

1878

# Annual Reports of the Board of Selectmen and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Topsham, for the Year Ending February 20th, 1878

Topsham (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AND  
SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF TOPSHAM,

For the Year ending February 20th, 1878.

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1878.

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## SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

By Balance due Schools, March 12, 1877.	
after deducting \$116 00	\$246 61
Appropriation for 1877	1300 00
Town fund interest	40 04
Due from the State for year 1877	687 78
	<hr/> \$2274 43

## BILLS PAID.

F. H. Blondell, furnishing map	\$3 00
Frank Barron, care of school houses	12 50
Rufus Thompson, labor and material	3 00
Given & Stone, labor and material	12 77
A. E. Nowell, care of house	2 50
B. Reed, wood	16 50
Joseph S. Coombs, prepared wood	6 50
Charles H. Small, repair of windows	1 25
Nelson Loucraff, wood	2 25
W. H. Quint, carting desks	2 00
Eva M. Smith, cleaning house	2 00
D. L. Smith, services as Supervisor	36 00
D. L. Smith, sundry bills paid for schools	29 50
Frank Barron, care of house	4 50
John C. Fall, do.	2 50
W. G. Mallett, do.	2 00
William H. Mallett, building school house fence	12 46
D. L. Smith, school incidentals	2 20
R. P. Whitney, supplies	80
Howland Bros., wood	75 00
D. L. Smith, services as supervisor	50 00
J. F. Blondell, wood	2 00
Blondell & Trufant, labor and material for chimney	21 75
Frank Barron, care of house	4 50
A. L. Jack, rent of house for school	4 00
Otis S. Mustard, care of house	2 00
Frank Plummer, do.	2 00

W. G. Mallett, do.	2 00
Willie O. Given, do.	1 50
W. A. Alexander, do.	4 25
Charles Hunter, do.	1 50
W. E. Haley, cleaning and repairing	2 35
F. O. Grover & Orr, care of house	2 50
Willis S. Whitney, three brooms	1 20
Ephraim Dunning, care of house	2 00
Ephraim Dunning, do.	3 50
J. Furbish, supplies	10 70
W. B. Purinton, lumber	15 43
C. E. White, supplies,	1 95
W. A. Crocker, care of house	2 50
	<hr/> 366 86

## FOR TEACHING.

Carrie S. Clapp	93 50
Emma A. Stanwood	49 50
Fannie M. Woodward	54 00
Addie B. Hawes	72 00
Jennie S. Graves	102 00
Nellie F. Baldwin	120 00
Fannie D. Nowell	93 50
F. G. Barron	144 00
Lucy Baldwin	45 00
Abbie M. Tate	89 00
Nettie M. Spear	153 00
Lizzie Toothaker	111 50
Hattie M. Abell	123 00
Mabel Spear	48 00
Josie A. Given	44 00
M. D. Libbey	70 00
F. H. Blondell	100 00
J. L. Dearing	87 50
E. G. Smith	100 00
	<hr/> \$1699 50
	<hr/> 2066 36
Balance due schools	208 07

## TOWN HIGH SCHOOL.

Appropriation	\$500 00
Received from State	500 00
	<hr/> \$1000 00
Paid George C. Purington for teaching	775 00
	<hr/>
Balance due the schools	\$225 00

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Sum appropriated	\$1500 00
Uncollected highway taxes of 1876	432 77
	<hr/> \$1932 77

## BILLS PAID.

J. W. Rackley, overwork	9 93
Winter Marr	12 59
Wildes P. Walker, curb stone and labor	37 44
Daniel S. Blake	5 49
Robt. P. Whitney	4 20
Rufus Thompson	8 52
Horace Eaton	1 20
Zina H. Noyes	11 64
Charles T. Patten	6 49
F. H. Purinton, iron pipe	1 27
Edgar L. Hunter	12 76
Alvah Mallett	27 57
Wm. E. Haley	17 13
Samuel Douglass	3 58
Charles Ward	6 57
Charles Ward	5 98
Jacob Graves	1 69
Alvin W. Woodward	6 65
Thomas H. Sprague	27 47
Henry S. Carey	11 57
Swanzey Wilson	16 50
George S. Adams	2 13

Samuel W. Small	25 39
Cyrus E. Mustard	18 43
J. W. Rackley	14 23
Uriah A. Jack	15 08
Washington Dill	29 92
Richard Tarr	14 24
E. W. White	4 66
J. A. Fisher	6 48
Holman Staples	12 00
Samuel Given	13 50
J. A. Fisher	3 26
Horace M. Eaton	17 03
Samuel Small, powder and fuse	1 60
W. E. Tate	9 30
D. F. Patten	2 40
A. L. Graves	53 55
J. B. Christopher	2 82
John Grady	4 12
E. F. Brawn	3 75
Cyrus Flagg	10 06
Moses C. Barnes	27 89
Wm. H. Mallett	21 49
J. M. Staples	3 48
James Orr & Son	6 51
John Alexander, whitewashing railing	1 75
R. P. Whitney	5 77
George R. Powers	11 52
J. Preston & wife	1 25
William H. Haskell	2 06
James H. Orr	2 50
James A. Haskell	2 06
M. P. Reed	6 09
Washington Treat	3 00
C. H. Colby	37 30
Swanzy Wilson	1 50

Oliver Brawn	8 25
A. D. Alexander	3 00
H. M. Eaton, stakes for snow fence	2 16
Nelson Loucraff, breaking roads	3 38
N W. Quint damage to sleigh	2 00
Samuel Jameson, work on bridges	5 50
W. B. Purinton bill of lumber	245 87
C. E. White	4 97
C. E. White	5 83
James T. Purinton, labor on washout	1 50
	<hr/> \$916 82

## NEW IRON BRIDGE.

King Iron Bridge Co.	970 74
M. A. Atkins & Minot boy	80
C. P. Cobb	20 12
King Iron Bridge Co	3 00
Alonzo Fuller	2 50
E D. Toothaker, cement for pier	4 20
C. H. Small for Isaac Coombs	9 00
Turner Harrington	9 00
	<hr/> 1019 36

## BRANCH BRIDGE.

Howland Bros., plank	16 83
D. L. Thompson	7 75
W E. Tate	14 45
A. L. Graves	17 70
Albert Mountfort	7 75
A. D. Alexander	1 88
C. P. Edgcomb	7 50
	<hr/> \$73 86
	<hr/> \$2,010 04

## ENGINE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By appropriation	\$300 00
By excess of expenditure	56 44
	<hr/>
	\$356 44

## BILLS PAID.

Samuel Jameson, blacksmithing	2 00
Edward Berry, care of engine	15 00
F. H. Purinton, repairs of engine	7 00
D. A. Haskell, ground rent	10 00
C. E. White supplies for engine	3 11
D. A. Hall, express and postage	1 73
Edward Berry, care of engine	5 00
R. B. Melcher, alcohol for engine	3 00
M. C. Hall, pay of engine men	64 00
Boyd & Sons, hose and couplings	167 00
C. H. Colby, oil for engine	75
F. H. Purinton, work on engine	63 35
Edward Berry, care of engine	5 00
B. U. Dennison, sundries	1 84
Samuel Jameson, material for engine	2 50
Charles E. White, supplies	5 16
	<hr/>
	\$356 44

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Robert P. Whitney, stamps for office	1 04
W. E. Graves, witness in town vs. Lisbon	6 18
Auditors of accounts, Scribner, Haskell & Smith	4 50
Chas. E. Haskell, making up accounts	22 50
I. E. Mallett, services as selectman	22 50
C. W. Purinton, do.	17 45
A. G. Tenney, printing town report	35 00
Swanzey Wilson, care of hearse	5 75
George Barron, Goodwin road and Bay Bridge	50 00
A. Crowell & Co., paper and envelopes	2 00
C. W. Purinton, telegram, books and stationery	3 24



C. H. Small, warning highway surveyors	6 00
C. E. White, supplies	5 66
C. E. White, services as town clerk	15 00
Dresser, McLellan & Co, blank books	6 00
Dan'l W. Johnson, enforcing dog law	10 00
Henry Orr, advice on road	1 00
Fannie E. Purinton, correction of error in highway tax	4 98
R. P. Whitney, box rent and stamps	1 94
Hoyt & Co., copy of Maine Register	1 25
C. E. Haskell, work in selectmen's office	33 75
C. H. Small, commission as collector	25 00
I. E. Mallett, services as selectman	45 50
Samuel Knight, committee on Goodwin road	4 50
R. P. Whitney, supplies	1 00
C. W. Purinton, services as selectman	50 00
A. P. Moore, commissioner on Goodwin road	16 43
C. H. Small, services as dep. sheriff	14 62
C. H. Small, posting warrant, and supplies	6 25
Mrs. I. P. Tebbetts, damages awarded	75 00
A. G. Tenney, printing voting list	9 00
Sampson Colby, services as constable	5 50
C. E. Haskell, supplies for office	5 25
Edward Berry, guarding tramps	5 00
D. W. Johnson, do.	4 50
B. R. Jordan, use of Agric'l Hall	25 00
George Barron, services at Legislature on Bay Bridge case	50 00
Isaac P. Tebbetts, do.	12 06
A. A. Purinton, stationery	3 74
W. B. Purinton, services at Augusta	10 00
C. E. White	70
C. E. White, services as town clerk	20 00
C. H. Small, commission as collector to date	44 42
J. F. Whitney, do. to date	62 02
A. A. Purinton, services as treasurer	25 00

A. A. Purinton, stationery	1 42	
E. Griffin, care and repairs of hearse	12 00	
F. W. Dearborn, services as selectman	40 00	
C. E. Haskell, do. for selectman	34 50	
	<hr/>	\$864 14
C. H. Small, discount for early pay't of taxes	402 17	
	<hr/>	\$1266 31

## NOTE ACCOUNT.

Amount of Notes outstanding by last report	
March, 1877	\$3556 34
Amount given during the year	300 00
	<hr/> \$3856 34

## NOTES PAID.

Horace Staples	\$175 00	
Celia Price	625 00	
Katharine Knight	200 00	
Eliza J. Thompson.	75 00	
M. Nowell	300 00	
Balance	2,481 34	
	<hr/>	\$3,856 34
Notes reduced	\$1,075 00	
Notes outstanding Feb. 20, 1878.	\$2,481 34	

## INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Amount paid on Notes	\$202 45	
"    "    Coupons	30 77	
	<hr/>	\$233 22

## ABATEMENTS.

By appropriation for abatements and discounts	\$500 00	
By amount expended above appropriation	722 99	
	<hr/>	\$1,222 99
Andrew M. Patten	\$4 62	
Andrew M. Patten for four years	7 47	
J. B. Hopkins	3 00	

Horace Staples	2 20
J. W. Fisher & Son	3 02
George L. Colby	3 00
Abigail Jack	5 52
Chas. W. Allen	3 00
A. J. Hildreth	11 10
Mary A. Sennett	3 00
R & F. E. Purinton & N. Stewart	16 23
Celia A. Jameson	1 00
John Grady	1 98
Adam O. Trufant for two years	3 65
H. W. Thompson do.	4 73
Byron Stephens do.	40 00
A. J. Hildreth	12 00
Fred Barron	3 00
O. Brawn & wife	1 61
James T. Purinton	6 00
Betsy Morse	5 51
Clarkson Goud	3 00
Geo. L. White for two years	12 80
Geo. L. White	9 20
James A. Whitten for two years	2 83
Charles Goud	80
Owen Howard	2 00
Rebecca M. Purinton, highway two years	4 10
David F. Patten	3 00
David F. Patten	89
Joshua Whitten estate	3 11
William Dennett	3 60
Frank O. Trufant	1 50
Horace Staples	2 78
Nathaniel Orr for two years	6 00
A. H. Ward	4 85
F. W. Dearborn, sundries for three years	100 57
William Whitten & son for two years	9 90
D. Thompon & son do.	20 00

C. E. Niles & wife	2 50	
C. F. Hardie for two years	29 45	
A. Graves & son	2 00	
J. Atkins & son	3 00	
Bowdoin Paper Co.	100 00	
J. H. Whitehouse	16 20	
James A. Whitten	50	
John B. Christopher	80	
A. T. Denison	182 18	
C. E. White for sundry persons	16 79	
J. F. Whitney        "	134 83	
	<hr/>	\$820 82
Discount for early payment of taxes		402 17
		<hr/>
		\$1,222 99

## TOWN FARM.

## Dr

Inventory March 3, 1877

Stock	303 50	
Supplies	273 55	
Utensils and furniture	413 79	
Cash on hand	20 92	
	<hr/>	\$1011 76

## ORDERS PAID.

Samuel Jameson, blacksmith work	15 90
J. T. Knight, labor on barn	22 00
W. S. Alexander, labor and material on barn	16 38
Owen Howard for help in ditching	12 50
A. H. Ward. (3 orders), labor	15 00
S. Knight, lumber	4 85
J. F. Blondell, repairing mowing machine	3 75
James E. Howland, repairing wagon and rake	13 00
Swanzey Wilson, attending cow	2 00
Chas. E. White, supplies	16 61

Purinton & Beaumont, do.	2 90
I. S. Balcome, furnishing for barn	27 91
W. B. Purinton, P. & Hall's bill for lumber and sawing	23 33
	<hr/> \$176 13

*Orders paid of more recent date.*

William Dunning for hay	45 00
I. E. Mallett, cow and calf	50 00
D. S. Curtis mowing 2 1-4 days	13 50
Purinton & Beaumont, supplies	45 74
D. & C. E. Scribner, bill of supplies	35 59
J. W. Rackley, hauling hay	2 50
Owen Howard, bal. of farm book for supplies	127 17
Chas. E. White for hay	50 00
Chas. E. White, cash to A. Ward for labor	5 00
	<hr/> \$374 50
Supplies furnished by Mr. Howard (see farm book)	368 54
	<hr/> \$1,930 93

**TOWN FARM, Cr.**

Inventory Feb. 18, 1878

Stock	\$336 50	
Supplies	382 20	
Utensils and furniture	448 29	
Ditching improvements	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,216 99
Cash rec'd for butter, wool, hog, sheep and cow's hide	58 37	
From Farm Book ; produce &c. sold	439 71	
224 meals and lodging to tramps	56 00	
Due from E. G. Cornish for butter	60	
" Joseph McKeen do.	3 94	
" Sundry persons for services of bull	16 50	
" 3 men for 4 weeks' board at \$4	48 00	
	<hr/>	\$564 75
Balance against the farm Feb. 28, 1878		90 82
		<hr/> \$1,930 93

## POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Paid Joseph McKeen for Mrs. Frye	\$1 50	
C. F. Pettie, care of do.	31 60	
Drs Lincoln & Mitchell, Mrs. Frye	9 00	
Insane Hospital, Dunning & Haley	68 34	
Town of Athens for Seth Tebbett's wife	16 00	
C. T. Patten, wood for Mrs. D. Flagg	3 75	
Henry Morang. board of Lucy Foye	19 50	
Chas. W. Purinton, pauper dispatch	65	
Chas. E. White, supplies to Mrs. D. Flagg	4 25	
M. P. Reed, wood for do.	2 00	
Insane Hospital, Dunning, Haley & Storer	66 91	
Purinton & Beaumont, supplies	1 44	
Joseph McKeen for Mrs. Emily Storer	16 50	
F. W. Dearborn. do	2 00	
Insane Hospital. Dunning, Haley & Storer	70 54	
Henry Morang. board of Lucy Foye	19 50	
Joseph McKeen, attendance on Seth Tebbetts	3 00	
C. E. Haskell, wood to Mrs. D. Flagg	1 75	
Wm. M. Howland, do.	5 00	
Wellington Tedford do.	3 75	
Samuel Royal sawing wood for do.	1 00	
D. Whitney, wood for Mrs. Amos Nickerson	5 25	
Insane Hospital, Dunning, Haley & Storer	89 08	
I. S. Balcome, stove &c. for lockup	6 27	
C. T. Rackley. hay to Mrs. Nickerson	7 98	
A. A. Purinton, supplies for tramps	2 86	
C. E. White, supplies as per bill	22 15	
Swanzy Wilson, guarding tramps	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$483 57
Received from Dunning Bros.		78 00
		<hr/>
Cost of Poor out of the House		\$405 57

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*For the year beginning March, 13 1877.*

Amount in Treasury	\$1297 94
Rec'd of F. W. Dearborn, Collector for 1872, '73, '74, '75	1306 18
Jerry F. Whitney       "       1876	4249 05
Chas. H. Small,       "       1877	6756 97
State Treas. School Fund, mill tax for 1876	790 88
State Treas. for Free High School 1877	500 00
Rec'd from Treas. of Town School Fund	40 04
for Bills Payable	300 00
"       Receivable	117 02
Rec'd for Interest on Bills Receivable	15 01
of Selectmen for highway taxes	22 06
"       produce sold from town farm	22 80
Dunning Bros. for support of Lydia Dunning, insane	78 00
Town of Lubec       do.   Mrs. Frye       do	42 10
Rec'd for tax on dogs	66 00
of B. Jewett's dog case	10 00
N Cornish estate	32 50
for Toll Bridge Timber	28 08
of A. H. Nason Lisbon, non-resident real estate tax 1876,	3 66
A. L. Graves over-payment on order	7 50
	<hr/>
	\$15,685 79

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Orders paid	\$8827 76
Bonds paid	4500 00
Coupons Jan'y 1877	7 50
"       July       "	450 00
"       Jan'y 1878	250 00
	<hr/>
	707 50
Notes	1375 00
Balance in Treasury Feb. 20th, 1878,	275 53
	<hr/>
	\$15,685 79

## TOWN SCHOOL FUND.

## Dr.

Amount of Fund	\$667 28
Interest on note of Town of Topsham, year ending Mar. 5, '78	40 04
	<hr/>
	\$707 32
	<hr/>

## Cr.

Note of Town of Topsham	\$667 28
Interest on note paid to Town Treas. for support of schools	40 04
	<hr/>
	\$707 32
	<hr/>

A. A. PURINTON, Treasurer.

## LIABILITIES, FEB. 20, 1878.

For Bonds	\$10,500 00	
Bal. of State tax of 1877	2,044 45	
Notes outstanding	2,481 34	
Orders outstanding	599 94	
High School	225 00	
Bills outstanding estimated	489 00	
Accrued interest      "	275 00	
Bal. due schools	208 07	
	<hr/>	\$16,822 80

## RESOURCES.

Due from State permanent school fund	\$264 74
..      Mill tax	423 04
"      J. F. Whitney, Coll. (old acc't)	182 94
"      "      "      (new acc't)	1628 01
"      F. W. Dearborn, Coll.	73 94
"      C. H. Small, present Coll.	6491 41
"      Bal. in Treasury	275 53
"      Town of Yarmouth	44 10



"	J. H. & G. A. Hunter	30 00	
"	Joseph Barron	53 00	
			<u>\$9,466 71</u>

Excess of Liabilities, Feb. 20, 1878	\$7,356 09
Town debt reduced	<u>\$3,356 01</u>

## TABLE

*Showing the Excess of Liabilities above the Resources, or, Town Debt, each Year, in March, together with the Rates of Taxation and number of Polls.*

YEAR.	DEBT.	TAX ON \$1.	POLLS.
1870	\$17,573 76	20 mills	340
1871	21,300 91	20 "	335
1872	22,959 46	22 "	339
1873	20,609 10	20 "	346
1874	18,437 25	30 "	357
1875	15,681 53	18½ "	366
1876	14,588 68	20 "	361
1877	10,712 10	20 "	348
1878	7,356 09		

## APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1878.

*The following appropriations are recommended for the coming year :*

Common Schools,	\$1,300 00
High School,	1,000 00
Highways and Bridges,	2,000 00
Poor and other expenses,	1,500 00
Abatements and Discounts,	800 00
Notes and Interest,	1,000 00
Fire Department,	300 00

CHARLES W. PURINTON,	} Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, of the Town of Tostham.
ISAAC E. MALLETT,	
F. W. DEARBORN,	

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the books, orders and bills, (of which the preceding pages are a true copy,) and find them correct.

DAVID SCRIBNER, *Auditor.*

# SCHOOL REPORT.

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THE following is respectfully submitted as a report of the Schools of Topsham, for the year closing March, 1878:

Number of scholars in town, April 1, 1877,	413
Registered in Summer and Fall,	226
Registered in Winter,	222
Average attendance, Summer and Fall,	193
Average attendance, Winter,	189
Average per cent. of attendance,	84.2
Average wages of female teachers, per week, including board,	\$6 82
Average board, per week,	2 55
Average wages of male teachers, per month, including board,	41 00
Average board, per month,	14 40

Number of terms taught during the year, 33; weeks, 305.

Total wages of teachers, \$2, 876 50. The incidental expenses of the schools may be found in the Selectmen's Report.

## VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

**HIGH SCHOOL.** Teachers. Principal, Mr. Geo. C. Purington : assistants, Miss Nellie Bunker and Miss Anna E. Smith. Three terms of 10, 12 and 11 weeks—33 weeks. Registered number of scholars, Summer, 30; Fall, 33; Winter, 34. Average attendance, Summer, 26.53; Fall, 31.54; Winter, 30.57. Wages per month, Principal, \$31, board, \$24.—\$55. Wages per week to both

assistants (average) \$10 05; board, \$4 50. — \$16 55. Total wages and board, \$1,000.

An effort was made at the commencement of the Fall term to grade the schools of the village, by converting one of the Primary Schools into a Grammar School, and putting a graduating course of study into the High School. So that, for two terms, these schools have been graded, and the working of them on this plan has been quite satisfactory. The High School has been under the charge of Mr. Purington for two years. As, during the present year, he could not devote his whole time to the school, on account of his college studies, he was employed to take charge of it and furnish satisfactory assistants enough so that he could be out, himself, forenoons, without damage to the school. He was to have for the three terms, 33 weeks of school as good as we had last year, \$1,000. He employed as assistants, Miss Bunker, all the day, and Miss Smith part of the day. The amount and quality of work done in the school during the year is very satisfactory, as all who visit it very frankly testify. The school is in excellent condition, and will compare favorably with any other High School in the State.

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL.** Teachers. Summer, Miss Addie B. Hawes. Fall and Winter, Miss Nettie M. Spear. Three terms of 9 weeks each,—27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 45; Fall, 36; Winter, 40. Average, Summer, 30; Fall, 30; Winter, 35. Wages per week, (average) \$4 83, board, \$3 50. — \$8 33. Total, \$225.

This School is in the same building with the High School, and has for the past two terms, been taught by Miss Spear, who seems to understand managing such a school. Her government and teaching are both good.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL.** Teacher, Miss F. G. Barron. Three terms of 9 weeks each — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 40; Fall, 40; Winter, 32. Average, Summer, 38; Fall, 27; Winter, 26. Wages per week, \$5 00; board, \$3 00. — \$8 00. Total, \$216. Miss Barron's method of governing is easy and quiet, perhaps a little too much so for the good of the school. She seems very desirous of doing her duty, and having her pupils do well.

## RURAL SCHOOLS.

No. 1. Teachers. Summer, Miss Abbie M. Tate; Fall and Winter, Miss Lizzie Toothaker. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 7; Fall, 6; Winter, 6. Average, Summer, 7; Fall, 5; Winter, 6. Wages per week, (average) \$3 63; board, \$2 17 — \$5 80. Total, \$156 50.

This school was taught during the summer term, in a shop, situated in what used to be called District No. 8, to better accommodate a few families living midway between school houses Nos. 1 and 12. The teachers of this school acquitted themselves well, both giving general satisfaction.

No. 3. Teachers. Summer, Miss Emma A. Stanwood; Fall and Winter, Miss Hattie M. Abel. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 15; Fall, 16; Winter, 18. Average, Summer, 13; Fall, 15; Winter, 16. Wages per week, (average) \$4 39; board, \$2 00.—\$6 39. Total \$172 50.

This school has made fair progress. The teaching during all the terms, seemed to be of a thorough nature. Miss Stanwood is now teaching, very acceptably, in Brunswick village.

No. 4. Teachers. Summer, Miss Lucy Baldwin; Fall, Miss Josie A. Given; Winter, Miss Jennie S. Graves. Three terms of 9, 8 and 14 weeks — 31 weeks. Registered, Summer, 14; Fall, 14; Winter, 14. Average, Summer, 12; Fall, 11; Winter, 12. Wages per week, (average) \$4 26; board, \$2 00 — \$6 26. Total, \$194.

This school has had good work done in it during the year. Miss Baldwin made her first attempt at teaching here. Miss Given and Miss Graves succeeded her in the Fall and Winter with wonderful success. There has been a marked improvement in this school. The teaching has been thorough and practical. Miss Graves has taught considerably in town, always with good success. She is one of our best teachers. The school is now in session, the winter term being lengthened out to make up what was lost last winter on account of sickness.

No. 5. Teachers. Summer and Fall. Miss Carrie S. Clapp; Winter, Mr. E. G. Smith. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 13; Fall, 15; Winter, 14.

Average, Summer, 13; Fall, 14; Winter, 13. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$3 00; board, \$2 50 — \$5 50. Wages per month, Winter, \$28 00; board, \$12 00 — \$40. Total, \$193 50.

This is one of the most advanced schools outside of the village, and the scholars seem eager for an education. The Fall term was not quite as satisfactory as the Summer term. The Winter term was taught by Mr. Smith, who gave general satisfaction.

No. 6. Teachers. Summer and Fall, Miss Jennie S. Graves. Winter, Mr. F. H. Blondel. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 27; Fall, 23; Winter, 30. Average, Summer, 22; Fall, 19; Winter, 22. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$4 00, board, \$2 00 — \$6 00. Wages per month, Winter, \$26 00; board, \$14 00 — \$40. Total, \$202.

This is the largest school outside of the village, and it has been under the instruction of good teachers, who are enthusiastic and interested in their work. As Miss Graves declined to continue in the school during the winter term, Mr. Blondel, who succeeded so well last winter, was employed. There has been a very decided improvement in this school. The scholars are enthusiastic, sharp and critical, thus showing good training.

No. 9. Teachers. Summer and Winter, Miss Nellie F. Baldwin. Fall, Miss Abbie M. Tate. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 14; Fall, 15; Winter, 14. Average, Summer, 11; Fall, 12; Winter, 11. Wages per week, (average) \$3 90; board, \$2 17 — \$6 07. Total, \$164. There has been a marked improvement in this school during the year. The teaching has been of a thorough and practical nature. The scholars are more enthusiastic and thorough in what they have been over. The methods of instruction and government are similar to those pursued in the High School, which these teachers have been attending.

No. 11. Teachers. Summer and Fall, Miss Fannie D. Nowell. Winter, Mr. M. D. Libby. Three terms of 9, 8 and 8 weeks — 25 weeks. Registered, Summer, 5; Fall, 8; Winter, 3. Average, Summer, 4.5; Fall, 7; Winter, 3. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$3 50; board, \$2 00 — \$5 50. Wages per month, Winter, \$23 00; board, 12 00 — \$35 00. Total, \$163 50.

By the earnest solicitations of one or two of the patrons of this school, Miss Nowell was employed from term to term until winter, when a desire was expressed for a change; and as there was talk of quite a number of young men's attending, Mr. Libby, of the Junior class of the Agricultural College, was employed, who came well recommended. As to his tact at teaching and governing a school, (this being his first attempt) I could not so correctly judge, as most of his pupils left him during the first week. Upon investigation it was found that outside matters had more to do in the attempt to break up the school, than a want of ability on the part of the teacher, or a willful disobedience on the part of the scholars. The few who attended the school until the close of the term, seemed well satisfied with the teacher; and appeared, at the closing examination, to have made commendable progress.

No 12. Teachers. Summer, Miss Fannie M. Woodard; Fall, Miss Mabel Spear; Winter, Mr. John L. Dearing. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks. — 27 weeks. Registered, Summer, 16; Fall, 17; Winter, 18. Average, Summer, 14; Fall, 13; Winter, 15. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$4 00; board, \$2 00 — \$6 00. Wages per month, Winter, \$25 00; board, \$10 00 — \$35 00. Total, \$189 50.

Miss Woodard had taught this school before, to the general satisfaction of all concerned. She exhibited considerable tact and interest in her work, and the scholars seemed to make good progress under her instruction; but as she was taken sick after the close of the summer term, Miss Spear was employed for the Fall term; and for the Winter term Mr. Dearing, who manifested considerable tact and enthusiasm in his work, which was very satisfactory.

## GRADE — COURSE OF STUDY.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Franklin First and Second Readers. Spelling from the reading lessons. Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic, and oral instruction in the four fundamental rules of Arithmetic. Harper's Introductory Geography. Payson, Dunton and Scribner's Writing Books.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Franklin Third and Fourth Readers. Spelling from the reading lessons. Greenleaf's Intellectual and Practical Arithmetic. Harper's Introductory and School Geography. Green's Introduction to Grammar. Payson, Dunton and Scribner's Writing Books.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

*First Year.* First Term. — Reading, Spelling, Intellectual Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography and Writing.

Second Term. — Reading, Spelling, Intellectual Arithmetic, Analysis, Geography and Writing.

Third Term. — Reading, Spelling, Written Arithmetic, Composition, Physical Geography and Writing.

*Second Year.* First Term. — Reading, Spelling, Written Arithmetic, Composition, Physical Geography and Writing.

Second Term. — Reading, Spelling, Written Arithmetic, Composition, Physical Geography and Writing.

Third Term. — Reading, Spelling, Written Arithmetic, Composition, History and Writing.

*Third Year.* First Term. — Reading, Spelling, Algebra, French, (or an equivalent) Physiology and Book-keeping.

Second Term. — Reading, Spelling, Algebra, French, (or an equivalent,) Physiology and Book-keeping.

Third Term. — Reading, Spelling, Algebra, French, (or an equivalent,) Natural History and Book-keeping.

*Fourth Year.* First Term. — Reading, Spelling, Geometry or Latin, French, (or an equivalent,) and Philosophy.

Second Term. — Reading, Spelling, Geometry or Latin, French, (or an equivalent,) and Botany.

Third Term. — Reading, Spelling, Trigonometry or Latin, French, (or an equivalent,) and Botany.

*Fifth Year.* First Term. — English Literature, Geology, Latin or Surveying.

Second Term. English Literature, Astronomy, Latin or Navigation.

Third Term. Politics, Ancient History, Latin, or Review of Mathematics.

Declamations and Compositions during the last three years of the course.

A partial course may be taken when necessary.

### EXAMINATIONS.

For admission to the Grammar School. — Reading and Spelling in Franklin Second Reader. All of Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetic. Harper's Introductory Geography — about half way through.

For admission to the High School. — Reading and Spelling in Franklin Fourth Reader. Greenleaf's Practical Arithmetic, through Decimal Fractions. Harper's School Geography through the United States. Rules of English Grammar, and Analysis and Parsing of prose sentences.

Regular time for promotion of classes, the commencement of the Fall Term.

Thus I have endeavored to give an impartial statement of the condition of your schools, as I have found them during the year. Although there may be, and doubtless are, many imperfections in them, I am pleased to say, that in my opinion, there has been a decided improvement during the past year. The teaching has been more thorough and practical, and the scholars have been better contented to do a little *well*, rather than a great deal *poorly*.

It was found, last year, that there was not a uniformity in the methods of teaching throughout the town; therefore, at the commencement of this year, teachers' meetings were held for drill and discussion as to methods of teaching and governing. As a result of these meetings, and of having several teachers who have attended or frequently visited our High School, there has been more uniformity in the instructions, thus enabling scholars to go from one school to another without so much loss of time in learning new methods.

Some of the schools are so small that it is somewhat difficult to find teachers of any experience and ambition who are willing to go into them. Our best teachers prefer larger schools, even at the same pay.



In the effort to secure better teachers, a trifle more has been paid for the teaching than was paid last year. We have had 11 more weeks of school than we had last year, and the teaching has cost \$210 75 more.

The only change of books that has been made during the year is the introduction of Harper's Introductory, and School Geography, in the place of Cornell's Primary, Intermediate, and Grammar School. By this change we have two books instead of three. The Harper's Geographies are up with the times, are printed on excellent paper, substantially bound, with maps *well executed* and *correct*. From two terms' trial in my own school, and one term in the public schools of the town, I do not hesitate to pronounce them the *best* Geographies I have seen. The change was much needed, as the books formerly in use were old, behind the times, and lumbered up with a mass of questions on unimportant places.

There has been but little expended during the year for repairs. The school-houses are in fair condition. No. 4 needs re-plastering. No. 9 needs new black-boards. The school-room should be made pleasant and attractive. It should be neatly finished and well furnished.

My connection with the schools of Topsham for the past two years has been, in many respects, very pleasant to me; and I shall remember with gratitude the cordial and respectful treatment which I have received from both teachers and scholars. Their patient and willing submission to all the suggestions which I have seen fit to make, has won my respect for them, and I shall continue to feel interested in their welfare.

As my own school is increasing, and consequently, the duties in it increase, I am compelled to decline a re-election. I acknowledge with gratitude the confidence which the voters of the Town have placed in me, and I sincerely hope and trust that the supervision of their schools will be entrusted to the hands of some one who may be able to devote more time and ability to the work than I am able to do; one whose moral and intellectual influence will inspire the young with *more* enthusiasm in the noble work of preparing themselves for *good* and *useful* citizens.

D. L. SMITH, Supervisor.

TOPSHAM, FEB. 26, 1878.