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Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Trustees of School Fund and Superintending School Committee Together with the Rules and Ordinances Adopted by the Town of Dexter at Their Annual Meeting, March 17, 1856

Dexter, (Me.)

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TOGETHER WITH THE
RULES AND ORDINANCES,

ADOPTED BY THE
Town of Dexter,

AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,

MARCH 17, 1856.

LEVIATHAN PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT:

Dexter, Me.

ORDERED, That *Five Hundred Copies* of the Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Trustees of School Fund, Town Agency, and Superintending School Committee ; together with the Rules and Ordinances, adopted by the Town of Dexter, at their Annual Meeting, March 17, 1856, be printed for the use of the Town.

Attest,

P. McCRILLIS, *Town Clerk.*

TOWN REPORTS.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Dexter, March 17, 1856.

The Selectmen would submit the following
REPORT.

Amount of balance in the Treasurer's hands
at the commencement of the year, \$589,45

Amount of bills committed to the Col-
lector at the commencement of the
year, \$3269,53

Received into the Treasury from
other sources during the year as fol-
lows :—

Received amount of Bank Tax,	258,92
“ for Circus License,	10,00
“ Loan of Elizabeth A. Keene,	70,00
“ of town of Bowerbank,	10,12
“ Interest of N. Wyman,	,75
“ of A. S French for D. Ad- dison Agent,	100,00
“ of City of Bangor,	33,75
“ of town of Canaan,	7,66
“ of town of St Albans,	5,51
“ of Richard Joss for F. Carnes	74,72
“ of A. S. French Treas. of School Fund,	85,90

\$4516,31

EXPENDITURES.

There has been Expended as follows :—

Amount paid out to the several School Districts,	2061,59
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Amount paid out for the support of the Poor, including amt. paid for services on Town Farm,	708,15
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[See Schedule B page 6]

Amount expended on Highways,	\$506,86
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[See Schedule C page 8]

[Schedule A]

Other expenses of the town, as follows :

Paid W. F. Hallett, renewal of insurance,	1,89
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“ Hiram Carr, services as Selectman,	23,50
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“ Wm. Eaton 2d, for Horse,	106,20
----------------------------	--------

“ J. F. Witherell, for printing Report,	26,50
---	-------

“ A. S. French, for Blank Books & Stationery,	4,31
---	------

“ A. S. French, paid for printing notices, repairing fence at Cemetery, paid Constable Services &c.,	8,29
--	------

“ Trustees of estate of N. Jordan, road damages,	10,00
--	-------

“ Charles Jewett, road damages,	35,00
---------------------------------	-------

“ A. S. French, paid for printing notices to Overseers of Poor, &c.	3,10
---	------

“ L. B. Bridgham, for Setting Guide Posts, &c.,	4,00
---	------

“ H. Safford, for Fence at Town Lot,	6,25
--------------------------------------	------

“ J. F. Witherell, for Blanks,	2,55
--------------------------------	------

“ Eli Winslow for making and	
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painting Guide Boards, &c.,	17,05
" S. McClellan for damage to	
" Horse,	6,00
Paid .I K. Ireland, for damages to	
Sleigh,	6,00
" H. A. Bement, for Fence at	
Cemetery,	75,00
" J. J. Morrill, Damage to Horse	
1855,	10,00
" W. S. Cilley, for services as	
Town Clerk,	6,75
" N. H. Bates, for care of Engine,	1,50
" Joseph Sanborn, Sup. School Com.	23,75
" C. B. Bates, work on Hearse, &c.	1,25
" Giles Bailey, services as Sup.	
School Com.,	39,00
" C. M. Herring " " "	
School Committee,	28,00
" Joseph Shepherd, Abatements	50,48
[See Schedule D page 9]	
" J. Shephard, Discount on Col-	
lections,	57,16
" J. Shepherd, per centage for	
Collections,	86,75
" A. S. French, seivices as Select-	
man,	40,00
" J. Crosby, " " "	25,00
" Sam'l Keene, " " "	24,00
" A. S. French, for Stationery and	
Postage,	1,50
" D. Additon services as Treasurer,	20,00
" J. Shepherd " " Constable, &c	9,00
" Expenses of Building at Town	
Farm,	141,05
	<u>900,83</u>

[Schedule B]

Paid for the Support of the Poor.

Paid P. M. Additon for services on Town Farm,	\$77,67
“ A. Proctor, for Med. attendance on T. Bickell 2d,	40,00
“ Stephen Leighton, furnished for T. Bickell 2d,	2,00
“ for support of Mrs. C. E. Ireland,	15,97
“ for support of Nancy B. Waldron,	6,16
“ H. Carr, expense for Maxwell,	2,50
“ for care of Mr. Lynde,	2,75
“ for articles for Albert S. Ireland— sent Reform School,	6,00
“ for care of Nancy B. Waldron and child,	1,50
“ for bringing Maxwell from Gar- land,	1,25
“ Expense for sending D. Chase to Sebec,	4,50
“ for care of child of Martha A. Cooper,	22,50
“ for support of Mrs. C. E. Ireland,	11,50
“ for support of Elisha Tibbetts,	33,75
“ city of Bangor, for support of Mrs. C. W. Mains,	47,50
“ Stephen Smith, care of Maxwell,	5,00
“ for support of family of R. L. Brawn,	27,63
“ for support of Mary Kelly,	4,59
“ for support or Mrs. C. E. Ireland,	9,25
“ for support of C. Leighton, and M. Ham,	5,50
“ G. M. Burleigh, for Med. att'd on family of E. G. Patten, & others,	19,50

" W. S. Cilley, for books furnished family of E. G. Patten &c.	1,76
" Phineas Gee, Interment of child of Mr. Favor & of R. L. Brawn,	2,75
" J. Shepherd, services after Maxwell, &c.,	2,00
" G. M. Burleigh, for Med. att'd on N. S. Burrill,	3,00
" for support of Martin Favor and family,	182,42
" for support of Mary & Susan Fulsom,	25,25
" for support of family of E. G. Patten,	5,92
" for support of family of R. L. Brawn,	6,77
" for support of Mrs. C. E. Ireland,	10,50
" " " of family of Jacob Larabee,	8,26
" Expenses of Wm. Sturtevant and Maxwell,	2,00
" Hiram Carr, for carrying D. Chase to Sebec—1853,	3,00
" H. Dunham, services at Town Farm,	107,50
	<hr/>
	708,15

The above amount includes \$77,67 paid P. M. Additon for services in 1854 and \$119,05 received from or due from other towns leaving a balance of \$511,43 our own expenses for the last year.

EXPENDED ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid Bassett & Dustin for Iron for Float Bridge,	\$10,46
" A. S. French, amt. paid out on Highways,	2,17
" Jeremiah Page, for labor on Highways in 1854,	14,50
" L. S. Libby, labor on Highways 1854,	5,00
" James Dinsmore " " 1853,	,67
" A. S. French, for nails &c. furnished, and paid out on highways,	8,00
" J. L. & J. C. Hersey labor on highways,	9,33
" John Harris, for plank for highways	10,00
" Charles Parkman for building bridge,	152,50
" J. & A. Abbott for timber &c. for highways,	28,54
" A. S. French, paid out on highways,	4,30
" Isaac Smith, labor on highways,	4,00
" J. Shepherd, lumber for highways,	8,02
" Thomas Hersom labor on " "	3,50
" Levi B. Bridgham, " " "	5,00
" Jeremiah Page, expended " "	86,72
" Snow B. Page, labor on " "	19,18
" James Leighton, labor &c. " "	10,45
" G. Jewett, lumber for " "	22,00
" Wm. Eaton, Powder &c. " "	8,22
" A. S. French, nails, furnished, paid T. Bickell and others for labor on highways,	11,00
" James Findley, labor on highways in 1853,	1,00
" J. Shepherd, labor on highways,	1,25
" E. D. Jumper, " " "	2,00

Paid Francis Brown, labor on highways,	1,64	,
“ J. & A. Abbott, lumber for “	15,40	
“ T. S. Bailey, labor on highways,	1,00	
“ J. Shepherd, lumber for “	12,65	
“ B. E. H. Durrell, labor on “	1,00	
“ Jere'h Page, “ “	7,00	
“ Charles Jewett, timber for “	6,78	
“ Hiram Carr, lumber for “	6,00	
“ John Trefetherin “ “ “	8,12	
“ Tho's G. Cleaves, “ “ “	2,12	
“ Nicholas Sands, “ “ “ 1854	3,00	
“ Leonard Brown, “ “ “	1,50	
“ Benj. Parker, “ “ “ 1854	,80	
“ Seth Drew, “ “ “ 1854	,54	
“ C. B. Bates for work for highways,	5,02	
“ A. S. French, paid out for labor on highways,	6,48	
	<u>\$506,86</u>	

[Schedule D]

ABATEMENTS.

Francis Brown, error in tax,	\$2,38
G. W. Carr, over tax,	,60
J. W. Hodgkins, abatement of Poll,	1,00
James & Tho's Brawn, abatement,	3,01
Wm. Brawn, “	1,00
Jon'a Brawn, “	1,00
G. W. Barron, “	1,00
Israel P. Bates, “	1,00
Henry P. Brawn, “	1,00
G. G. Beard, “	1,00
Edward Bickell, “	1,00
Leonard Brown, “	,50
Isaac N. Beals “	2,00

C. A. Colbath,	abatements,	1,00
J. R. Campbell,	"	1,00
Edwin R. Dinsmore,	"	1,00
Wm. E. Dinsmore,	"	1,00
D. H. Demeritt,	"	2,20
Martin Favor,	"	2,28
Sylvanus Gallison,	"	,95
Matthew Ham,	"	1,00
Harvey L. Haskell,	"	2,00
E. A. Helmershausen,	"	1,00
L. E. Johnson,	"	4,38
Jacob Larabee,	"	1,00
Michael Lane,	"	1,00
Ithamar B. Merrill,	"	1,00
Simeon Morgan,	"	3,31
Horace McDaniel,	"	1,00
Woodis Royal,	"	1,15
Wm. Simmons,	"	2,15
Enoch T. Smart,	"	1,00
Dan'l W. Sylvester,	"	4,70
Isaac McKenny,	"	1,00
Betsey Watson & Eunice Stevens,		2,85
		<hr/>
		\$54,46

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### OUTSTANDING ORDERS.

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Philena S. Sanborn,       | \$143,71  |
| Ruth Shaw,                | 324,00    |
| J. P. Murch,              | 400,00    |
| Alvin P. Sanborn,         | 250,00    |
| Elizabeth A. Keene,       | 70,00     |
| Other outstanding orders, | 500,32    |
|                           | <hr/>     |
|                           | \$1688,03 |

## STANDING OF THE TOWN.

## LIABILITIES.

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Outstanding orders, | \$1688,03 |
|---------------------|-----------|

## RESOURCES.

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| In Treasurer's hands, | \$447,75 |
|-----------------------|----------|

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Due from other towns and individuals, | 92,32 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Due from School Districts, | 140,81 |
|----------------------------|--------|

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| “ “ Treasurer of School Fund, | 60,90 |
|-------------------------------|-------|

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|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | \$741,78 |
|--|----------|

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Balance against the town, | 946,25 |
|---------------------------|--------|

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | \$1688,03 |
|--|-----------|

March 17, 1856.

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| A. S. FRENCH,  | ) | Selectmen  |
| JOSIAH CROSBY, | ) | of Dexter. |

# TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of Dexter would submit the following

## R E P O R T .

|     |                                |          |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------|
| Dr. | To balance in Treasury at com- |          |
|     | mencement of the year,         | \$589,45 |
| "   | Tax bills committed to J.      |          |
|     | Shepherd, Col.,                | 3269,53  |
|     | Amount received into the       |          |
|     | Treasury from other            |          |
|     | sources during the year,       | 657,33   |

---

\$4516,31

|     |                             |         |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------|
| Cr. | By paid orders drawn by the |         |
|     | Selectmen,                  | 4068,56 |
| "   | Balance in Treasury,        | 447,75  |

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\$4516,31

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Included in the above amount |         |
| is Taxes returned            |         |
| in 1849,                     | \$11,65 |
| " " 1842 & 43,               | 59,09   |

DAVID ADDITON, *Treasurer.*

*Dexter, March 17, 1856.*

## Report of Treasurer of School Fund.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the School Fund of Dexter, would

### R E P O R T

The whole amount of School Fund of Dexter, \$2446,67  
which remains in the same hands as at the report of last year.

Annual interest on the above, is \$146,80  
which has all been collected for the past year, except that due from John Morgan, S. Bond, and C. Crockett.

A. S. FRENCH, Treasurer of the Trustees of the School Fund of Dexter.

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### TOWN FARM.

We would submit the following statement of the affairs of the Town Farm for the past year.

|                                                                |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Paid Henry Dunham for services,                                | \$150 |
| Articles bought for Farm and Family use, and in building Shed, | 350   |

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\$500

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Sold from the farm,          | 266      |
| Expenses more than receipts, | \$234,00 |

### STOCK ON FARM.

2 Oxen, 6 yrs old,  
5 Cows,  
15 Sheep,  
2 Swine,  
1 3 yr old Colt,

## PRODUCTS OF THE FARM.

23 Tons Hay,  
 60 Bushels Wheat,  
 190 " Oats,  
 40 " Corn,  
 122 " Potatoes,  
 200 " Apples,  
 8 " Beans,  
 600 lbs Cheese,  
 300 " Butter,  
 300 " Dried Apples,  
 800 " Pork,  
 8 Barrels Cider.

## PRODUCE &amp;c. ON HAND.

10 Tons Hay,  
 3-4 " Seed Hay,  
 33 Bushels Wheat,  
 75 " Oats,  
 10 " Corn,  
 3 " Beans,  
 75 " Potatoes,  
 1 1-2 Barrel Pork,  
 1 " Beef,  
 25 lbs Lard,  
 50 " Dried Apples,  
 40 " Cheese,  
 50 " Butter,  
 4 Barrels Cider. 10 bbls. Apples.

A. S. FRENCH, { Selectmen  
 JOSIAH CROSBY, { of Dexter,

March 17, 1856.



## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Another municipal year is drawing to a close, and we are assembled in annual town meeting to consult upon the interests of our little community for the time to come. Among those interests there are none more important than those of our Common Schools. We are here to take an account of the working of our school system in the past, and to arrange our plans for its future management. The Superintending School Committee invite the attention of their fellow citizens to this, their annual Report.

We are happy to render a good account of our schools for the past year. A renewed interest has been manifested in their behalf by the parents in several of the districts. More money has been raised and expended than ever before. The length of the Schools has been greater. More schools have taken the highest rank, in our scale of their standing. We have not had a single worthless school, and but a few that did not rank above medium.

### AMOUNT.

There has been summer and winter schools in each district, and a fall term in No. 12.

The average length of the summer schools was  $9\frac{8}{10}$  weeks ; of the winter schools  $10\frac{7}{10}$  weeks; length of the fall school in No. 12, 6 weeks. Reckoning the fall term in No. 12 among the the summer schools, the average would be  $10\frac{1}{10}$  weeks, for the summer schools.

## TEACHERS' WAGES.

Lowest wages of female teachers, \$1,00 per week.

Highest.....3,50  
per week.

Average .....2,33  
per week.

Lowest ..... Male.....17,00  
per month.

Highest.....42,00  
per month.

Average .....29,00  
per month.

## ATTENDANCE.

The whole number of children in town, between the ages of 4 and 21 years, as per returns of the Agents, May 1, 1855, was.....884

Whole No. attending summer schools....541

Average attendance of summer schools,..460

Whole No. attending winter schools,...683

Average attendance of winter schools,...567

Average attendance in all the schools,...519

## DISTRICT NO. 1.

## SUMMER TERM.

Miss L. Marcia Clark, Teacher.

Length of school, 9 weeks.

Whole attendance, 32. Average, 26.

Standing, Excellent.

## WINTER TERM.

Mr. J. B. Arnold, Teacher.

Length of school, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 45. Average, 38.

There was some disturbance in this school.

The Committee were called upon to inquire particularly into its discipline and management; and, after a patient investigation, they were convinced that the difficulty grew mainly out of the insubordination of two or three unruly boys. They directed the teacher to continue his school, and, by all means, maintain its discipline. The disobedient boys left the school, after which there was no disturbance.

Standing, Medium.

### DISTRICT NO. 2.

#### SUMMER TERM.

Miss S. E. Tucker, Teacher.

Length of school, 11 weeks.

Whole attendance, 34. Average, 30.

Standing, Excellent.

#### WINTER TERM.

Mr. J. C. Lawrence, Teacher.

Length of school, 11½ weeks.

Whole attendance, 43. Average, 34.

The literary qualifications of Mr. Lawrence are not quite equal to the demands of the day. He is, however, an excellent disciplinarian and a *live* teacher. Standing of his school, Excellent.

### DISTRICT NO. 3.

#### SUMMER TERM.

Miss L. A. Weymouth, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 17. Average, 14.

Standing, Excellent.

#### WINTER TERM.

Miss H. N. Treadwell, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 17. Average, 14.

This school was visited but once. The Agent, in his notice, omitted to state the length of the school, and it closed without the knowledge of the Committee. At the first and only visit, it appeared well.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

##### SUMMER TERM.

Miss Juliette P. Farewell, Teacher.

Length of school, 6 weeks.

Whole attendance, 21. Average, 18.

This school was brought to a close by the sickness and subsequent death of the teacher. It was visited but once, and then appeared exceedingly well. Miss Farewell will long be affectionately remembered by her pupils, for her winning manners, and her interest in their improvement.

##### WINTER TERM.

Mr. George Haskell, Teacher.

Length of school, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 32. Average, 25.

This was Mr. Haskell's first attempt at teaching. He had an excellent school to commence with ; and he proved himself a faithful and efficient teacher. Standing, Excellent.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

##### SUMMER TERM.

Miss Caroline A. Smith, Teacher.

Length of school, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 25. Average, 19.

Miss Smith possesses very good literary qualifications, but lacks energy and efficiency.

Though faithful and conscientious, the order of her school was not good. Only those who wished to learn, made any progress; the idle and indifferent needed better discipline. Standing, Medium.

#### WINTER TERM.

Miss Orianna J. Fowler, Teacher.  
Length of school, 10 weeks.  
Whole attendance, 30. Average, 26.  
Standing, Excellent.

### DISTRICT NO. 6.

#### SMALL HOUSE—SUMMER TERM.

Miss Mary L. Tucker, Teacher.  
Length of school, 12 weeks.  
Whole attendance, 24. Average, 23.  
Miss Tucker has a happy faculty of winning the affections of her pupils, but lacks system. With this abatement, her school may be set down as Excellent.

#### WINTER TERM.

Miss Sarah B. Keene, Teacher.  
Length of school, 11 weeks.  
Whole attendance, 37. Average, 30.  
Standing, Excellent.

### LOWER HOUSE—PRIMARY SCHOOL.

#### SUMMER TERM.

Miss E. G. Roberts, Teacher.  
Length of school, 12 weeks.  
Whole attendance, 58. Average 50.  
Standing, Excellent.

#### WINTER TERM.

Length of school, 11 weeks.



Whole attendance, 45. Average, 40.

Miss Roberts has had charge of this school for two years, and has wrought a noble work for the pupils under her charge. For the sake of the District, we trust she will have the offer of her choice of its schools, the coming season. Standing, Excellent.

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## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

### SUMMER TERM.

Miss Mary A. Fisher, Teacher.

Length of school, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 56. Average, 50.

Standing, Excellent.

### WINTER TERM.

Miss Electa A. Bement, Teacher.

Length of school, 11 weeks.

Whole attendance, 46. Average, 43.

Miss Bement is a faithful teacher, and has heretofore proved herself competent to manage difficult schools. She did not, however, succeed in establishing that perfect order, so desirable, in this school. She had three or four very unruly boys to deal with. With this qualification, we think we may report her school as ranking, Excellent.

---

## OLD HOUSE—PRIMARY SCHOOL.

### SUMMER TERM.

Miss S. T. Perkins, Teacher.

Length of school, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 57. Average, 46.

Standing, Excellent.

### WINTER TERM.

Miss S. T. Perkins, Teacher.

Length of school, 11 weeks.

Whole attendance, 47. Average, 44.

Miss Perkins has won a good reputation for teaching. Standing, Excellent.

---

## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

### SUMMER TERM.

Miss Mary L. Chandler, Teacher.

Length of school, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 47. Average, 35.

Serious charges were reported against the teacher of this school, which the Committee, on investigation, found to be false, and the authors deserving severe condemnation. This effort to break up the school, very much impaired its usefulness. For this reason, its standing was only about Medium.

### WINTER TERM.

Miss Mary L. Chandler, Teacher.

Length of the School, 11 weeks.

Whole attendance, 55. Average, 46.

Standing, Excellent.

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## HIGH SCHOOL.

### SUMMER TERM.

Miss H. E. Gilman, Teacher.

Length of School, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 55. Average, 41.

Miss Gilman stands among the very best of our teachers, and is peculiarly fitted to win her pupils to the love and pursuit of knowledge. Standing, Excellent.

## NEW HOUSE—GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

### WINTER TERM.

Length of school, 11 weeks.



Whole attendance, 61. Average 48.

This school was taught 2 weeks by Mr. Wm. B. Bullard, under whose management it was in a state of continued anarchy and disorder. Mr. Bullard voluntarily relinquished the charge, and the remaining 9 weeks, the school was under the instruction of Mr. Isaac M. Russ. The improvement during his administration was all that could be required. The order was nearly perfect ; the proficiency of the scholars great, and the whole appearance quite satisfactory. Mr. Russ is deserving the thanks of the District for his indefatigable labors to infuse life into the recitations and exercises of his pupils. Standing, Excellent.

---

## HIGH SCHOOL.

### WINTER TERM.

Length of school, 11 weeks.

Whole attendance, 65. Average, 50.

This school was, the second winter, under the charge of Mr. Andrew J. Lang. Mr. L. is a most thorough and efficient instructor ; and the progress of his pupils in the various branches was truly wonderful. No scholar, with any zeal or life, could attend this school, without deriving all the advantage which could be asked. It is hoped that Mr. Lang's services may be secured for the coming winter. Standing, Excellent.

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## DISTRICT NO. 7.

### SUMMER TERM.

Miss Ann J. Hersey, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 23. Average, 18.  
Standing, Excellent.

WINTER TERM.

Length of school,  $12\frac{2}{3}$  weeks.

Whole attendance, 34. Average 29.

This school was kept 5 weeks by Mr. H. B. Keene, who voluntarily relinquished it, at the end of that time, on account of the insubordination of the larger scholars. The remaining  $7\frac{2}{3}$  weeks, it was kept by Mr. J. C. Lawrence, under whose instruction its standing was Excellent.

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DISTRICT NO. 8.

SUMMER TERM.

Miss Zulema Seaver, Teacher.

Length of school, 6 weeks.

Whole attendance, 12. Average, 11.

In consequence of a misapprehension respecting the length of this school, it was visited but once, when it appeared well.

WINTER TERM.

Miss Susan Silver, Teacher.

Length of school, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 10. Average 8.

There was a lack of thorough and efficient drilling, in the instruction of this school. The standing, was, perhaps, a little above Medium.

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DISTRICT NO. 9.

SUMMER TERM.

Miss Mary E. Curtis, Teacher.

Length of school, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 20. Average 18.

Miss Curtis gave promise of becoming an ex-

cellent teacher, and her early death is greatly deplored by many friends.

Standing, Excellent.

WINTER TERM.

Miss Ann J. Hersey, Teacher.

Length of school, 13 weeks.

Whole attendance, 26. Average, 24.

Standing, Excellent.

---

DISTRICT NO. 10.

SUMMER TERM.

Miss Elizabeth Crockett, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 28. Average, 16.

The order of this school was good, but there was a great lack of life and interest. Standing, Medium.

WINTER TERM.

Mr. M. T. Emerson, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 30. Average, 25.

This school closed unexpectedly, the teacher being called away, on account of sickness at home, a few days before the end of the term. It was visited but once, and its standing, was, probably, about Medium.

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DISTRICT NO. 11.

SUMMER TERM.

Miss Aurelia Berry, Teacher.

Length of school, 8 weeks.

Whole attendance, 20. Average, 17.

Standing, Excellent.

WINTER TERM,

Miss M. H. Ordway, Teacher.

Length of school, 12 weeks.

Whole attendance, 23. Average, 19.

Standing, Excellent.

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### DISTRICT NO. 12.

#### SUMMER TERM.

Miss H. N. Treadwell, Teacher.

Length of school, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 32. Average, 28.

Standing, Excellent.

#### FALL TERM.

Miss H. N. Treadwell, Teacher.

Length of School, 6 weeks.

Whole attendance, 29. Average, 27.

Standing, nearly Excellent.

#### WINTER TERM.

Miss Sarah E. Haskell, Teacher.

Length of School, 10 weeks.

Whole attendance, 32. Average, 24.

Standing, Excellent.

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### RECAPITULATION.

5 Schools stand at Medium ; 31 above Medium, and 25 rank as Excellent, without any qualification.

At the commencement of the winter schools, the committee recommended that declamation, and the writing of composition, should be attended to, as a regular exercise, in all the schools in town, excepting, of course, the Primary and Intermediate Schools in No. 6. They required these exercises in the village High School. They are not apprised that their recommendation was followed, in a single instance ; but the teacher

of the High School carried out their instructions fully in this respect. And the experiment there was exceedingly gratifying. The students of our higher academies seldom appear better upon the plat-form than several of Mr. Lang's pupils ; and the reading of compositions, at the close of the term, elicited the highest commendations of the visitors present. The success of the experiment in this instance shows what may be done in all our schools. Boys, training for independent citizens of a free Republic, need to become accustomed to public speaking, that they may be prepared to take an honorable rank among their fellow citizens ; and both boys and girls certainly need to acquire the habit of writing with facility and correctness, that they may meet the pressing exigencies of life. In this way the knowledge they acquire is made available. Composition ought always to be a regular exercise, accompanying the study of grammar. Thus only can scholars learn to "write the English language correctly," without which the study of grammar is of little account.

The laws of the State require of all teachers of youth, that they should exert their best endeavors to impress on the minds of their pupils, the principles of morality and virtue. To this end it is required of the committee that they be able to certify to the good moral character of the several teachers. Your committee have not been unmindful of these duties. They have required those teachers with whom they were unacquainted, to produce satisfactory evidence of their moral qualifications. They have also required the reading of the Bible in schools, as



a regular morning exercise ; and in their communications with the schools, they have spoken freely and affectionately of the importance of forming habits of sobriety and rectitude in early life. Yet they feel that the moral influence of our schools is not what it should be. The use of profane language is too common among the boys. It is to be feared that, in some of the schools, the use of obscene language is obliged to be listened to, by those of both sexes, during the hours of intermission. There are visible indications of impurity, carved and marked upon the walls and benches of too many of our school rooms. There ought to be a united effort of parents, teachers, agents and committees, to remedy these evils, and to make our schools the places where our children shall be taught the love of virtue for its own sake, and trained to become worthy members of a professedly Christian community. We especially commend this subject to the consideration of the parents of Dexter.

The Registers, as returned by the several teachers, indicate a great disparity between the different schools, in the matter of attendance. In some instances there has been a most gratifying regularity ; in others the irregularity has been great. Especially is this the case in some of the village schools. Thus, in the Grammar School, while the whole attendance was 61, the average attendance was but 48. In the High School, the whole attendance was 65 ; the average 50. We cannot but think that this evil has its origin mostly with the parents. If they would require their children always to be at school at

the appointed hour, teachers and committees would have but little trouble from this source. The committee are sorry to say that, in a few instances, it has come to their knowledge, that scholars have absented themselves from school with the full approval of their parents and guardians, for no other reason than an unwillingness to comply with the regulations of the schools. We are sorry to know that there are parents and guardians so thoughtless of the best interests of their children. We fear they are preparing trouble for themselves. They are sowing to the wind, and will one day reap the whirlwind.

Last year, Ordinances were adopted by the town in reference to truant children, and the Superintending School Committee were appointed a Committee to carry them into execution. A few days before the town meeting, however, the Legislature had amended the Act upon which the Ordinances were based. The Committee were legally advised that, under these circumstances, the Ordinances could not be executed. As the law now stands, towns are *required* to have some regulations of the kind. Whatever Ordinances are adopted at this meeting, the Committee recommend that the execution of them be devolved upon another Committee. There are reasons why the Superintending Committee should not have the responsibility of arresting truant children. That would seem to be more appropriate business for constables and sheriffs.

A decision has been rendered recently in Piscataquis County, in the case of State vs. Atwood Severance, which, in the opinion of



your Committee, is destined to exert a saluatory influence upon the discipline of our Schools. A scholar had been severely punished for the non-performance of a duty which the teacher required him to do, *out of school hours*—the building of the fire. The case was tried before a Justice of the Peace, and the teacher fined. The teacher appealed to the Supreme Court, where under the ruling of the Judge, he was acquitted. Teachers are too often threatened by enraged parents with criminal prosecutions, for enforcing the needed regulations of their schools. Our highest legal tribunals show but little favor to these attempts to break down the authority of teachers. This is a fact which it may be well for us all to remember.

Three good school houses have been erected during the past year—in Nos. 4, 6 & 8. New houses are required for the comfort of the scholars and the good of the schools, in Nos. 1 & 7. That in No. 7 is entirely unfit for school purposes. Repairs are very much needed upon the house in No. 5, and there are three or four others that would be greatly benefitted by an outlay of a few dollars upon them. Good houses, as well as good teachers, are indispensable to good schools.

By a law of the State, Agents are required to notify the Superintending School Committee of the time their schools are to begin, how long they are to continue, and whether to be taught by a master or mistress. There have been but few failures of this duty during the year. The penalty for a neglect to give the notice in writing, is one dollar for each day the school shall

keep without the notice. The early cooperation of the several District Agents with the Committee, in requiring teachers to appear on the day appointed for their examination, facilitates the working of our school machinery, and saves expense to the town. The cooperation of parents, serves also, greatly to aid in the work of securing the benefit of good schools. Agents would do well to visit their schools, and learn what kind of teachers they have succeeded in obtaining. Parents should drop quietly into the school-room, to see how it fares with those immortal minds, which are placed there to bud and blossom, and learn whether the air is genial and all the influences kindly. Several parents in No. 6, have set a commendable example, by making it in their way to learn, by personal observation, what was going on in the school rooms. The Agent in this district has visited each school twice every term.

People sometimes complain of the expense attending the building of school houses and supporting schools. Yet there is no money so profitably invested. The dividends on the school fund are greater than those upon any other capital. A farm, near which there are a good school house and a good school, summer and winter, which will sell for a thousand dollars, will not bring eight hundred if that school house be taken away, and that school destroyed. No thoughtful man would give so much for it by two hundred dollars. So with house lots and houses in a village ; with shops and mills. Their value always depends, among other things, upon the facilities there are in the neighborhood for

schools. People like to go, when removing, to the town that has a good reputation for schools. They can afford to pay more for rent, or for purchase there. If people would look at these facts, they would see that it is for their pecuniary interest to support well these institutions—these colleges for the people.

Besides, children are always educated. If not educated well, they will always be educated for evil. And from the latter class come most of our paupers, vagabonds, loafers, drunkards and criminals. They must be supported in idleness, in almshouses, in reform schools, or in prisons. It is cheaper educating them rightly and well, than it will be, by and by, to have them hanging, lifeless weights upon community, or else the tenants of poor houses and places of correction and punishment. It is better economy to have good schools than to build and support jails and state penitentiaries ; for what is grudgingly withheld from the former, is always sure to be required for the latter.

The Committee have taken much satisfaction in visiting the several schools during the past year. While they have had much to perplex them and try their patience ; while they have had many a thankless task to perform, and incurred some censure, and while they have often been oppressed with a feeling that they were not making the schools what they ought to be, in many respects ; they have yet had the pleasure of seeing a great deal to encourage them. Their intercourse with teachers and agents has been uniformly pleasant ; with parents and scholars it has been so, for the most part. And then,

they have spent a great many happy hours in several most excellent schools—*live* schools, with *wide-awake* teachers and *wide-awake* scholars. They have come in contact with a great many intelligent and active young minds, and have felt that in the common schools of Dexter, there were young people of both sexes preparing to occupy honorable stations in society, and to make their mark upon the world in which they live.

Fellow citizens, look well to the interests of your common schools. They are the hope of our country, and the pledge of its prosperity. From these little nurseries of the immortal mind, dotted all over the free North, issue those little rills of intelligence and virtue, which, meeting and commingling, we hope and trust, are destined to flow on and on, till they cover the whole earth, and liberty, intelligence, virtue and piety shall gladden the hearts of all our race !

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. HERRING,

G. BAILEY,

JOSEPH SANBORN.

{ Superintending  
School  
Committee.

*Dexter, March 17, 1856.*



**ORDINANCES****Of the Town of Dexter,****PASSED MARCH 18, 1856.****SECTION I.**

Be it ordained by the inhabitants of the Town of Dexter at their annual Town Meeting assembled : that the Town of Dexter hereby avails itself of the provisions, and complies with the requirements of the fourteenth Section of Article 1st of an Act to provide for the education of Youth, passed in the year 1850, and as amended March 14, 1855.

**SECTION II.**

Be it further ordained, that all children between the ages of six and fifteen years, residing in the Town of Dexter, and not attending any school, without any regular and lawful occupation and growing up in ignorance, shall, unless there be some sufficient reason to the contrary, be required regularly to attend some public or private school, or suitable institution of instruction.

**SECTION III.**

Be it further ordained, that all children in said Town, between said ages, attending any of the public schools in said Town, who shall be habitual truants therefrom, shall be liable to pay a sum not less than one nor more than twenty dollars, upon conviction of either of the offences described in this ordinance.

**SECTION IV.**

Be it further ordained, that any person belonging to any of the public schools in said

Town, who shall without sufficient excuse therefor, be absent from said school six or more half days in the course of any one term, shall, for the purposes of this ordinance, be deemed and taken to be a habitual truant therefrom.

#### SECTION V.

Be it further ordained, that any persons or children between said ages belonging to any of the public schools in said Town, being found by either of the persons who shall be chosen by said Town under the provisions of the fifteenth Section in Article first of said Act made in 1850, to make complaints and carry into execution judgments for the violation of this ordinance, during school hours, in or near any street, square, pond, lane, shop or any public place of resort or amusement in said Town be apprehend and taken by said person apprehending said scholar to the public school to which he may belong and shall there be detained as a scholar by the Teacher of said school during school hours, and notice of such apprehension and detention shall forthwith be given to the parent, master or guardian of the person or child so taken and detained ; every person or child so apprehended, shall for the third offence be liable to pay a sum not less than one nor more than twenty dollars.

#### SECTION VI.

Be it further ordained, that the Town of Dexter at this Annual Town Meeting shall choose three persons, who alone shall be authorized to make complaints in every case of the violation of this ordinance, and shall alone have authority to carry into execution the judgment of the jus.

tice or judicial officer, and shall execute all duties required by this ordinance.

### SECTION VII.

Be it further ordained, that all penalties and fines for the violation of the provisions of this ordinance, shall be recovered by complaints by said three persons named above, before a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Penobscot.

### SECTION VIII.

This ordinance shall not take effect and be in force until it shall have been approved by some Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

*March 18th, 1856.*

*The foregoing ordinances were passed and adopted by the Legal Voters of the Town of Dexter at their annual Town Meeting held this day.*

*Attest, P. McCRILLIS, Town Clerk.*

*Approved.*

*JONAS CUTTING, Jus. S. J. Court.*









