

ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

—OF THE—

TOWN OF HAMILTON,

—FOR THE—

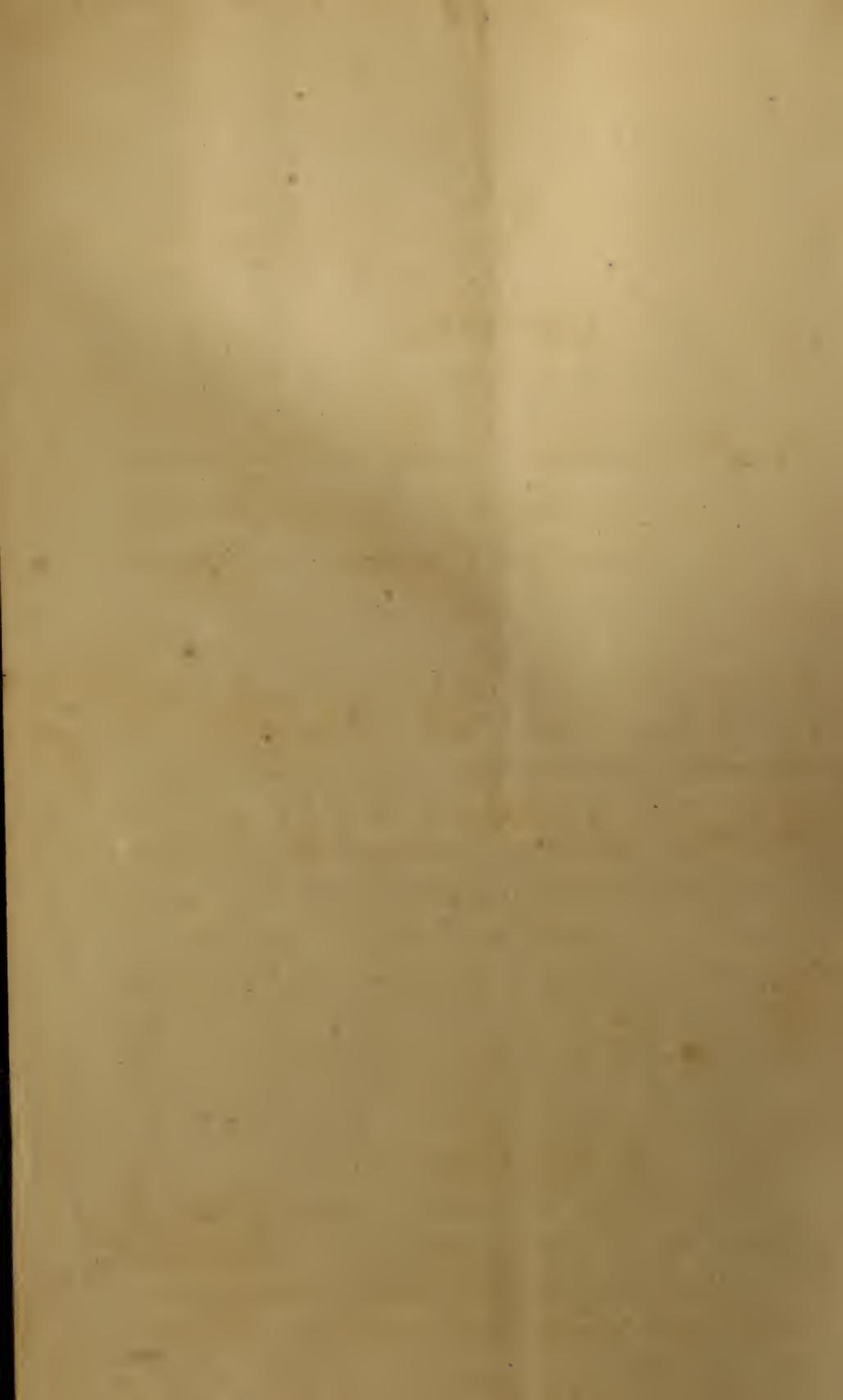
YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1869.

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SALEM:

PRINTED AT THE ESSEX COUNTY MERCURY OFFICE.

1869.



## REPORT.

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The School Committee, to whom has been assigned the care and supervision of the schools in this town for the year ending March, 1869, present the following report:

The sum of \$900, appropriated by the town at their annual meeting in March, 1868, with the town's proportion of the Massachusetts School Fund, \$98.68, made the amount to be expended \$998.68 ; this sum, according to a vote of the town, was divided equally among the four school districts. The town also voted to transfer to the Prudential Committee the power to select and contract with teachers for the school in their respective districts.

The statistics of the schools are as follows :

### NORTH DISTRICT.

FREDERIC B. MOORE, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

*Summer Term.* Teacher, Miss LUCIE A. LAMSON: wages of teacher per month, \$25.00; length of term, 4 months; whole number of scholars, 27; average at-

tendance, 22; number under five years of age, 2; perfect in attendance during this term, 2: Frank C. Appleton and Frank Dane.

*Winter Term.* Teacher, Mr. EDWARD WAYNE, of Hopkinton, N. H.; wages of teacher per month, \$45.00. This school is now in session, the term being lengthened by the generosity of FRANCIS DANE, Esq.

### SOUTH DISTRICT.

OLIVER PORTER, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

*Summer Term.* Teacher, Miss SOPHIA F. LOVERING: wages of teacher per month, \$24.00; length of school, 4 months; whole number of scholars, 42; average attendance, 33; number over fifteen years of age, 3; perfect in attendance, 2: Jane F. Dodge and J. E. Bliss Lovering.

*Winter Term.* Teacher, Mr. JAMES W. CHENEY, Jr., of Newburyport: wages of teacher per month, \$50.00; length of school, 2 1-2 months; whole number of scholars, 38; average attendance, 30; number over fifteen years of age, 6.

### EAST DISTRICT.

JOSEPH KNOWLTON, 2d, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

*Summer Term.* Teacher, Miss NANCY K. DODGE, of Wenham: wages of teacher per month, \$22.00; length of school, 4 months; whole number of scholars,

22; average attendance, 16; number under five years of age 1; perfect in attendance during the term, 1: Nellie P. Knowlton.

*Winter Term.* Teacher, Mr. R. F. DODGE, of Wenham: wages of teacher per month, \$50.00; length of school, 2 17-20 months; average attendance, 28 1-2; number over fifteen years of age, 10.

## WEST DISTRICT.

CHARLES PATCH, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

*Summer Term.* Teacher, Miss ELIZABETH D. HAMILTON, of E. Boston: wages of teacher per month, \$24.00; length of school, 3 19-20 months; whole number of scholars, 39; average attendance, 23; number over fifteen years of age, 1.

*Winter Term.* Teacher, Mr. CHARLES W. HODGKINS, of Ipswich: wages of teacher per month, \$35.00; length of school, 3 1-2 months; whole number of scholars, 30; average attendance, 23; number over fifteen years of age, 4.

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The School Committee the past year have exchanged Greenleaf's, Colburn's and Emerson's Arithmetics for Eaton's Series, which we consider superior, con-

taining a better arrangement of questions, better definitions of terms, and clear and accurate rules of the method of performing questions.

A somewhat detailed report has usually been made in years past of each school respectively, by stating what appeared to the committee to be their defects, but especially stating what was commendable and praiseworthy in them and the teachers. Perhaps it will be sufficient to say, as to the success of our schools the past year, that on an average they have made a commendable improvement; some however have been much more successful than others.

The object of our schools is to give to every child a good common school education, and instruction in good morals, manners and behavior. This is what every child needs, and should have, for they are essential to their success in life. The fact that but few receive it, shows that our schools ought to accomplish more than they are now doing. Every obstacle to their perfect success should be removed, and whatever will tend to elevate them to their proper standard, every person should encourage. The vocation of a teacher of a common school is a difficult one; great are the requirements and great the responsibilities; among the many who teach, only a few are well qualified to fill the office of a teacher.

A teacher should be well educated, so as to be perfectly familiar with every branch of study taught in

school, able to explain, illustrate, and enlarge upon the lessons assigned, so that the pupil may have a clear understanding of every branch of study as he pursues it. The teacher is in a situation to exert a great influence on the minds of children and youth; he should have correct habits, morals, and agreeable manners, and should give instruction in them; these latter requirements are less attended to than the welfare of society demands.

“Order is heaven’s first law”; so should it be in the school-room, for no disorderly school can be successful; a teacher should establish and maintain such order as will prevent all whispering in the school-room, and secure ready and willing obedience; this should be done, if possible, by the teacher manifesting an interest in the scholars, by appealing to their sense of right and wrong, or by any other means of moral suasion. If these means fail in obstinate cases, then such judicious punishment should be used as will secure obedience and teach the scholar that it is not a trifling thing to disobey the rules of school.

Our schools would accomplish more if it were not for the mistaken idea that many of our youth have, that when they are fifteen or sixteen years of age they are too old to attend school. They are thereby depriving themselves of an opportunity that they will exceedingly regret. We think that every scholar before leaving school should have a clear and intelligent

understanding of every branch required by law to be taught in our schools.

That our schools may afford a better education to our youth, and be a greater blessing to the community, there should be as much interest manifested in them as there is in any literary institution or measure that will benefit the community and the world.

JOSEPH P. LOVERING, }  
 S. FRANKLIN FRENCH, } School  
 DANIEL E. SAFFORD, } Committee.

Hamilton, March, 1869.