Summer term of the Primary department was also under Mrs. Holt's instruction. This school has been the most difficult one in town to obtain suitable teachers for, and the results of the past few terms had almost convinced us that it could not be done. Teachers were engaged for it because of enviable reputations won in mixed schools in other places, but when they tried here the methods that had ever before succeeded, they proved wholly inadequate. So when Mrs. Holt commenced the Summer term with as bright, active, energetic and tangled a mass of diminutive humanity as ever gathered in an Oxford schoolroom, our previous knowledge of her superior ability as a teacher yet left us very much in doubt as to what the result in this instance would be. Our first visit showed us plainly that she was not only equal to the emergency but *mistress* of the situation, that a "new departure" was imminent, the *tangle* was unraveling, for methods of instruction better adapted to the young minds collected here were brought into use. Unfortunately Mrs. Holt was obliged by illness to close the school after teaching six weeks. Her efforts have been most skillfully seconded in the succeeding Fall and Winter terms by Miss Cora G. Knight, who has had charge of the school. Under Miss Knight's management these scholars seem to think it as much pleasure to undertake the spelling of long lists of familiar words, the solution of problems in arithmetic or a recitation in reading as would be a sliding frolic or a game of ball. A whole year of first-class schools in this department!—nothing connected with our school duties affords us greater pleasure than the ability to give such a report here. If this district persists in employing such teachers as have occupied its schoolrooms during the past year, and the parents see to it that their pupils attend school as they should, they will have in a very short time, a school, that any district may justly be proud of. We believe this matter depends entirely upon the teachers and parents.

DISTRICT No. 4.—THOMAS J. EVERETT, Agent.

The Summer and Winter terms were both taught by MISS ADA A. RUSSELL, whose excellent report last year led us to expect very much from her as a teacher. The results of her labors fully sustained these expectations and the pupils made fine progress in each term. We need more just such teachers as Miss Russell.

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

Summer term, MISS ADA HASKELL, teacher. Miss Haskell passed an excel-

lent examination, and accomplished a good work for her school. MR. HORACE SANBORN had charge of the Winter term, and he labored very faithfully and successfully. Good deportment, interest and attention have been marked features of this school at our visits.

DISTRICT No. 6.—GEORGE W. THOMAS, Agent.

The Summer term was under the instruction of MISS EMMA E. SHURTLEFF, who proved a faithful and efficient teacher. Excellent progress and good deportment characterized the school. The Winter term, under the instruction of MR. L. M. ELDER, was also a success. Both teachers leave among the patrons of their schools a very desirable reputation as one result of their labors here.

DISTRICT No. 7.—JAMES H. KING, Agent.

MISS ALICE M. PRATT, in the Summer school did very excellent work for the district. Superior order, marked progress and much interest in the branches studied were special features of the school. The Winter term, with MR. BENNIE M. PRATT, as teacher, also proved successful. Mr. Pratt, though a member of the district, has taught several schools here and always to the satisfaction of the patrons. This school has acquired a very high reputation by its many excellent qualities, and we urge all interested to be watchful that no lower standard be countenanced.

DISTRICT No. 8.—SAMUEL H. BUMPUS, Agent.

MISS EMMA E. SHURTLEFF taught a Spring term in this district, and at the single visit we paid the school the prospect was excellent for a good term. MISS BELLE MERRILL, taught the Summer term, but we visited it only once, as we were not correctly notified when it would close. The Winter term was taught by MISS ANNIE PORTER. We noticed at its close a decided improvement in the discipline of the school. Interest and progress were also manifested.

DISTRICT No. 10.—W. W. DENNEN, Agent.

MISS LUCY A. HOBART taught the Summer and Fall terms of this school, and did very commendable work, especially in the latter. MRS. E. J. HOLT, has charge of the Winter term, and her labors have proved as satisfactory here as they have been valuable in district No. 3. Any district is certainly very fortunate when they secure the services of such a teacher.

DISTRICT No. 11.—JACOB S. MARTIN, Agent.

This district has but one term, which was taught by MISS ROSE S. BURNS. Miss Burns has a happy faculty of adapting herself to the condition and requirements of her school. The zeal and proficiency of the pupils under her management were especially noticeable and commendable.

DISTRICT No. 12.—DANIEL B. YEATON, Agent.

MISS ELLA F. CHADBOURNE conducted this school through a thorough and much needed drill which could not prove otherwise than very valuable to it. The evident interest of the pupils in the performance of the tasks assigned them was another pleasing feature of the school. MR. LEE B. HUNT taught the Winter term. This was Mr. Hunt's first effort as a teacher, and he brought to his labors an excellent literary preparation, and associated with it in the schoolroom much diligence, perseverance and firmness. This was certainly a good commencement and experience, and a knowledge of the best methods of instruction may be safely relied upon to complete the requirements of a first-class teacher.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

Amount of High School fund unexpended April 1, 1876,	\$189 17
Received for tuition Fall term, 1876,	4 10
Paid for instruction to J. D. Holt and assistant, Miss S. Alma Pendexter,	\$330 00
Paid Mrs. H. H. Hersey for instruction in vocal music,	15 00
Paid do for use of organ,	4 62
Received from the State,	170 45
	<hr/>
	\$349 62 \$363 72
Balance unexpended,	\$14 10

At the commencement of the school year, April 1, 1876, the condition of the High School fund showed that there was sufficient to provide for a single term, and in the absence of any special instructions from the town we deemed it expedient to establish the term in the Fall as the most desirable season for its pupils as well as its patrons. The school was placed under the charge of Mr. J. D. Holt, who provided an assistant. We believe Mr. Holt here fully sustained the previous excellent reports of his school labors. Miss S. Alma Pendexter, of Pittsfield, his assistant, proved eminently satisfactory in her department. Thoroughness and good progress characterized the classes under her care.

Mrs. H. H. Hersey was employed to give ten lessons in vocal music, and her liberal interpretation of that number resulted in decided advantage to the school. Her efforts added much to its interest and usefulness. Length of term, eleven weeks; whole number scholars registered thirty-four; average attendance, twenty-seven.

It is with utter amazement that we see so few of the young men and ladies of this town availing themselves of such a fine opportunity as this school afforded to pursue an advanced course of study.

We find it easy to select from the census returns of the school agents more than a hundred and twenty-five scholars for whom we cannot imagine any seasonable excuse for non-attendance. Regrets in the future, on their part will never be able to remedy such neglect as this.

This indifference will doubtless be urged by some as an argument against the continuance of the school, but we hope the town will not so easily give up so excellent a provision for the education of its youth, even if they do not immediately make the most of it. The salutary influence of the High School upon the system of district schools has been very marked, and through it we are able to provide our pupils superior instruction which it is nearly impossible for our smaller districts to furnish. We hope the town will continue the school, for we regard it much the best means available to promote and secure the education of its scholars.

A writer upon educational topics has well said that "The best thing that I can think of as happening to a young man is this,—that he should have been educated at a day school in his own town; that he should have opportunities of following also the higher education in his own town, and that at the earliest convenient time he should be taught to earn his own living; and I never yet knew a man who was not the worse for university proprs and bribes."

In the brief manner in which we are obliged to refer to the efforts of the teachers in the several districts it is impossible to do more than to indicate what has been the results of their labors. That we are not obliged to report a failure in any district is particularly gratifying, and in several as admirable work has been accomplished as it has ever been our pleasure to witness. The experiences of this year make us more than ever desirous of emphasizing the importance of securing for our schools superior teachers. These are really the only ones that can profitably be employed and it is greatly to be regretted that so many are disposed to regard the wages now paid teachers, too high. A consideration of this matter in the school statistics herewith submitted, will show that they already receive less than is paid for skill, experience and capacity in other occupations. Most certainly we need as good workmen in the schoolroom as we do in the factory, on the railroads, in the steamboats, in the store or in any of the professions, and I know of no other way to get them than to pay what labor in these occupations commands.

Let us then continue to offer a fair price for good ability, and search for a teacher that will earn what is paid and not take whoever chooses to apply and attempt to fit the price to the person. To the interest and good judgment of the several district Agents in the employment of teachers, is due nearly all of the success of the schools during the year as far as school officers are concerned.

The wise policy of continuing worthy teachers from term to term is particularly noticeable. The Agent whose business it is to employ the teachers really holds the *key* of the position—for this duty is far superior to the mere veto power of the Supervisor or Committee.

Only two or three cases of obstinate disobedience on the part of pupils has come to our knowledge and from what we could learn of these we were satisfied that the parents were the most blameworthy of any one connected with the matter. In several instances, however, the little threatening clouds that seem to rise upon the horizon of the schools' progress have quickly vanished before a few sen-

sible breaths from the parents' mouth. Judgment, and not feelings, ought to decide in these matters.

The per cent. of scholars attending school remains about the same as heretofore, which means that it is much below what it should be. A consultation of the teacher's registers shows that this matter is almost wholly outside of the reach of any laws, and we can see no other remedy than an improved public sentiment. From the standpoint of the teacher and school officers the question of attendance or non-attendance with quite a large class seems to be decided by the pupil instead of the parent, and the teacher is considered at fault if the schoolroom does not *draw* sufficiently to fill itself! Nothing short of changing our schools into shows could do this.

An intelligent observer of this matter remarks, "We strongly deprecate the tendency of the times to strive to make our schools merely entertaining and attractive institutions. Hard study should be required; thorough drill, and sharp criticism, combined with proper incentives, and healthful stimulus, are absolutely essential elements in the preparation of the pupil for the great work of mature life. A wise concentration of all these educational forces, is the paramount duty of the faithful teacher. No two minds are exactly alike, and no routine or mechanical work will fully develop the powers of the differing mental organizations brought in contact with the teacher in his daily work in our common schools. Each pupil must feel the influence of the guiding mind of the teacher as a personal force."

Our attention was early called to a lack of uniformity in the textbooks in use in town, and this trouble seemed greatest with the geographies. After due consideration we selected the latest edition of Warren's "Brief Course" which contains an excellent series of reference maps in an appendix, and Warren's Primary Geography. Owing to some unexpected delays in perfecting arrangements with the publishers the books were not received in season to introduce throughout the town, districts No. 3, 5, and 10 only being supplied.

The other schools may be supplied through the school officers upon the same reduced rates at their next terms, and we hope our successor will complete the change and thus remove a constant source of perplexity.

We believe that two things of vital importance demand the careful attention of the town. First-class teachers should be kept in its schoolrooms and earnest efforts should be made to fill those rooms with its pupils.

In conclusion we would say to the citizens of the town that we highly appreciate the uniform courtesy and cooperation with which we have ever been met while striving to perform the duties incumbent upon this office, and we sincerely hope that the very valuable interests intrusted to our care have not suffered thereby.

H. H. HALL, *Supervisor.*

