

ANNUAL REPORT

SHOWING THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

LOWELL, MASS. :

STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK PRINTERS, No. 130 CENTRAL STREET.
1878.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

Births recorded—males, 31; females, 19; total.....	50
Births of native parentage.....	25
Births of foreign parentage.....	15
Births of native and foreign parentage.....	10
Marriages recorded.....	16
Marriages between natives.....	10
Marriages between natives and foreigners.....	6
Deaths recorded—males, 19; females, 22; total.....	41

Number of dogs licensed—males, 118; females, 7; total.....	125	
Amount received for licenses.....		\$271 00
Amount of fees for licenses, 20 cts. each.....		25 00
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Amount paid into the county treasury.....		\$246 00

GEORGE A. PARKHURST,

Town Clerk.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

Your Treasurer charges himself with balance in treasury, as per last annual report.....	\$ 3,039 09
And with moneys received, as follows:	
Of State Treasurer, on account of State Aid for 1876...	506 27
“ “ “ corporation tax, 1876.	27 21
“ “ “ “ “ 1877.	614 92
“ “ “ Nat'l Bank tax, 1877..	1,282 32
“ “ “ armory rent for 1877.	90 00
“ “ “ income Massachusetts school fund.....	207 32
County Treasurer, on account of dog licenses.....	228 78
R. S. Burnham, on account of liquor licenses	200 00
Estate of A. Chamberlin, on account of taxes for 1874...	238 07
“ “ “ “ interest on same	4 51
C. T. Wright, on account of taxes for 1875.....	1,012 69
C. T. Wright, “ interest on same.....	125 36
S. O. Cummings, “ taxes for 1876.....	2,806 31
S. O. Cummings, “ interest on same.....	146 76
J. A. Bartlett, “ taxes for 1876.....	1,086 11
J. A. Bartlett, “ interest on same.....	90 91
J. A. Bartlett, “ taxes for 1877.....	13,389 94
J. A. Bartlett, “ interest on same.....	109 42
Overseers of the Poor, on account of proceeds of Town Farm.....	982 63
D. W. Lane, on account of error in orders.....	4 15
Dawson Pollard, on account of sale of lots in cemetery at West Chelmsford.....	10 00
Levi Lamphere, on account of use of Town Hall in Centre	1 50
I. Kimball, of Billerica, deposit for care of tomb.....	100 00
Money hired for use of town (temporary loan).....	3,350 00
Making a total of.....	\$29,654 27

And is credited by

Cash paid State tax for 1877.....	\$ 1,245 00
“ “ State Treasurer, on account of liquor licenses.....	50 00
“ “ on account of temporary loan.....	3,350 00
“ “ on account of interest on same.....	53 00
“ “ town notes (permanent loan).....	5,600 00
“ “ accrued interest on same.....	400 90
“ “ outstanding orders of last year.....	524 99
“ “ orders drawn present year.....	17,283 44
“ balance in treasury.....	1,146 94
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	\$29,654 27
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Respectfully submitted by

E. H. WARREN,

Treasurer.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

Amount of taxes, as per warrant.....	\$16,403 61
Interest collected since October 1.....	109 42
Interest accrued since October 1 on uncollected taxes.....	57 00
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	\$16,570 03
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Cash paid County Treasurer (county tax)....	\$ 729 92
Cash paid Town Treasurer, on account of tax.....	13,389 94
Cash paid Town Treasurer, on account of interest.....	109 42
Uncollected taxes to new account.....	2,283 75
Uncollected interest to new account.....	57 00
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	\$16,570 03
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J. A. BARTLETT,

Collector for 1877.

REPORT OF THE ASSESSORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

VALUATION MAY 1, 1877.

Number of polls.....	628	
Value of personal estate.....		\$ 273,268 00
Value of real estate.....		1,169,345 00
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Total valuation.....		\$1,442,613 00
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Number of dwelling-houses.....	508	
“ horses	427	
“ cows	719	
“ sheep.....	3	
“ acres of land taxed....	14,132	

ASSESSMENT MAY 1, 1877.

State tax.....		\$1,245 00
County tax.....		729 92

TOWN GRANT MARCH 5, 1877.

For public schools.....	\$5,500 00	
school-house repairs.....	150 00	
“ supplies.....	100 00	
“ supervision.....	300 00	
highways.....	3,000 00	
the poor.....	2,500 00	
teams and tools.....	750 00	
school-house No. 7.....	1,500 00	
school furniture, No. 3.....	300 00	
culvert at South Chelmsford.....	100 00	
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<i>Amounts carried forward.....</i>	\$14,200 00	\$1,974 92

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$14,200 00	\$1,974 92
For repairs of public buildings.....	500 00	
miscellaneous expenses.....	150 00	
collection and abatement of taxes.....	300 00	
town officers and committees.....	800 00	
	<hr/>	15,950 00
Overlayings		478 69
		<hr/>
		\$18,403 61
Less estimated receipts.....		2,000 00
		<hr/>
Total tax.....		<u>\$16,403 61</u>

Assessed on 628 polls, at \$2.00.....	\$ 1,256 00	
Assessed on \$1,442,613.00 property, at \$10.50		
per \$1,000.00.....	15,147 61	
	<hr/>	<u>\$16,403 61</u>

ABATEMENT OF TAXES MADE IN THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

On list of 1874, committed to A. Chamberlin.....	\$208 33
" 1875, " " C. T. Wright.....	132 92
" 1876, " " J. A. Bartlett	115 65
" 1877, " " J. A. Bartlett.....	90 13
	<hr/>
	<u>\$547 03</u>

ZIBA GAY,
 J. B. EMERSON,
 WILLIAM MANNING,
 J. J. HOYT,
 E. P. BEAN,

Assessors.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

PAID FOR EXPENSES OF PREVIOUS YEARS.

To Stone, Huse & Co., 500 copies School Report, 1876.....	\$ 53 55	
Stone, Huse & Co., 500 copies Town Report, 1876.....	33 85	
C. L. Fuller, extra services as constable, 1876.....	32 50	
James P. Emerson, extra services as constable, 1876.....	6 00	
John H. Whidden, extra services as constable, 1876.....	10 00	
L. H. Sargent, services as Auditor, 1876.	3 00	
George A. Byam, services as Auditor, 1876	3 00	
P. P. Perham, building wall.....	20 00	
B. O. Robbins, breaking roads, 1876.....	3 60	
Samuel Putney, labor on highway, 1876..	1 50	
H. H. Wilder & Co., stove pipe, 1876....	5 10	
		\$172 10
Estimated liabilities, Feb. 28, 1877..	\$200 00	
Over-estimate	27 90	

ABATEMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES.

To estate of A. Chamberlin, abatement on list, 1874.....	\$208 33	
C. T. Wright, abatement on list, 1875...	132 92	
S. O. Cummings, collecting taxes, 1876...	30 53	
J. A. Bartlett, abatement on list, 1876...	115 65	
J. A. Bartlett, collecting taxes, 1876.....	14 70	
		\$502 13
Estimated Feb. 28, 1877.....	\$150 00	
Under-estimate.....	352 13	

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

FOR TEACHING.

To Eliza M. Robinson,	12 weeks at \$17.00, No. 1,	\$204 00	
“ “ “	24 “ 18.75, “ 1,	450 00	
Mary E. Hammons,	12 “ 12.50, “ 1,	150 00	
“ “ “	24 “ 15.00, “ 1,	360 00	
Adelaide C. Barnard,	12 “ 8.00, “ 1,	96 00	
“ “ “	9 “ 8.50, “ 1,	76 50	
“ “ “	12 “ 9.00, “ 1,	108 00	\$1,444 50
Hannah C. Hunt,	20 “ 7.50, “ 2,	150 00	
“ “ “	12 “ 8.50, “ 2,	102 00	252 00
Mary L. Lincoln,	34 “ 10.00, “ 3,	340 00	
Lottie M. Battles,	10 “ 50, “ 3,	5 00	345 00
Frances M. Talbot,	21 “ 7.00, “ 4,	147 00	
“ “ “	13 “ 8.50, “ 4,	110 50	257 50
Nellie M. Perham,	10 “ 7.00, “ 5,	70 00	
“ “ “	13 “ 8.00, “ 5,	104 00	174 00
Ella F. Whitcomb,	11 “ 7.00, “ 6,	77 00	
“ “ “	19 “ 8.00, “ 6,	152 00	
George F. Dyar, car-fare of teacher.....		2 00	231 00
Francena L. Davis, 33 weeks at \$ 7.50, No. 7,		247 50	247 50
B. F. Harmon,	36 “ 22.50, “ 8,	810 00	
S. Maria Taylor,	36 “ 9.00, “ 8,	324 00	
Louie A. Allen,	31 “ 8.50, “ 8,	263 50	
Emma L. Burgess,	31 “ 8.50, “ 8,	263 50	1,661 00
Stella J. Allen,	22 “ 8.00, “ 10,	176 00	
Clara A. Bearce,	11 “ 9.00, “ 10,	99 00	
Lydia A. Spaulding,	11 “ 8.00, “ 10,	88 00	
Aline E. Gardner,	11 “ 8.00, “ 10,	88 00	
“ “ “	11 “ 9.00, “ 10,	99 00	550 00
			<hr/>
			\$5,162 50

FOR CARE OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Paid George W. Streeter, No. 1.....		\$55 25
George A. Davis, No. 2.....		16 00
Newton Bean, No. 3.....	\$2 50	
Howard S. Park, No. 3.....	2 75	
Zebina Wetherbee, No. 3.....	6 50	11 75
Charles Sweetzer, No. 4.....		6 75
James S. Byam, No. 5.....		9 00
J. A. Wyman, No. 6.....		11 00
B. J. Spalding, No. 7.....		12 00
Henry C. Howard, No. 8.....		57 00
John F. Maxwell, No. 10.....		32 00
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		\$210 75

FOR FUEL.

No. 1.

Paid C. Upham, for 7½ feet hard wood, prepared, at \$7.00.....	\$ 6 56		
for measuring.....	12	\$ 6 68	
J. B. Emerson, for 11½ cords hard wood, at \$6.50.....	72 31		
for measuring.....	1 06	73 37	
D. W. Lane, for 1 cord pine.....	4 00		
for measuring.....	06	4 06	
G. W. Streeter, for preparing 5 cords.....		6 75	
J. B. Emerson, for preparing 10 cords.....		8 75	\$99 61

No. 2.

H. H. Emerson, for 2½ cords oak, at \$6.50.....	16 25		
for ½ cord pine, at \$4.50.....	2 25	18 50	
for preparing.....		3 25	21 75

No. 3.

F. C. Byam, for 3 cords wood, pre- pared, at \$7.25.....	21 75		
for splitting benches for kin- dling.....	1 00	22 75	
William Vose, for 10¾ feet wood, prepared, at \$6.25.....		8 37	

	\$31 12		
Less sold.....	1 50	29 62	

No. 4.

Paid Charles Sweetzer, for 2½ cords oak, prepared, at \$7.00....	17 50		
for ½ cord pine, prepared, at \$6.00.....	3 00		
for preparing kindling.....	50	21 00	21 00

No. 5.

Charles Adams, for 1 cord wood, prepared.....		8 00	
for 1 cord wood, prepared....		7 00	
A. B. Adams, for 1 cord wood, prepared.....		8 00	23 00

No. 6.

George F. Dyar, for 2 cords ⅔ foot wood, at \$7.00.....	14 48		
for measuring.....	12	14 60	
for preparing.....		3 52	

<i>Amounts carried forward.....</i>	\$18 12	\$194 98	
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<i>Amounts brought forward.....</i>		\$18 12	\$194 98
Paid John A. Dix, for 1 cord pine wood	\$5 25		
for 2 cords hard wood....	13 00	18 25	
George F. Dyar, for preparing...		3 50	39 87
No. 7.			
Frank J. Spaulding, for 3 cords birch wood, at \$4.50.....		13 50	
for preparing.....		1 00	
B. J. Spaulding, for 1 cord wood, prepared, at \$6.25.....		6 25	
for 1½ cords wood, prepared, at \$6.00.....		9 00	29 75
No. 8.			
S. P. Sampson, for 13 cords 3¾ feet wood, prepared, at \$6.70.....		90 18	
for measuring.....		70	
S. T. Wright, for 1½ cords pine wood, prepared, at \$5.75..		6 46	97 34
No. 10.			
W. C. Edwards, for 6 cords oak wood, at \$6.00.....	36 00		
for 1 cord pine wood	5 00	41 00	
William Agnew, for ¾ cord oak wood, at \$6.00.....	4 50		
for 1 cord pine wood, at \$4.00,	4 00	8 50	
Joseph P. Winn, for preparing wood.....		7 00	
S. T. Wright, for 6½ feet oak wood, at \$6.00.....	4 87		
for 13 feet pine wood, at \$4.50,	7 53	12 40	
Joseph P. Winn, for preparing wood.....		1 50	70 40

\$432 34

Appropriation	\$5,500 00		
Balance of income from school fund.....	195 05		
Dog tax.....	228 78		
		\$5,923 83	
Teaching.....	\$5,162 50		
Care.....	210 75		
Fuel.....	432 34		
		\$5,805 59	
Unexpended.....		\$118 24	

SCHOOL APPARATUS.

Paid Duncan McDonald, for 2 book-cases . . .		\$5 75
J. L. Hammet, for 1 box of forms and solids	\$2 25	
for 1 globe	4 00	
for 1 box alphabet blocks	27	6 52
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		\$12 27
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From income of school fund	\$12 27	

SCHOOL-HOUSE REPAIRS BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Paid Duncan McDonald, repairs, No. 1	\$17 00	
J. Larcom, repairs, No. 1	17 78	
S. G. Mack, repairs, No. 1	24 37	
J. R. Fletcher, repairs, No. 1	19 59	\$78 74
J. R. Fletcher, pedestal, No. 2	75	
H. H. Emerson, blackboard, No. 2	8 00	8 75
E. F. Dupee, repairs No. 3	1 00	
E. P. Parker, repairs, No. 3	50	1 50
Charles Sweetzer, repairs, No. 4	4 50	4 50
N. E. Parker, repairs, No. 5	4 00	
L. M. Dutton, repairs, No. 5	4 00	
Timothy Keefe, repairs, No. 5	75	8 75
George F. Dyar, repairs, No. 6	11 16	11 16
B. J. Spalding, repairs, No. 7	2 55	2 55
A. S. Peterson, repairs, No. 8	1 00	
S. P. Sampson, repairs, No. 8	31 66	
H. W. Woodward, repairs, No. 8	13 83	
E. Shaw & Son, hardware, No. 8	89	
Silver & Gay, lumber, No. 8	14 04	
N. J. Duncan, cleaning, No. 8	10 00	
C. W. Flint, repairs, No. 8	38 13	109 55
J. C. Butterfield, grading, No. 10	16 05	
Dawson Pollard, repairs, No. 10	3 62	19 67
		<hr/>
		\$245 17
		<hr/>
Appropriation	\$150 00	
Overdrawn	95 17	

SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

Paid J. L. Hammet, for 70 gross crayons	\$10 50	
for 1 dozen pointers	1 92	
for 8 dozen erasers	19 02	
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	\$31 44	
Less deficiency	17	\$31 27
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Amount carried forward		\$31 27

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$31 27	
Paid Charles B. Town, for 4½ gallons ink and jugs	8 60		
John S. Shed, 45 pointers.....	4 00		
Joshua Merrill & Son, 12 pointers.....	3 00		
D. McDonald, 18 rulers.....	1 80		
Marden & Rowell, 1,000 school cards...	5 00		
J. R. Fletcher, express and postage.....	2 30	\$55 97	
J. R. Fletcher, sundries, No. 1.....		4 48	
H. H. Emerson, broom, No. 2.....		25	
A. H. Park, key and broom, No. 3.....		55	
Charles Sweetzer, sundries, No. 4.....		1 25	
L. M. Dutton, sundries, No. 5.....		57	
George F. Dyar, sundries, No. 6.....		8 14	
B. J. Spalding, sundries, No. 7.....		70	
C. W. Flint, sundries, No. 8.....	2 75		
E. Shaw & Son, sundries, No. 8.....	1 74	4 49	
N. J. Perry, sundries, No. 10.....		4 47	
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		\$80 87	<hr/>

Appropriation	\$100 00
Unexpended	19 13

SCHOOL SUPERVISION.

Paid Joshua Merrill & Son, for blank book for committee	\$ 3 00
George F. Dyar, blanks.....	3 46
George F. Dyar, book-case for committee.....	8 50
George F. Dyar, for postage.....	51
Stone, Huse & Co., 2,000 cards.....	8 25
Stone, Huse & Co., 2,000 blank bills....	5 00
Charles L. Fuller, services as truant officer	5 00
J. S. Robinson, services as truant officer,	3 50
J. H. Whidden, services as truant officer,	2 50
J. C. Butterfield, use of horse.....	7 00
J. R. Fletcher, services as Superintendent.....	250 00
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	\$296 72
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Appropriation	\$300 00
Unexpended.....	3 28

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Paid J. R. Fletcher, for 157 copies *Harper's Introductory Geography, at 37 cts.	\$ 58 09	
for 141 copies *Harper's School Geography, at 75 cts.....	105 75	
for 36 copies †Swinton's Language Primer, at 24 cts.....	8 64	
for 30 copies †Swinton's Language Lessons, at 30 cts.....	9 00	
for 34 copies †Swinton's Progressive Grammar, at 45 cts.....	15 30	
for 24 copies †Swinton's English Composition, at 30 cts.....	7 20	
8 per cent. for his services and ex- penses.....	16 31	\$220 29
Harper & Brothers, for 12 geographies, 1st, at \$1.25.....	15 00	
for 12 Language Lessons, at 37 cts.	4 44	
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	\$19 44	
20 off.....	3 88	15 56
		<hr/>
		\$235 85

HIGHWAYS.

Paid David Perham, for grain.....	\$300 19	
E. Shaw & Son, for grain.....	30 68	
C. Upham, for 4075 lbs. hay.....	41 23	
S. P. Perham, for 1970 lbs. hay.....	19 90	
Samuel Woods, for 1008 lbs. hay.....	9 71	
Otis H. Drake, for 1110 lbs. hay.....	11 24	
Warren Chandler, for 75 lbs. hay.....	75	
William Wiggin, for 345 lbs. hay.....	3 79	
J. B. Emerson, for 3933 lbs. hay.....	37 66	
Jacob Spalding, for 4695 lbs. hay.....	47 05	
Town, for 4250 lbs. hay.....	42 50	\$544 70
F. A. Russell, for bedding.....	1 25	
Hodge Brothers, for axle grease.....	1 90	
C. B. Coburn & Co., neats' foot oil and soap.....	2 00	
Smith Adams, neats' foot oil.....	1 50	
J. Larcom, fitting up stalls.....	12 89	
French & Puffer, lanterns, etc.....	2 10	
Fielding & Bartlett, curry combs and brushes.....	1 50	
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<i>Amounts carried forward.....</i>	\$23 04	\$544 70

*Exchanged for Warren's Primary and School.

†Exchanged for Greene's Introduction and Grammar.

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$23 04	\$544 70
Paid Fielding & Bartlett, picks and shovels..	10 59	
J. A. Brabrook, 6 hame straps.....	2 10	
James P. Emerson, use of cart and wheels.....	13 75	49 48
J. H. Lane, blacksmithing.....	15 50	
Thomas Durant & Son, blacksmithing..	15 88	
N. P. Dadmun, blacksmithing.....	39 52	
N. B. V. Libby, blacksmithing.....	15 00	
Charles Proctor, repairing.....	10 90	
John S. Shed, repairing.....	17 14	113 94
Joshua F. Davis, gravel.....	5 00	
E. F. Richardson, gravel.....	27 20	
James Biggs, gravel.....	25 00	
E. Vickery, nails.....	24	
H. S. Perham, 227 feet plank.....	3 18	
M. McNulty, stone for culvert.....	75	
J. B. Emerson, 7 chestnut posts.....	1 05	
J. B. Emerson, 13 chestnut poles.....	1 95	64 37
J. A. Bartlett, tax on horses.....	3 00	3 00
B. M. Hildreth, repairing culvert.....	9 50	
G. A. Parkhurst, removing stone.....	4 50	
Warren Chandler, 9½ days' labor, self and team.....	37 25	
F. W. Blodgett, 4 ⁶ / ₁₀ days' labor, self and team.....	13 05	
H. S. Perham, ¼ day's labor, 2 men and team.....	1 00	
A. P. Manning, 6 days' labor, 1 man and team.....	9 00	
J. A. Dix, labor.....	7 75	
Robert Lord, labor.....	1 90	
James Hazen, labor.....	4 25	
B. P. Marshall, labor.....	5 10	
M. McNulty, labor.....	1 90	
J. B. Emerson, labor.....	9 28	104 48
J. B. Emerson, breaking roads.....	8 40	
Eugene Sullivan, breaking roads.....	4 50	
John A. Dix, breaking roads.....	7 80	
Joseph P. Winn, breaking roads.....	6 75	
E. F. Richardson, breaking roads.....	3 60	
James Hazen, breaking roads.....	10 00	
E. P. Bean, breaking roads.....	17 15	
George B. Wright, breaking roads.....	4 50	
Hugh Kearn, breaking roads.....	75	
Thomas Moor, breaking roads.....	1 20	
A. M. Blaisdell, breaking roads.....	1 50	
E. Vickery, breaking roads.....	26 65	
Michael McNulty, breaking roads.....	60	93 40
<i>Amount carried forward</i>		\$953 37

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$953 37
Paid for 27 days' labor on roads, at \$1.50...	\$40 50	
for 1 day's labor on roads, at 1.30...	1 30	
for 316 days' labor on roads, at 1.25...	394 97	
for $\frac{1}{2}$ day's labor on roads, at 1.20...	60	
for $51\frac{3}{4}$ days' labor on roads, at $1.12\frac{1}{2}$..	58 40	
for 15 days' labor on roads, at 1.10...	16 77	
for 258 days' labor on roads, at 1.00...	258 00	
for 7 days' labor on roads, at 0.75...	5 25	
for 4 days' labor on roads, at 0.50...	2 00	
for 3 days' labor on roads, at $0.33\frac{1}{3}$..	1 00	778 79
for 8 days' labor on roads, at \$20 per mo.	6 16	
for 433 days' labor on roads, at 15 per mo.	249 78	
for 18 days' labor on roads, at 13 per mo.	9 00	
for 168 days' labor on roads, at 12 per mo.	77 71	
for 84 days' labor on roads, at 10 per mo.	31 04	
for 16 days' labor on roads, at 8 per mo.	4 96	
for 51 days' labor on roads, at 6 per mo.	11 75	390 35
Mrs. C. E. Cook, $10\frac{1}{8}$ weeks part board.	30 50	
Town, 128 weeks' board, at \$3.50.....	448 00	478 50
D. W. Lane, services as Surveyor.....	300 00	300 00
	<u>\$2,921 01</u>	<u>\$2,921 01</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Hay and grain.....	\$544 70
Supplies and sundries.....	49 48
Shoeing and repairing.....	113 94
Road material.....	64 37
Tax on teams.....	3 00
Extra labor on highways.....	104 48
Extra breaking roads.....	93 40
$683\frac{1}{4}$ days' labor.....	778 79
778 days' labor, with board.....	390 35
Board.....	478 50
Surveyor.....	300 00

\$2,921 01

Appropriation.....	\$3,000 00
Unexpended.....	78 99

FOR SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Paid Rhoda Winchester, for board and burial of Rachel Marshall.....	\$ 44 00	
M. A. Peasley, entertaining tramps at West Chelmsford, 1876.....	2 25	\$ 46 25
Taunton Lunatic Hospital, for Daniel Gilligan, January 1 to October 23..	179 58	
<i>Amounts carried forward</i>	<u>\$179 58</u>	<u>\$46 25</u>

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$179 58	\$46 25
Paid Worcester Lunatic Hospital, for Daniel Gilligan, October 24 to December 21,	35 13	
Worcester Lunatic Hospital, for Frank P. Goss, January 1 to April 13.....	51 71	
J. J. Hoyt, expense to Worcester for Goss.....	4 45	
Worcester Lunatic Hospital, for John E. Spalding, to October 15.....	53 10	
William Manning, expense on John E. Spalding.....	13 60	
Northampton Lunatic Hospital, for Michael McKeon, 1 year to December 31.....	193 10	530 67
City of Fitchburg, in aid of Mrs. Nathaniel Blood.....	25 00	
J. J. Hoyt, expense to Fitchburg.....	1 70	
City of Lowell, in aid of Mrs. R. Mealey, 1 year, to December 31.....	54 00	
City of Lowell, in aid of Elizabeth Donahoe, to December 31.....	54 00	
City of Somerville, in aid of Elizabeth Jewett.....	19 94	
City of Boston, in aid of William H. Worden.....	2 00	
City of Boston, burial of A. P. Spalding,	10 00	
House of Correction, board of James Connelly.....	4 23	
Emma S. Dutton, of Lowell, in aid of Samuel S. Dutton, to March 7, 1878,	51 00	
S. Byam, of Lowell, in aid of Henry S. Byam, to January 25, 1878.....	39 00	260 87
George B. Hall, aid to Mr. German.....	5 00	
D. W. Lane, car fare of Mrs. Morse....	4 85	
Levi Howard, medical attendance on A. H. Kemp....	19 38	29 23
R. S. Burnham, entertaining 3 tramps..	3 00	
J. H. Whidden, entertaining 122 tramps,	61 00	64 00
Cost outside of almshouse.....		\$931 02
Paid D. W. Bickford & Son, groceries, etc., to February 28, 1877.....	\$ 13 01	
N. F. Libby, groceries, etc., to February 28, 1877.....	9 19	
J. M. Stone, provisions, to Feb. 28, 1877,	10 04	
F. G. McGregor, provisions, to Feb. 28, 1877.....	8 96	
David Perham, grain, to Feb. 28, 1877,	22 22	63 42
<i>Amount carried forward</i>		\$63 42

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$63 42
Paid D. W. Bickford & Son, groceries and supplies, 1 year, to date.....	\$136 98	
N. F. Libby, groceries and supplies, 1 year to date.....	199 32	
Wason, Pierce & Co., groceries.....	65 88	
Boston & Lowell R. R., freight on same,	46	
William Manning, flour and molasses...	42 50	
S. N. Wood & Son, flour.....	68 50	
J. B. Emerson, flour.....	8 00	
S. A. Scripture & Co., crackers.....	19 99	
Joseph Reed, apples.....	4 00	545 63
C. S. Bean, provisions, to date.....	7 94	
J. M. Stone, provisions, to date.....	24 27	
F. G. McGregor, provisions, to date....	116 78	
P. P. Perham, provisions, to date.....	9 00	
D. C. Perham, provisions, to date.....	13 00	
J. A. Burbank, provisions, to date.....	21 61	
J. M. Butman, provisions, to date.....	9 35	
Jacob Spalding, provisions, to date....	2 13	
E. P. Bean, provisions, to date.....	4 20	
B. P. Marshall, provisions, to date....	1 00	
Wilder & Hunt, provisions, to date....	2 00	
Ira Atwood, provisions, to date.....	19 29	
G. W. Miller, fish, to date.....	11 14	241 71
David Perham, grain, one year, to date.	121 11	121 11
D. W. Bickford & Son, cloth, clothing, etc., one year, to date.....	20 18	
N. F. Libby, cloth, clothing, etc., one year, to date.....	40 66	
D. Kittredge & Son, boots and shoes...	10 65	
Putnam & Son, hat and cap.....	1 25	
J. B. Kimball, making and repairing clothing.....	8 15	80 89
E. K. Parkhurst, 16,665 lbs. coal.....	50 00	50 00
B. J. Spalding, three pigs.....	7 50	7 50
E. E. Lapham, soap.....	11 50	
P. M. Jefferson, soap.....	5 90	
F. & E. Bailey & Co., chloride of lime..	1 19	
F. & E. Bailey & Co., medicines.....	1 75	
E. Preston, extracts and medicines....	7 29	27 63
Fielding & Bartlett, axes and handles..	2 50	
J. S. Shed, beetles.....	1 00	
Rogers, Taylor & Co., farming tools and seeds.....	70	4 20
Rogers, Taylor & Co., clothes-wringer..	7 50	
Reuben Harlow, crockery.....	3 75	
J. F. Puffer & Sons, furniture.....	24 56	
J. H. Barnard, table linen.....	3 42	39 23
<i>Amount carried forward</i>		\$1,181 32

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$1,181 32
Paid C. H. Frost, brooms.....	\$ 1 50	
C. B. Coburn & Co., glass, etc.....	1 02	
H. H. Wilder & Co., repairing pump...	2 00	
Charles Proctor, repairs.....	5 45	
D. W. Lane, shoeing and repairs.....	10 00	19 97
Joseph Teabo, chopping 24 cords wood.	18 00	18 00
123 days' labor, at \$15.00 per month....	71 02	
40 days' labor, at 10.00 per month....	15 40	
26 days' labor, at 6.00 per month....	6 00	
17 days' labor, at 1.00 per day	17 00	
24½ days' labor, at 0.50 per day.....	12 25	
41½ weeks' female labor.....	74 00	195 67
Charles Proctor, burial of N. Rittiger..	16 75	16 75
Levi Howard, medical attendance.....	3 00	3 00
Traders and Mechanics' Insurance Co., insurance five years.....	60 00	60 00
J. A. Bartlett, taxes.....	54 33	54 33
D. W. Lane, services as Superintendent 1 year to April 1.....	300 00	300 00
Wm. Manning, services and expenses as Overseer.....	20 00	
J. B. Emerson, services and expenses as Overseer.....	20 00	
Ziba Gay, services and expenses as Over- seer.....	11 80	
J. J. Hoyt, services and expenses as Overseer.....	13 50	
E. P. Bean, services and expenses as Overseer.....	5 00	70 30
		<hr/>
Paid for expense of almshouse and farm....		\$1,919 34
		<hr/> <hr/>

PROCEEDS OF TOWN FARM, YEAR ENDING FEB-
RUARY 28, 1878, PAID TO TREASURER.

Received of R. Harlow, balance, March 31..	\$ 8 19
for milk sold 1 year to January 31.	316 61
for 3 calves.....	13 10
for 2 cows.....	71 22
for cranberries	6 00
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward</i>	\$415 12

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$415 12	
Received for wood.....	77 01	
for hay.....	42 50	
for board.....	448 00	\$982 63
		<hr/>
Cost of poor at farm.....		\$936 71
Cost of poor in hospitals and elsewhere.....		931 02
		<hr/>
Total cost.....		\$1867 73
Appropriation.....	\$2,500 00	
Unexpended.....	632 27	
Number of tramps entertained at almshouse, 333.		
Number of tramps entertained elsewhere, 125.		

WM. MANNING,
J. B. EMERSON,
ZIBA GAY,
J. J. HOYT,
E. P. BEAN,
Overseers of the Poor.

APPRAISAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

AT ALMSHOUSE FEBRUARY 28, 1878.

1 horse.....	\$150 00
3 cows.....	145 00
3 shoats.....	19 00
24 fowls.....	12 00
5½ tons English hay.....	110 00
1½ tons meadow hay.....	11 00
½ ton rowen hay.....	9 00
1 covered wagon.....	80 00
1 farm wagon.....	30 00
1 horse cart.....	30 00
1 mowing machine.....	20 00
1 sleigh.....	6 00
Harnesses.....	16 00
Farm implements.....	103 05
18 cords wood.....	62 00
9 cords wood, prepared.....	35 00
Lumber.....	13 75
Household furniture and bedding.....	268 25
Provisions and supplies.....	151 29
	<hr/>
	\$1,271 34

HENRY S. PERHAM,
DANIEL P. BYAM,
Committee.

HIGHWAY TEAMS AND TOOLS.

Paid John A. Dix, 3 horses, 1 cart.....	\$390 00	
J. A. Brabrook, 2 sets double harness...	160 00	
J. A. Brabrook, 1 pair pole straps.....	1 50	
Jacob Spalding, 1 cart.....	30 00	
J. M. Fletcher, 1 wagon.....	50 00	
Ziba Gay, 1 scraper.....	10 00	
Jacob Spalding, 1 sled.....	15 00	
Rogers, Taylor & Co., shovels, picks and hammers.....	15 34	
Fielding & Bartlett, shovels and picks..	5 50	
W. P. Brazer & Co., 8 blankets.....	14 00	\$691 34
Appropriation.....	\$750 00	
Unexpended.....	58 66	

SCHOOL-HOUSE NO. 7.

Paid Isaiah Spalding, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre land.....	\$ 50 00	
Almon W. Holt, building.....	962 00	
A. W. Blaisdell, fence.....	105 00	
R. Fletcher, materials, labor, etc.....	36 18	
S. P. Perham, 2 days, self and horse...	6 25	
C. B. Coburn & Co., paint, oil, etc.....	3 63	
Chamberlin & Reed, rings and staples..	80	
Rogers, Taylor & Co., zinc and grass seed.....	3 49	
S. G. Mack & Co., stove and pipe.....	20 67	
Irah D. Spalding, furniture.....	154 80	
Benner Brothers, furniture.....	3 50	
B. & L. and N. & L. R. R., freight.....	3 60	
W. W. Duncan, thermometer.....	60	
A. M. Blaisdell, setting up furniture...	4 25	
Robert Fletcher, services and expenses as committee.....	18 75	
S. P. Perham, services as committee....	7 50	
A. M. Blaisdell, services as committee..	6 80	\$1,387 82
Appropriation.....	\$1,500 00	
Unexpended.....	112 18	

SCHOOL FURNITURE, NO. 3.

Paid J. L. Ross, furniture.....	\$237 75	
B., C. & F. R. R., freight.....	3 14	
A. H. Park, postage and teaming.....	82	
A. W. Allen, setting up furniture.....	4 38	
A. Heady Park, setting up furniture...	3 37	\$249 53
Appropriation.....	\$300 00	
Unexpended.....	50 47	

REPAIRS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Paid Powers & Clark, for repairing slated roofs, school-house and hall, at North Chelmsford.....	\$17 09	
E. P. Bean, repairing hearse house, South Chelmsford.....	11 56	
E. R. Marshall, repairing blinds at Centre Hall	2 00	\$30 65
H. Whitney & Co., lumber for tramp-house.....	32 29	
Nichols & Co., stove for tramp-house...	6 00	
Fielding & Bartlett, lead for tramp-house	86	
P. Conners, lime for tramp-house.....	1 25	
Chas. E. Parkhurst, labor on tramp-house.....	22 58	
S. P. Sampson, labor on tramp-house...	4 62	67 60
C. B. Coburn & Co., paint and oil.....	127 00	
Horace Holt, painting almshouse.....	70 15	
Horace Holt, painting school-house No. 1	39 16	
Horace Holt, painting school-house No. 10.....	44 32	
R. W. Baker, measuring paint.....	10 80	
Burbank & Dyer, painting school-house No. 5.....	29 00	320 43
S. P. Sampson, for materials and labor for chimney at Hall, North Chelmsford	47 29	
Silver & Gay, lumber, etc., at Hall, North Chelmsford.....	1 78	
N. J. Duncan, labor on chimney, North Chelmsford.....	10 00	59 07
		<hr/>
		\$477 75
		<hr/>
Appropriation	\$500 00	
Unexpended.....	22 25	

STATE AID.

Paid State Aid from March 1, 1877, to Feb. 28, 1878.....		\$466 00
Received from State, for one year to Jan. 1, 1877.....	\$506 27	
Due from State to Jan. 1, 1878....	\$468 00	
Due from State for Jan. and Feb....	77 00	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid G. A. Parkhurst, record book.....	\$ 6 00	
M. D. Byam, survey and plan of cemetery at South Chelmsford.....	10 25	
A. H. Sheldon, labor at cemetery, North Chelmsford.....	4 00	
Levi Lamphere, care and repairs, Town Hall, Centre.....	7 35	
Stone, Huse & Co., tax book and check lists	22 50	
H. B. Pierce, register of voters.....	80	
J. B. Emerson, stationery and postage..	5 89	
L. H. Sargent, printing blanks.....	1 75	
George E. Emerson, one guide board...	1 25	
J. B. Emerson, repairing fence, Centre Common.....	5 10	
J. C. Butterfield, rent of armory, seven months	26 67	\$91 56
Appropriation	\$150 00	
Unexpended.....	58 44	

COLLECTION AND ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid J. A. Bartlett, abatements on list 1877,	\$ 90 13	
J. A. Bartlett, collecting \$13,949.86 tax, 1877, and \$109.42 interest on the same — \$14,059.28 — at 1½ per cent.	175 74	\$265 87
Appropriation	\$300 00	
Unexpended.....	34 13	

TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

Paid George A. Parkhurst, services as Town Clerk.....	\$50 10	
George A. Parkhurst, expenses as Town Clerk.....	10 00	\$ 60 10
E. H. Warren, services and expenses as Treasurer	60 00	60 00
Ziba Gay, services as Assessor.....	15 50	
J. B. Emerson, services as Assessor.....	45 00	
J. B. Emerson, expenses as Assessor....	18 00	
J. J. Hoyt, services as Assessor.....	67 50	
E. P. Bean, services as Assessor.....	8 00	154 00
J. B. Emerson, services as Selectman...	78 00	
J. B. Emerson, expenses as Selectman..	12 00	
Ziba Gay, services as Selectman.....	57 00	
<i>Amount carried forward.....</i>	\$147 00	

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$147 00	
Paid Ziba Gay, expenses as Selectman.....	19 00	
J. J. Hoyt, services as Selectman.....	63 00	
J. J. Hoyt, expenses as Selectman.....	17 40	
William Manning, services as Selectman,	20 00	
E. P. Bean, services as Selectman.....	18 00	284 40
Charles Proctor, reporting eight deaths.	2 00	
A. H. Sheldon, reporting ten deaths....	2 50	
Dawson Pollard, reporting three deaths.	75	5 25
James P. Emerson, services as constable,	22 00	22 00
H. S. Perham and D. P. Byam, services as appraisers.....	6 00	6 00
		<hr/>
		\$591 75
Appropriation	\$800 00	
Unexpended.....	208 25	

AGGREGATE OF APPROPRIATIONS, RECEIPTS AND
EXPENDITURES.

ACCOUNTS.	Appropriations and Receipts.	Expenditures.	Excess.	Deficiency.
Collection and abatement of taxes for previous years,		502 13		502 13
Expenses of previous years,		172 10		172 10
Public Schools, appropriation,	5500 00			
Bal. from School fund,	195 05			
Dog tax,	228 78			
Teaching,		5162 50		
Care,		210 75		
Fuel,		432 34	118 24	
School apparatus, from School fund,	12 27	12 27		
School-house repairs, appropriat'n,	150 00	245 17		95 17
School supplies, appropriation,	100 00	80 87	19 13	
School supervision, appropriation,	300 00	296 72	3 28	
School books,		235 85		235 85
Highway repairs, appropriation,	3000 00	2921 01	78 99	
Support of poor, appropriation,	2500 00			
Proceeds of farm,	982 63	2850 36	632 27	
Highway teams and tools, appro'n,	750 00	691 34	58 66	
School-house No. 7, appropriation,	1500 00	1387 82	112 18	
School furniture, No. 3, approp'on,	300 00	249 53	50 47	
Repairs of public buildings, appr'n,	500 00	477 75	22 25	
Culvert at So. Chelmsford, appr'n,	100 00		100 00	
State aid, received from State,	506 27	466 00	40 27	
Miscellaneous Expenses, appr'n,	150 00			
For lots at W. C. cemetery,	10 00			
For use of hall at Centre,	1 50	91 56	69 94	
Coll'n and abate'nt of taxes, (1877)	300 00	265 87	34 13	
Town officers and committees, app.	800 00	591 75	208 25	
Errors in orders, received,	4 15	4 15		
Balance,	17,890 65	17,347 84	1,548 06	1,005 25
		542 81		542 81
	\$17,890 65	\$17,890 65	\$1,548 06	\$1,548 06
Appropriations,	\$15,950 00	Amount of orders,	\$17,347 84	
Receipts,	1,940 65	Balance unexpended,	542 81	
	\$17,890 65			\$17,890 65

J. B. EMERSON,
ZIBA GAY,
J. J. HOYT,
WM. MANNING,
E. P. BEAN,

Selectmen.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The committee chosen to audit the accounts of the town officers, have attended to that duty, for the year ending February 28, 1878, and find them correctly cast and with proper vouchers.

We find that the amount of orders drawn and vouched for by the Selectmen, for the financial year ending at date, is	\$17,347 84	
And that the amount of orders outstanding at date of last settlement, was	524 99	
		\$17,872 83
And that the amount paid by the Treasurer in the year ending at date, is	\$17,808 43	
And that the amount of orders outstanding at date, is	64 40	
		17,872 83
We find further, that there is due the town, from J. A. Bartlett, Collector of Taxes, 1877, for taxes	\$2,283 75	
from J. A. Bartlett, interest on taxes, 1877	57 00	
from State, for State aid	545 00	
from State, for armory rent	90 00	
from book agency, books and cash on hand	312 40	
from Treasurer, cash on hand	1,146 94	
		\$4,435 09
And that the town is indebted, for the Kimball fund	\$100 00	
for estimated liabilities	125 00	
for estimated abatements on list of 1877	100 00	
for outstanding orders	64 40	
		389 40
Assets over liabilities		\$4,045 69

LUTHER H. SARGENT,
ISRAEL PUTNAM,
GEORGE A. BYAM,

February 28, 1878.

Auditors.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD,

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,

FOR

1877-78.

LOWELL, MASS.:
STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK PRINTERS, No. 130 CENTRAL STREET.
1878.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In conformity to law and custom, your committee herewith submit to the members of this town their annual report.

It is the sense of our body that the schools are in a prosperous condition, and are certainly much better supplied with books than they were one year ago.

It was thought that the introduction of the Harper's Geographies and Swinton's Grammar, also published by them, would ultimately prove a great advantage to the schools, as they both greatly simplify the methods of teaching those branches, and are practical, common-sense books, and are certainly model books. The cost of their introduction to the town was \$235.85.

For the details concerning the several schools, we refer you to the Superintendent's Report which follows.

Desiring to simplify the report, we have adopted the old number by which each school district was known prior to abolishing the district system.

There are now thirteen schools in town, numbered from 1 to 9, respectively.*

When we entered upon our duties, one year ago, it was found that several of the school-houses required considerable outlay for repairs, particularly the one at the north (No. 8). There have therefore been expended \$192.50.

*Middlesex was No. 9; hereafter West Chelmsford school will be known as No. 9, instead of No. 10.

Particular attention is called to the *financial* table at the close of this report, which contains items of value and importance.

Particular attention is called to the extraordinary number of absences in schools (see table), for the year just closed, which amount to 12,667.

We can cite one case of punctual attendance worthy of record and emulation. Rainey Sargent, of North School, No. 8, has not been absent or tardy from the first day she entered school, in 1873, up to the present year, when she had the measles; a period of *five* years. We trust that parents will, the next year, greatly reduce the 12,667.

The town appropriated at last annual meeting, for schools, the sum of.....	\$5,500 00	
Also, for Repairs,.....	150 00	
For Supplies,.....	100 00	
Received for Dog tax.....	228 78	
Received as State Aid,.....	207 32	
School-house supervision.....	300 00	
	<hr/>	
Tótal available funds for the year,.....		\$6,486 10
The entire cost of educating all the children for the past year, 1877-78, was.....		6,349 23
		<hr/>
Unexpended funds.....		\$136 87
Reference to the accompanying table will show that repairs were made at a cost of	\$192 50	
Appropriated for same, as above,.....	150 00	
	<hr/>	
Exceeded appropriation by.....		42 50
Supplies purchased cost.....	\$177 09	
Appropriated, as above,.....	100 00	
	<hr/>	
Exceeded appropriation by.....		77 09
		<hr/>
Exceeded these appropriations by.....		\$119 59
The cost of teaching the schools in 1876-77, was, as by last report.....	\$5242 00	
The cost for 1877-78, was (see table,).....	5071 61	
	<hr/>	
A reduction the past year of.....		170 39

Cost of Fuel in 1876-77, was, by report,	\$438 93	
Cost of Fuel in 1877-78, was (see table,)	433 33	
	<hr/>	
A reduction the past year of		5 60
Cost for Care of School-houses in 1877-78,		
was	\$238 85	
Cost for Care of School-houses in 1876-77,		
was	212 10	
	<hr/>	
An increase the past year of		26 75

Making a total reduction in the *running* expenses of the schools, in the year just closed, of \$149.24.

The average attendance for all the schools was 367.37; the entire cost of educating them was \$6,349.23, making an average cost to each child for the past year, of \$17.28.

Examining the table for 1877-78, and comparing it carefully with the table for 1876-77, it appears that five of the thirteen schools reduced their absences in the aggregate from the number in the same schools the previous year 2,036, while the remaining eight schools increased their aggregate to the amount of 2,875, the difference being an increase of 839. To NUMBER FIVE belongs the credit of making the largest relative reduction, viz: 411 out of 485, or more than 84 per cent. Had every school in town done as well, the aggregate would have been reduced to 1,892 instead of standing as it does, 12,667. Next in rank to NUMBER FIVE stands NUMBER NINE, both grammar and primary divisions, which reduced their aggregate 1,466 out of 3,000, or nearly 50 per cent. In NUMBER SEVEN there was a reduction of 100 out of 418, or nearly 25 per cent. In four schools, where there was an aggregate increase of 2,478, an unusual amount of sickness, making it necessary or advisable to close three of them for several weeks, accounts for the disproportionate increase, in a great measure. These schools were NUMBER ONE PRIMARY, which was depleted during the fall term in consequence of the

prevalence of scarlet fever in the neighborhood ; and the three schools in NUMBER EIGHT, where the measles prevailed during the winter term to such an extent as to make it advisable to close both the intermediate and the primary for several weeks. For the increase in NUMBER SIX of 338, being more than 52 per cent., there appears to be no satisfactory reason to assign.

Very respectfully yours,

CHAS. W. FLINT,
 J. R. FLETCHER,
 B. J. SPAULDING,
 A. H. PARK,
 L. M. DUTTON,
 H. H. EMERSON,
 GEO. F. DYAR,
 CHAS. SWEETSER,
 J. C. BUTTERFIELD,

By GEO. F. DYAR,

Secretary.

Committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

Gentlemen :—In compliance with your order I submit this, my Second Annual Report.

The past year has been one, during which there has been exhibited in several of the schools, in a remarkable degree, the fruit of previous labor, augmented by thorough work during this period. In the highly important but hitherto much neglected exercises of composition, declamation and recitation, with select reading, there has been very marked progress in all. The work has been taken up in earnest, even in the primary schools, and the result of the experiment in the latter proves conclusively that the time to begin this work is as soon as the child is capable of committing a short and suitable selection to memory perfectly, or of using the pen or pencil in writing words correctly. The exercise of constructing simple sentences, and afterwards of writing short descriptive and narrative compositions, is one of the very best to enable the pupil to become familiar with the correct use, the spelling and definition of words in common use, besides helping to form a habit of clear and forcible expression. In most of the schools there has been very satisfactory improvement in singing and drawing, and in a few these are now a very attractive feature. The work in nearly all has been characterized by sharper mental discipline and more self-reliance on the part

of the scholars than hitherto, which is very gratifying. Very few of our teachers during the past year have done the thinking for their scholars, or in other words, put words in their mouth at recitation, thus depriving them of the most valuable exercise of the school, the opportunity to think, and the necessity for careful, accurate, systematic study.

SUPERVISION.

In no department of the public service is there greater need of constant, vigilant supervision than in the conduct of the schools.

Even with the most skilful and experienced teachers, if we would look for the most satisfactory return for the time and money expended in the work of education, it is necessary that time and thought be given to the work, in order that the best methods may be introduced into the schools, and that the training which the pupils receive shall be of the greatest practical value, viewed not only in the light of the actual duties of life in a more advanced period, but also as regards thorough and judicious mental discipline. It is of the utmost importance that a uniform system be pursued in all the schools, as far as practicable. This can only be done through the aid of faithful supervision. Many teachers seem to forget that rules, regulations and orders, except such as emanate from themselves, mean anything; while others sometimes fail in judgment and a due appreciation of the wants and surroundings of their scholars.

Thorough knowledge in reading, writing and the principles of arithmetic, with the correct spelling, definition and use of words, is the foundation of all education to be derived from the schools and is an acquisition which every person needs and which every child who enters our schools should receive. In general, during the past year, the work

has been very satisfactorily performed in these most important branches. The work which has been done most imperfectly, in most of the schools, is in writing. Very few of the teachers have seemed to think it of any consequence what attitude the pupil assumed when engaged in this exercise, or that anything was to be done more than to attend to the distribution and collection of the writing books in due order. Very seldom have I found any evidence that the teacher has taken the pen in hand to write a word or form a single letter, and I am of the opinion that we have less proper and efficient instruction in this branch in our schools, as a general rule, now, than we did twenty-five or fifty years ago. I have sometimes found the time allotted to this exercise not more than fifteen or twenty minutes, two or three days in the week only; thus allowing, at most, not more than eleven hours in a term of as many weeks.

THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

Superintendent Small, of Salem, uses the following language:—"The education of the next generation is our responsibility, it will be our most enduring monument, and our pride should be to make it noble and praiseworthy so long as it shall endure."

The child has a right to the best preparation for the world in which he is placed; he can claim it, and it belongs to him as truly as if he could enforce his right at the point of the bayonet. He is entitled to comfortable and health-conducive school-houses; to the best teachers and enough of them; to good discipline and wholesome restraint, without petty tyranny; to instruction, which comes fresh from an active fountain of thought, which is presented to him only so fast as he is able to receive it, and which he quaffs eagerly because he has a relish for it.

The rules of the school should be for the sake of the scholar and not for the sake of any system of discipline. With all deference to the teacher's individuality, I hold that no restraint should be imposed upon a child on the sole ground that it is the teacher's pleasure. It must be shown to be imposed for the benefit of one or of all. The child's rights being protected, the teacher's are to be assured. Engaging to instruct a given class in certain prescribed branches for a definite portion of time, the teacher is responsible for doing that work in the best way, or for doing such part of it as may be possible, but always in the best way. The government of the children, in the best way for them in all time, is also his duty. The State further requires that the principles of morality and virtue shall be inculcated, and this may be done by example to some extent, as well as by precept.

TEACHERS.

There is no more responsible trust than the selection of teachers for the public schools, none where the public servant should so forget everything but duty to the young. Neither personal friendship, sympathy, the prejudice of the community, false ideas of economy, nor any other motive should ever be allowed to affect the decision. In no calling is there such imperative need of natural fitness and love for the work as that of the teacher. If we would have our schools keep pace with the spirit of the age we must secure the services of teachers of thorough culture and professional preparation for their vocation. We look with pity and contempt upon the person who presumes to practise in the medical profession whose only preparation has been the reading of professional books, or attendance upon a prescribed course of lectures; but are often ready to commit the training of our children and youth for all the grave re-

sponsibility of life, into the hands of those who make no pretension to anything like a suitable preparation for their work.

Other essential requisites in the qualification of the teacher are, love of children; moral rectitude and personal integrity of character; a sense of responsibility to those under their charge; and last, but not least, on the other hand, first of all, a knowledge of human nature, *in general*, and of *child nature in particular*. Superintendent Small, whom I have before quoted, says under this head:—“The teacher is a laborer worthy of his hire. The law of supply and demand will determine his pay, provided that just discrimination is exercised with regard to the supply; but an experienced and successful teacher can not compete with an inferior one in the rate of wages. The longer the period of faithful service, the stronger should the hold upon the public appreciation become.”

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

The first and most essential step in education and the acquisition of knowledge, and a preparation for any valuable work in life, is to gain the power of fixing the attention, closely and continuously, upon the one given subject of thought. It therefore becomes of the utmost importance to secure every possible help to this end, in school at all times. This creates the demand for perfect order and system in all the exercises of the school. We are all creatures of habit, and it is highly important that the young, form correct habits which will be truly helpful in all the work of life.

The discipline of the school, while it must necessarily be strict, should never be made unnecessarily irksome to the scholars, especially to those of tender years. Whatever exercise is introduced into the school, it should be performed

with alacrity and precision, and no time should be allowed to run to waste. It were far better that scholars should be allowed an additional five minutes for recess than that they should sit in idleness for half that time, or move carelessly and sluggishly in any exercise. Young pupils should not be required to maintain, rigidly, any one position for any considerable length of time, but should have change and variety of exercise and position enough to render school life a pleasure, and not a weariness and punishment. While there are cases which seem to demand corporal punishment, it should be resorted to as seldom as possible, and always with the most calm and careful discrimination as to the age of the pupil, and the nature of the offence for which it is to be administered, and the circumstances of the case. It should always be distinctly understood that all the rules and regulations of the school have, for their sole end, the best good of all the scholars, and in furtherance of this object the teacher's order, for the time being, is the supreme law, to be promptly obeyed, and that the rights of teacher and scholar will be sacredly guarded by those on whom devolves the supervision of the school.

DUTY OF PARENTS.

The neglect of the parents to make frequent visits to the school during each term withdraws from the teacher most valuable support and encouragement.

Parents should feel that the teacher is a friend who is called upon to act the part of an assistant in the most important parental work—that of the proper education and discipline of their children—and that it is one of their highest and most sacred duties to do all in their power to render the situation of this assistant as pleasant as possible, and the work of the school of the greatest benefit to their children. The stronger the sympathy between parents and

teacher, and the more fully they understand each other, the better will be the work of the school. Where the teacher is regarded more as a member of the family by every parent, than as a stranger, there is very little liability to misunderstanding, which almost invariably leads to fault-finding and not unfrequently to bitter animosity, which has a fatal effect upon the progress of the child. Some excellent teachers commit a grave error in holding themselves aloof from the parents and thus have themselves to thank for the prejudice, jealousy, coldness or indifference which often assail them. It is a very pleasant duty to note an improvement in this respect during the past year. The school-registers show a largely increased number of visitors, amounting in one case to nearly sixty in a single term. There has been also a much greater interest manifested in the closing examination of the several schools.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

During the year the last representative of the time-honored "*little red school-house*" in town, where have been educated three generations in lineal descent, has been supplanted by a neat and commodious structure of modern architecture, and this, with furnishing the house at South Chelmsford, with the latest improved desks and chairs, places all the schools in town, with the exception of those at North Chelmsford in pleasant and desirable quarters. The school-houses throughout the town have presented a neat, tidy appearance within and without, and they have been kept free from injury, in a remarkable and praiseworthy degree. The schools in Number Eight are seriously incumbered, and an enlargement of the house is an absolute necessity to the progress of the schools, and yet more as regards the health of the scholars. In the primary school during one term there were sixty-three different scholars in

a room only large enough at most for thirty, and much smaller than any other school-room in town which is occupied by the latter number. In the upper school the assistant teacher is obliged to sit with classes numbering twenty or more scholars in a room with no proper means of ventilation and not large enough for the proper accommodation of more than half that number.

The following are the names of scholars who were neither absent nor tardy during the three terms of the year, in the several schools :

- No. 1, HIGH.—Mary Emerson (1).
 No. 1, PRIMARY.—Mary A. Sullivan (1).
 No. 2, PRIMARY.—Ellen M. Driscoll, Katie A. Driscoll, Minnie Driscoll, Bridget Driscoll, Luella Davis, Susie M. Davis, Mary L. Parker, Louise M. Reed (8).
 No. 3, PRIMARY.—Edgar B. Lapham, Willie E. Lapham, Howard L. Park, Charlie E. Park (4).
 No. 4, PRIMARY.—Stella R. Garland (1).
 No. 5, PRIMARY.—Alice E. Ward (1).
 No. 7, PRIMARY.—Sarah L. Spalding (1).
 No. 8, HIGH.—Lizzie J. Draper, Ella G. Flint, L. Grace Lumbert (3).
 No. 9, GRAMMAR.—Katie Russell, Fannie Russell(2).

Names of scholars who were neither absent nor tardy during two terms :

- No. 1, HIGH SCHOOL.—Harry Emerson, John Howard, Walter Park, Walter Emerson, Albert Putney, Charles Wilson (6).
 No. 1, PRIMARY.—Annie R. Howard, Lilla D. Phelps, David Howard (3).
 No. 2, PRIMARY.—Ara A. Davis, Mabel Emerson, Ferris W. Hunt, Carrie Keafe, George A. Davis, Willie H. Driscoll, Eddie Fowle. (7)
 No. 3, PRIMARY.—Lottie Battles, Nora Battles, Philip R. Park (3).
 No. 4, PRIMARY.—Lizzie P. Garland, Annie Livingston, Edna Sweetser, Ernest A. Garland (4).
 No. 5, PRIMARY.—Celia P. Battles, Arthur W. Battles (2).
 No. 7, PRIMARY.—Nellie G. Spalding (1).
 No. 8, HIGH.—Ada M. Sheldon, James E. McCabe (2).
 No. 8, INTERMEDIATE.—Beth Phillips, Charlie Keith, Bertie Spragne (3).
 No. 9, GRAMMAR.—Belle Parkhurst, Viola Parkhurst (2).
 No. 9, PRIMARY.—Maria Agnew, Lizzie Donlow, Lizzie McLaughlin (3).

Names of scholars who were neither absent nor tardy during one term :

- No. 1, HIGH SCHOOL.—Katie Robinson, Clara Upham, Flora Adams, Lora Bickford, Ella Sweetser, Alvina Sweetser, Fanny Hill, Lizzie DeLara, Lottie Perham, Carrie Spofford, Mary Greene, Fred Hazen, James Higgins, Frank Putney, James Richardson, Clarence Hill, Frank Marshall, Frank Putney (18).

- No. 1, PRIMARY.—Charles Clogston, Herbert Lamphere, Lizzie Sullivan, Ella A. Clogston, Annie D. Pearson, Bertha F. Wilson, Gertrude Wilson, Ida L. Farwell, Kate Sullivan, Jennie Loring, Frances Loring (11).
- No. 2, PRIMARY.—Frank E. Adams, Eddie Emerson, Onie M. Hobbs, Frank Hall, Frank R. Parker (5).
- No. 3, PRIMARY.—Lottie M. Paine, Walter Wilkins, Fannie Wilkins, Louise Wilkins, Blanche Hutchins, Frank Bean, Minot Bean, Newton Bean (9).
- No. 4, PRIMARY.—Alice Greene, Mattie Parker, Nellie Nickles, Alva Nickles, Florence Stevens, Frankie Fernald (6).
- No. 5, PRIMARY.—Edith M. Ward, James S. Byam, (2).
- No. 6, PRIMARY.—Nathan McEwan (1).
- No. 7, PRIMARY.—Lois E. Blaisdell, Ida M. Woods, George O. Spalding (3).
- No. 8, HIGH.—Annie M. Cummings, Annie G. Hood, Kate Sleeper, Josie A. Keith, Ranie Sargent, Gertie M. Parker, Mary A. Willstead, Minnie A. Worden, Ella F. Davis, Ellen M. Chandler, Bertie J. Spalding, Samuel H. Libby, Herman W. Flint, John Warley, Owen Fox, James C. Flagg, Edward E. Dutton, James P. Morris, John Donahue, George W. Ripley (20).
- No. 8, INTERMEDIATE.—Imogene Cummings, Bertie Ripley, Walton Mason, Eddie Bruce, Henry Connors, Frank Dunn, Willie Gilman, James Quigley, Willie Quigley, Walter Smart, Pat Ward, Clara Charters, Jennie Davis, Edie Fuller, Cora Huntress, Villa Smith (16).
- No. 8, PRIMARY.—Eddie Donegan, James Donagan, Henry Davis, Patrick McMan, Benny Monmelan, Henry McCabe, Willie Smart, Morton Wright, Patrick Ward, James Ward, May Chandler, Cora Sprague, Selina Moison, Kate McQuade, Lotta Phillips, Harry Hogan (16).
- No. 9, GRAMMAR.—Thomas Russell, John Maxwell, Fanny Maxwell, Laura Butterfield, Lora Leduke (5).
- No. 9, PRIMARY.—Olive Morton, Clara Jeffroy, Lucy Ferris, Alice Ferris, Frank Naylor (5).

SPECIFIC REPORT OF SCHOOLS.

NUMBER ONE HIGH.

The work in this school has attained a very high degree of excellence and illustrates, in the clearest manner possible, the great advantage and importance of continuing the school for successive terms and years under the same faithful, thorough and efficient teacher, Mrs. E. M. Robinson, assisted by Miss Mary E. Hammons. It seems scarcely an exaggeration to apply the strong term, *perfect*, to the performance of many classes. The experiment is being tried, which promises to be a grand success, of training a class of beginners in arithmetic, thoroughly, in a full knowledge of the decimal system of numbers. This class, which was advanced from the

primary school at the commencement of the Fall term, having previously received considerable training in writing numbers, and in addition and subtraction without the use of a text-book, will now write neatly, correctly and very rapidly, any number from one million to a decimal of the denomination, ten-thousandths, and in any form in which it may be given. These scholars have commenced the work in reduction, and are prepared, after only two terms, to take up at once a large part of the drill in decimal fractions, in one-fourth the time which is usually required for that work, and it is confidently believed, if this course is pursued, under as favorable circumstances as have attended them the last two terms, they will become proficient in arithmetic in from one-third to one-half the time usually required in this branch. During a part of the year a very valuable service was rendered a section of the school by Miss Hammons, in a course of instruction in the elementary principles of plane geometry, without the use of a text book. Two sections have pursued, with remarkable success, the study of Language in the same manner. One under the principal has made most astonishing progress, and of the whole number, twelve or fifteen, eight read compositions at the closing examination of the Winter term, which would have done credit to much older scholars, and in any school. The compositions which were read, were the ordinary exercises of the class in their work, and every member was prepared to read one, had time allowed. The advanced class in arithmetic have taken up, the last term, very thoroughly, the metric system.

In reading and singing this school has made a marked advance, the past year, and any one who was present at the recent examination, will hardly remark any longer that we have no good reading in town. Drawing, also, continues to be a feature of marked excellence. There are several

scholars who have developed a remarkable talent in this branch which should be cultivated in an Art School. The rhetorical exercises have attained a high rank, consisting of compositions, declamations, recitations and select readings. Many of those presented at the closing examination of the year were gems. There have been classes in Bookkeeping, Algebra, Latin and Physiology, and the school has exerted a greater influence for good upon the other schools in town, than during any previous year of its existence. The time has come when, in order to promote its greater efficiency and enable it to meet more fully than it has hitherto done the wants of a class of scholars, it will be necessary to raise the standard of admission, by requiring scholars to be advanced beyond the grade of the higher primary or intermediate school. The first two years' work, at least, of the ordinary grammar school should be performed in the most thorough manner, to entitle any scholar to admission hereafter to the lowest classes in this school. Scholars, before beginning the work here, should be familiar with at least one-half the work in the intellectual arithmetic, and with the general principles of common and decimal fractions, and with the Language Primer, or its equivalent in a knowledge of language. The large number of persons who visited the school during the year, as indicated by the register, with the very large attendance at the closing examination of the year, for two full sessions, of parents and other friends, including nearly a dozen teachers, filling the room, especially in the afternoon, to its utmost capacity, several being obliged to stand throughout the exercises, prove conclusively that the school and its teachers are justly held in very high estimation.

NUMBER ONE PRIMARY.

This school was under the charge of Miss Adelaide C. Barnard through the year, who sustained her previous repu-

tation as a teacher. The situation of teacher in this school is in some respects a hard one to fill, since the school, in addition to being one of the largest in town—the number during the three terms of the year having been 47, 43 and 46 respectively—possesses the usual proclivities of any ordinary village school, and combines the primary and intermediate grades. The latter circumstance renders the position of teacher an exceedingly difficult one to fill satisfactorily, for the reason that while the first years of the school life of the child are the most important in many respects, and demand a large share of the teacher's time and a peculiar mental and moral organization, here is a large class always crowding upon her attention, who are to be prepared as thoroughly and speedily as possible for advancement to the higher grade. It is believed Miss Barnard has met the demand and surmounted the difficulties of the situation far better than most teachers of her limited experience could have done. In reading, drawing and language this school excels for one of its grade. The class in language, taught without the use of a text-book, have had exercise in constructing and writing sentences on the blackboard, with the correct use of capitals and marks of punctuation, and designating the emphatic words by underscoring. They will also write short compositions very rapidly upon subjects, either at will or assigned by the teacher. The singing has improved very much during the year; and the recitations at the closing examination were of a high order, and a very pleasant feature in the exercises.

NUMBER TWO

Has been favored for the second time, during the entire year, with the services of Miss Hannah C. Hunt as teacher, and is in many respects a model school, and has retained the rank it acquired the previous year as the first in town

as to the regularity and punctuality of the scholars in attendance. It occupies the honorable and enviable position of being the only one which has not a single tardiness for the entire year. The register shows, also, the splendid record of an average for the entire year of more than seventy per cent. who were neither absent nor tardy, and during one term of seventy-five per cent., and for the winter term of more than sixty-eight per cent. This is a mixed school, the ages of the scholars varying from five to more than fifteen years, and several have a long distance to travel to reach the school. The secret of all the success of this school in this respect lies in the fact that teacher, parents and children all work together with a will, which is farther shown by the fact that nearly every parent, with several other friends, attended the closing examination of the year in the midst of a pouring rain. Miss Hunt is a progressive teacher; one who is always ready to adopt a new method when it is proved to be better than the old one; possessed of a quiet dignity of character, and true refinement and deep sympathy, she draws her scholars by the silken cord of love. Her school is marked by a profitable variety of exercises, especially for the younger pupils, and by thoroughness and a philosophical gradation in the work. In general exercises in numbers and in reading this school ranks the second in town, with the exception of the two High Schools. Much use is made of the blackboard and with excellent results; beginning with the youngest as soon as they can spell very simple words, they are required to write them; as they advance they are early taught to form a simple sentence, and still further on, to take a word selected either from the reading lesson or the speller and form and write a sentence, using that word correctly. They are also instructed almost from their first day in school in writing figures and adding numbers, and a class in the second reader will write and add

two and three columns quite rapidly. The singing is very sweet and cheerful, and the compositions, declamations and recitations very good for scholars of the age and limited experience of these. The number of scholars in this school has increased from eight, two years ago, to an average attendance during the entire year of nineteen.

NUMBER THREE,

Under the charge of Miss Mary L. Lincoln, a graduate of the Bridgewater Normal School, and a teacher of experience, performed an excellent year's work in every respect. This school from occupying, as it did three years ago, very nearly the lowest rank among the mixed schools, now ranks first in all the essential requisites of a first-class school. The order and decorum are well-nigh perfect, and all the movements of the scholars, whether in class exercises or in passing in and out at recess, are more prompt, quiet and uniform than in any other school in town. Everything in the school is characterized by thoroughness, approaching very near to absolute perfection. There was also a perfect method and system in all the work. Consequently during the latter part of the year all the machinery was in complete running order for producing a large amount of the best work in the shortest possible space of time, thus reaching the climax of a thorough and efficient school. At one visit to the school I took note of a class of small scholars who had been through the first book in spelling and were reviewing at the rate of two pages at a lesson, daily; that they spelled eighty words in ten minutes and misspelled only one, and the scholar who misspd that one afterwards spelled it correctly.

Geography was studied in this school exhaustively by all the classes, and history also. Thirty-two writing-books presented generally and almost uniformly a neat, tidy appearance and showed very satisfactory progress and very

few blots. Attention was given to letter-writing with very marked success. There was one specimen which deserves particular notice; it was by a scholar nine years old and exhibited a correct use of capitals and punctuation, with a proper address and superscription and every word of the two full pages correctly spelled. In reading, this school has advanced more during the year than any other, with one exception, in town, and there were a few compositions at the closing examination of a high order and read in a very effective manner. There are several scholars in this school who should avail themselves immediately of the privilege of the High School for as long a period as possible, as several others have wisely done the past year.

NUMBER FOUR

Was taught during the year by Miss Frances M. Talbot, who discharged her duties so acceptably in Number Five the previous winter term. This school illustrates very clearly the great changes which occur, frequently at short intervals, in the number of scholars in several of the schools in the rural districts, the number having decreased from 35, two years ago, with an average attendance of 30, to 20 the last term, with an average attendance of 16. Miss Talbot brought to her work the same energy and sense of responsibility which marked her work previously, and the effect is very visible in the school, which exhibits much more mental discipline and close application, with a thorough knowledge of principles than hitherto. Her excellence as a teacher consists largely in a nice adaptation to the peculiar wants and temperament of her scholars and all the attendant circumstances of the school, and in a judicious variety and selection of exercises for all. In arithmetic the school has made much progress in thorough analysis, a department in which it has hitherto been deficient. The progress in drawing is

also particularly noteworthy, and the same may be said in reference to the thoroughness in geography and map-drawing.

NUMBER FIVE.

The number of scholars who would attend school appearing to be too small to warrant the opening of this school, it was suspended during the spring term, but a larger number presenting themselves, the school was kept open during the fall and winter terms. It was under the charge of Miss Nellie M. Perham, an undergraduate of the Framingham Normal School. This was her first experience as a teacher and has proved a success. She has shown herself to be a thoroughly live teacher, and so had a live school, and succeeded in a remarkable degree in infusing her own energy into her scholars, and although having only ten, she found enough profitable work to do to occupy every moment of time allotted to the sessions of the school, as the result at the end of the two terms fully verified. The youngest scholars were taught to form script letters, and those who were older were well trained in the several branches pursued.

At the closing examination of the winter term, at which there were a large number of interested visitors present, the scholars were remarkably prompt and self-possessed. The writing-books were neat and showed good progress, and the recitations and compositions were very well executed, and the singing was a very great advance on any thing previously presented in that school. A very pleasant feature in the exercises was the appropriate presentation to the teacher, by one of their number, of a neat and valuable gift, as a testimonial of respect and esteem from the scholars. In order and decorum this school ranks among the first in town, and all the movements of the scholars are very prompt and quiet.

NUMBER SIX

Is a school which taxes severely the strength and power of endurance of the teacher, and the patience, also, very frequently. It was successfully managed during the year by Miss Ella F. Whitcomb, a teacher of experience from an adjoining State. Though apparently scarcely strong enough for the great demand which the situation made upon her, she possessed such an indomitable will and spirit of unconquerable perseverance that she was enabled to surmount obstacles under which many would have been led to succumb.

Before the close of the fall term it was very evident she had made her influence felt in the school in a very marked degree. The order was very nearly perfect, and in decorum and studious habits, with scarcely a single exception, there had been a very unexpected and unlooked-for advance—so much so that from being by far the lowest in rank among our schools three years ago, it could justly press its claims to an average rank at least, and very much good work was anticipated for the winter term in real study and acquisition in the several branches taught, as the crowning result of the year's work, and there is no doubt this anticipation would have been fully realized had not the teacher been prostrated by sickness in the midst of her valuable work, and thereby compelled to relinquish her trust for the remainder of the term. In reading and arithmetic, two highly important and necessary branches in which this school has been lamentably deficient, there was a wide step forward, and the scholars were all required to do their work for themselves; there was no prompting by the teacher, they said what they knew or said nothing, and very generally were ready and prompt and ready to detect errors in others. Twenty writing books gave good evidence, generally, of care and progress, and most of them were neat,

considering the class of scholars who used them. The room was cleanly and tidy, and the movement of the scholars quiet and prompt.

NUMBER SEVEN

Has been well taught by Miss Francena L. Davis, who though never having enjoyed the privilege of any more professional training than that afforded by our own high school at the centre of the town, succeeded admirably in this her first attempt in the teachers' vocation. Her system and methods were well adapted to the work and the class of scholars with whom she had to labor, and the result is the best practical commentary on the valuable and thorough work of the high school. Thoroughness characterizes everything in Miss Davis' school, and her scholars speak for themselves. In writing numbers all the scholars nearly, but especially the younger, make the figures very neatly and clearly. A class which is about completing the study of the primary arithmetic, write numbers correctly from thousands to ten-thousandths, add and subtract well and express the money of the United States by figures to mills. Physiology was taken up by a section of the older scholars as a general exercise without the use of a text-book, for a few minutes daily for one term, with a very good result. The work with the advanced classes in arithmetic and geography was performed in a very thorough, practical manner, and the scholars held at ready command what they had taken up. The declamations and compositions were a great advance upon any previous effort in this direction, and highly creditable to teacher and scholars.

NUMBER EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL

Has continued for another year under the charge of Mr. B. F. Harmon, with Miss S. Maria Taylor as assistant.

The work in this school continues to be very seriously retarded in consequence of the large amount of absence.

It is most lamentable that a school enjoying the rare opportunity which is possessed by this, should be obliged to carry continually this weight, which so mars its usefulness. Here is a school composed entirely of scholars residing within its immediate limits, thus relieving it entirely of the difficulty which attends the school of corresponding grade at the centre of the town, of being compelled to provide, from term to term, for a class of scholars who come in from several other schools, frequently for only one or two terms; also, for those who must be sent forward from the primary school in the village for the lack of an intermediate grade. Such a school ought to be so fully appreciated as to create a public spirit which would soon relieve it of the incubus of all unnecessary absence and make it one of the first of its grade in the State. The very meagre accommodation is, if possible, a still more serious drawback on the prosperity of the school. To properly meet the wants of all the schools in this section of the town, the house should be enlarged and re-arranged so as to give each of the four teachers an opportunity to have under their personal charge and instruction nearly the same number of scholars, in a room of suitable size, by themselves, all of which can be accomplished for a very reasonable outlay, and the gain to the schools would be incalculable. During the winter term this school, in common with those of lower grade in the village, suffered serious loss in consequence of sickness, but notwithstanding this drawback a good year's work has been performed. There have been classes in Latin, book-keeping, algebra and physiology. In the latter the work was perfectly exhaustive, the most full and thorough of anything in this branch we have ever had in town. In reading, there has been good progress, and the school continues to present by far the

largest array of neat writing-books. In declamation, recitation and composition it has attained a high degree of excellence.

NUMBER EIGHT INTERMEDIATE.

This school continues to maintain the high rank it had previously attained under the faithful guidance of Miss Louie A. Allen. The scholars here still excel in intellectual arithmetic, especially, considering their age. Miss Allen is an adept in this branch herself and inspires her scholars, as indeed she does in everything.

A very large class in this school will write and add numbers very rapidly as high as ten millions, and the work is more uniform than in any similar class in town. It is a peculiarity of this school that all the scholars make figures neatly and plainly, which would be a valuable lesson to very many older pupils in several other schools. The advanced class perform the work in written arithmetic nearly through division, rapidly and correctly.

NUMBER EIGHT PRIMARY,

Under the charge of Miss Emma L. Burgess, performed much more and better work than could reasonably have been looked for under the inconvenient and unwholesome circumstances which attend it; crowded to the number of 60 in a room unfit for 30, unless better ventilated. This room being without any desks, the teacher is utterly debarred from the privilege of introducing a variety of valuable exercises into the school, and much time is actually wasted, while the health of all who occupy the room is being seriously impaired, if breathing poisonous air is ever an injury. Miss Burgess has toiled under these disadvantages for years, with an unflagging zeal, energy and perseverance which prove, if any proof were necessary, that she is

heartily in love with her work and possessed of the material of which martyrs are made. As she has no desks for her little ones, her Yankee ingenuity does all in human power to supply the deficiency, in the use of the blackboard, and her scholars, many of them, excel in writing and adding figures, for those of their age. She also continues to do a grand work in the primary arithmetic. May the day be near at hand when she and her school shall have suitable accommodations for their work in a health-conducing room.

NUMBER NINE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school has suffered from frequent change of teachers, as is almost inevitable to a greater or less extent in every case where this is unavoidable. It requires considerable time for any teacher, however skilful and experienced, to get fully into the harness in a new situation, and it is human nature that a portion at least of the school will, instead of lending the new incumbent in the teacher's chair a cordial, helping hand, take undue advantage of the situation, thus doing what they may to embarrass the teacher and injure the school and their own reputation, and worst of all their own character, and waste their time. This school has proved no exception to the rule. During two terms it was under the charge of Miss Stella J. Allen, who brought to the work good literary attainments for the teacher's vocation, and a willingness and determination to discharge her duty faithfully. Her methods were in the main very good, but not having had any previous experience in a school of this character, her efforts were not productive of as satisfactory results as would otherwise have been the case. Much credit is due to a portion of the school for their praiseworthy endeavor to assist and encourage the teacher, while another portion is deserving of severe censure. There was

a very gratifying improvement in the order and decorum of the school, and a habit of application during the latter part of the Fall term, and the closing examination gave evidence of a good degree of progress in the several branches pursued, and the declamation and composition were very good, and there was a marked advance in the singing. The Winter term was taught by Miss Clara A. Bearce, a teacher of limited experience, of much force of character and determination, who after a somewhat severe struggle to raise the standard of order and decorum, and a prompt obedience to wholesome rules and regulations, succeeded in advancing the school as well as could have reasonably been expected under the circumstances. Miss Bearce brought to her work great energy and readiness to work hard, and the term's work left good results. The most marked progress was in drawing and singing. In the latter, Miss Bearce enjoyed the benefit of her predecessor's efforts and her own skill and experience in this branch. The exercises in composition and recitation and declamation were the best they have ever been in this school.

NUMBER NINE PRIMARY

Was, for the spring term, under its former teacher, Miss Lydia A. Spalding, who was succeeded for the remaining terms by Miss Aline E. Gardner, a graduate of the Bridge-water Normal School, who had previously taught one year in another school in town. The school was highly favored in securing the services of a teacher of Miss Gardner's experience and peculiar adaptation to the work of a primary school. She took up the work where her predecessor left it, with no loss of time, and the result of the year's work is very satisfactory. The reading was marked by good expression, is very easy and natural, with sufficient force, and takes

rank with the first in town. There was the greatest advance in the exercises of recitation and declamation, considering the age of the scholars, of any school in town, and the singing improved very much and was a very pleasant exercise at the closing examination of the year.

In conclusion, permit me to congratulate the Committee and the parents on the success which has crowned our efforts, and to express my thanks for the uniform courtesy which have been accorded to me at all times.

Very respectfully,

J. R. FLETCHER,

Superintendent of Schools.

BOOK ACCOUNT.

J. R. FLETCHER, Book Agent, in account with the Town of Chelmsford :

DR.

Feb. 28, 1877,	To books,.....	\$248 08
“ “	To cash,.....	36 22
Mar. 9, 1878,	To cash from sale of books, to date,.....	332 29
		<hr/>
		\$616 59
		<hr/> <hr/>

CR.

Mar. 9, 1878.	By books on hand,.....	\$274 86
“ “	By cash paid for books, to date,.....	245 82
“ “	By cash paid for express, postage and commission,.....	58 37
“ “	By books furnished scholars which have not been paid for,.....	10 41
“ “	By cash on hand,.....	27 13
		<hr/>
		\$616 59
		<hr/> <hr/>

J. R. FLETCHER,

Book Agent.

TABLE

Showing the number and per cent. of absences in the schools, amount and per cent. of tardiness, also the number and per cent. not absent, number and per cent. not tardy, and number and per cent. neither absent nor tardy for each term of the school year 1877-78.

SCHOOLS.	Whole No. of Scholars.	Absences.	Per cent. of absences.	No. not absent.	Per cent. not absent.	Tardiness.	Per cent. of tardiness.	No. not tardy.	Per cent. not tardy.	No. not absent or tardy.	Per cent. not absent or tardy.	Average attendance.
SPRING TERM.	No. 1, High	41	247	6	614 ² / ₁	9	9 ¹ / ₁	3790 ⁰ / ₄	614 ² / ₁	34.00		
	1, Primary	47	411	6 ¹ / ₃	1327 ¹ / ₃	8	8 ¹ / ₁	3983	919 ⁴ / ₇	37.57		
	2, "	21	18	36 ⁴ / ₁₀	1571 ³ / ₁₀	...	...	21100	1571 ³ / ₁₀	20.32
	3, "	33	263	8 ² / ₅	12 ¹ / ₁	26	1 ² / ₅	2266 ³ / ₅	824 ³ / ₅	29.20		
	4, "	22	92	4 ⁵ / ₆	1150	26	1 ¹ / ₃	1777 ³ / ₁₁	940 ¹ / ₁₁	19.03		
	5, " . . . . .	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	6, "	25	271	12 ³ / ₅	...	84	3 ⁰ / ₅	520	...	17.00		
	7, "	16	125	8 ⁵ / ₇	3	8 ³ / ₄	8	1168 ³ / ₄	318 ³ / ₄	13.78		
	8, High	66	481	6 ¹ / ₃	2233 ¹ / ₃	44	1 ¹ / ₃	4060 ² / ₃	1624 ³ / ₃	56.57		
	8, Int'diate	48	470	9 ¹ / ₅	2041 ⁴ / ₅	23	3 ⁵ / ₅	3572 ¹ / ₅	1531 ¹ / ₅	43.48		
8, Primary	63	860	13 ¹ / ₃	1625 ² / ₃	75	1 ¹ / ₇	3453 ⁵ / ₃	1117 ² / ₃	54.73			
9, Grammar	37	304	8 ¹ / ₃	513 ² / ₃	25	2 ⁵ / ₃	2156 ² / ₃	513 ² / ₃	30.79			
9, Primary	27	151	5 ³ / ₃	1037 ¹ / ₇	9	...	2281 ³ / ₇	829 ² / ₇	23.93			
		446	3693	133	...	337	304	105	...			
FALL TERM.	No. 1, High	49	330	7 ⁸ / ₁	1632 ³ / ₄	...	...	49100	1632 ³ / ₄	39.80
	1, Primary	43	598	23 ⁵ / ₈	716 ¹ / ₈	3	1 ⁵ / ₈	4093 ¹ / ₃	716 ¹ / ₈	27.33		
	2, "	20	20	1 ¹ / ₄	1575	...	...	20100	1575	19.79
	3, "	32	150	4 ¹ / ₃	1237 ¹ / ₃	32	1	2578 ¹ / ₃	1134 ² / ₃	29.62		
	4, "	24	216	9 ⁹ / ₁₀	28 ¹ / ₃	7	1 ³ / ₃	2187 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₃	18.38		
	5, "	10	14	1 ¹ / ₂	550	6	1 ⁵ / ₅	770	550	9.28		
	6, "	27	383	15 ¹ / ₃	13 ⁹ / ₇	127	1 ⁵ / ₄	725 ⁵ / ₇	133 ⁹ / ₇	22.00		
	7, "	15	87	5 ¹ / ₈	320	...	...	15100	320	13.02
	8, High	59	456	7 ¹ / ₈	2033 ³ / ₈	42	2 ³ / ₈	3762 ³ / ₈	1423 ³ / ₈	50.98		
	8, Int'diate	51	611	11 ¹ / ₂	917 ¹ / ₂	46	3 ³ / ₆	2856 ⁶ / ₁	47 ³ / ₁	45.34		
8, Primary	53	702	12 ¹ / ₃	815 ⁵ / ₃	44	3 ⁴ / ₃	3362 ¹ / ₃	35 ⁵ / ₃	46.50			
9, Grammar	25	175	7 ¹ / ₄	728	21	4 ² / ₄	1560	624	20.50			
9, Primary	21	193	8 ³ / ₅	29 ¹ / ₁	48	2 ⁵ / ₇	628 ⁴ / ₇	...	18.88			
		429	3935	107	...	376	303	87	...			
WINTER TERM.	No. 1, High	51	398	6 ¹ / ₄	1121 ² / ₃	11	1 ⁵ / ₁₀	4691 ³ / ₅	1019 ³ / ₅	43.61		
	1, Primary	46	391	7 ³ / ₅	1125 ¹ / ₅	6	1 ¹ / ₁₀	4189 ⁸ / ₅	1125 ¹ / ₅	40.03		
	2, "	19	36	1 ² / ₃	1368 ⁸ / ₃	...	...	19100	1368 ⁸ / ₃	18.06
	3, "	33	296	7 ¹ / ₃	1030 ¹⁰ / ₃	14	1 ⁷ / ₉	2781 ⁹ / ₁₀	824 ⁹ / ₁₀	28.63		
	4, "	20	183	8 ² / ₁	735	6	2 ² / ₂	1680	630	16.32		
	5, "	10	60	4 ² / ₃	330	6	...	770	330	9.37		
	6, "	33	333	13 ¹ / ₁₀	...	107	4 ¹ / ₃	721 ⁷ / ₃	...	26.00		
	7, "	13	106	8 ¹ / ₄	323 ¹ / ₄	18	1 ⁵ / ₂	969 ³ / ₈	323 ¹ / ₄	10.44		
	8, High	58	627	11 ³ / ₅	1017 ¹ / ₅	51	3 ⁵ / ₅	3458 ¹ / ₅	818 ³ / ₅	42.41		
	8, Int'diate	50	814	21 ⁵ / ₁₉	36	25	3 ³ / ₃	3876	36	40.31		
8, Primary	48	1084	27	24 ¹ / ₆	13	3 ⁷ / ₇	3777 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₆	35.09			
9, Grammar	28	397	14 ¹⁰ / ₁₃	775	62	2 ¹ / ₃	775	414 ² / ₃	22.70			
9, Primary	24	314	14 ² / ₃	318 ¹ / ₂	33	1 ¹ / ₂	937 ¹ / ₂	318 ¹ / ₂	18.08			
		433	5039	83	...	352	297	74	...			

*No Spring Term.

†Sickness.

STATISTICAL TABLE
OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD FOR THE YEAR 1877-78.

SCHOOLS.	NAMES OF TEACHERS During the year.										SPRING TERM.					FALL TERM.					WINTER TERM.					Differentscholars during the year.
	Mos.	Days.	Length.	Whole number.	Av. attendance.	Under five.	Over fifteen.	Wages per month.	Mos.	Days.	Length.	Whole number.	Av. attendance.	Under five.	Over fifteen.	Wages per month.	Mos.	Days.	Length.	Whole number.	Av. attendance.	Under five.	Over fifteen.	Wages per month.		
No. 1, High.....	3	..	..	41	34.00	..	7	\$68	2	15	49	39.81	..	7	\$75	3	5	51	43.61	..	12	\$75	53	
1, Primary.....	3	..	..	47	39.11	3	..	50	2	5	44	27.30	1	..	60	..	..	46	40.03	2	..	36	71
2, ".....	2	10	21	20.32	1	1	30	2	10	20	19.97	1	1	30	3	1	30	3	19	18.06	1	1	34	21		
3, ".....	2	10	33	29.20	3	..	40	2	15	32	29.61	1	3	40	3	5	33	28.75	1	6	40	42				
4, ".....	2	10	22	18.91	1	1	28	2	15	24	18.27	2	2	28	3	5	20	16.32	2	34	31					
5, ".....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	10	9.28	..	..	28	3	5	10	9.37	..	..	32	5
6, ".....	2	15	25	17.00	..	..	28	2	15	27	22.00	..	..	32	2	..	33	26.00	3	32	36		
7, ".....	2	10	16	13.25	1	1	30	2	15	15	13.02	2	2	30	3	..	13	10.44	..	7	30	21				
8, High.....	3	..	..	65	61.25	18	90	3	..	59	56.00	..	..	21	90	3	..	56	48.40	..	20	90	78
8, Intermediate.....	2	15	48	43.71	1	1	34	2	15	51	43.44	..	..	..	..	..	50	40.31	..	..	34	60	
8, Primary.....	2	15	63	54.73	..	..	34	2	15	53	46.50	..	..	..	..	..	48	35.09	..	..	34	75	
9, Grammar.....	2	15	37	31.02	12	32	32	2	15	25	27.70	4	32	..	..	..	28	22.00	2	36	44		
9, Primary.....	2	15	27	23.90	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	18.80	..	..	34		
Totals.....	445	386.40	841	430	373.79	440	431	357.18	353	571																

LIST OF NAMES OF TEACHERS, LENGTH OF SCHOOLS,
AND AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR.

SCHOOLS.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	No. of weeks of school.	Av. atten- ance for the year.
No. 1, High..... {	Mrs. Eliza M. Robinson.....	36	39.14
	Miss Mary E. Hammons.....	..	.....
1, Primary.....	Miss Adelaide C. Barnard.....	33	34.98
2, ".....	Miss Hannah C. Hunt.....	32	19.39
3, ".....	Miss Mary L. Lincoln.....	34	29.15
4, ".....	Miss Frances M. Talbot.....	34	17.91
5, ".....	Miss Nellie M. Perham.....	23	9.33
6, ".....	Miss Ella F. Whitcomb.....	30	21.66
7, ".....	Miss Francena L. Davis.....	33	12.41
8, High..... {	Mr. Benjamin F. Harmon.....	36	49.99
	Miss S. Maria Taylor.....	..	.....
8, Intermediate...	Miss Louie A. Allen.....	31	43.04
8, Primary.....	Miss Emma L. Burgess.....	31	45.41
9, Grammar..... {	Miss Stella J. Allen.....	33	24.66
	Miss Clara A. Bearce.....	..	.....
9, Primary..... {	Miss Lydia A. Spaulding.....	33	20.30
	Miss Aline E. Gardner.....	..	.....

TABLE SHOWING COST OF CONDUCTING EACH SCHOOL,

Including salaries of teachers and superintendent.

SCHOOLS.	School No.	Cost of teaching.	Fuel.	Care of houses.	Repairs of houses, &c.	Supplies.	Cost of introducing new books.	No. weeks kept.	Average attendance for year.	Total cost of each school.	Av. cost to each child for year.
Centre High.....	1	\$ 829.27	\$53.40*	\$30.50	\$43.68	\$24.50	\$28.83	36	39.14	\$1010.18	\$25.81
“ Primary.....	1	301.38	53.40*	30.50	15.24	15.82	25.78	33	34.98	442.12	12.64
“ “.....	2	271.12	21.75	19.00	5.00	8.01	12.31	32	19.39	337.19	17.39
South “.....	3	864.13	29.62	11.75	1.50	9.63	24.30	34	29.15	440.93	15.13
“ “.....	4	276.62	21.00	6.75	3.00	9.17	14.30	34	17.91	330.84	18.47
“ “.....	5	193.13	23.00	12.25	5.50	7.63	12.30	23	9.33	253.81	27.21
East “.....	6	248.11	41.87	11.00	15.02	21.54	12.00	30	21.66	349.54	16.14
“ “.....	7	266.61	20.75	12.00	.....	10.43	13.29	33	12.41	323.08	26.00
North High.....	8	1167.77	32.86*	24.24	41.42	13.47	24.29	36	49.99	1304.05	26.08
“ Intermediate.....	8	282.61	32.44*	24.63	26.30	22.36	22.36	31	43.09	411.03	9.55
“ Primary.....	8	282.61	32.84*	24.23	19.79	12.86	14.49	31	45.41	386.82	8.52
West Grammar.....	9	294.11	35.20*	16.00	8.03	11.04	16.29	33	24.66	380.67	15.44
“ Primary.....	9	294.14	35.20*	16.00	8.02	10.30	15.31	33	20.30	378.97	18.67
TOTALS.....		\$5071.61	\$433.33	\$238.85	\$192.50	\$177.09	\$255.85	419	367.37	\$6349.23	

*Proportion estimated.

The reason why the totals of different expense accounts do not agree with selectmen's report is a different apportionment of items of expense.

By GEO. F. DYAR, Sec'y.