

HOUSE.....No. 50.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March , 1837.

The Committee on Education to whom was referred "so much of His Excellency the Governor's Address as relates to Education," and to whom were also referred the "Memorial of the Directors of the American Institute of Instruction" and the "Petition of a convention of delegates from each of the towns in Plymouth county and a part of Norfolk on the subject of Elementary Education ;" and who were directed by the order of the House of January 14th, 1837, to consider the expediency of providing by law for the better education of teachers of the public schools of the Commonwealth, have carefully considered those subjects and report thereon the accompanying Bill.

J. G. CARTER, *Chairman.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

AN ACT

Relating to Common Schools ; in addition to the twenty-third chapter of the Revised Statutes.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

1 SEC. 1. His Excellency the Governor with the
2 advice and consent of the Council, is hereby author-
3 ized to appoint eight persons, who together with the
4 Governor and Lieutenant Governor *ex officiis*, shall
5 constitute and be denominated the Board of Educa-
6 tion ; and the persons so appointed shall hold their
7 offices, for the term of eight years : *provided*, the first

8 person named in said board shall go out of office at the
9 end of one year, the person next named, shall go out of
10 office at the end of two years, and so of the remaining
11 members, one retiring each year and in the order in
12 which they are named, till the whole board be changed,
13 and the Governor with the advice and consent of the
14 Council as aforesaid, shall fill all vacancies in said
15 board, which may occur from death, resignation or
16 otherwise.

1 SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the board of edu-
2 cation, to prepare and lay before the Legislature in a
3 printed form on or before the second Wednesday of
4 January annually, an abstract of the school returns
5 received by the secretary of the Commonwealth, and
6 the said board of education, shall have power to ap-
7 point their own secretary, who shall receive a rea-
8 sonable compensation for his services not exceeding
9 dollars per annum, and whose duty it shall be
10 under the direction of the board to collect informa-
11 tion of the actual condition and efficiency of the com-
12 mon schools and other means of popular education ;
13 and to diffuse as widely as possible throughout every
14 part of the Commonwealth, information of the most
15 approved and successful methods of arranging the
16 studies and conducting the education of the young,
17 to the end that all children in this Commonwealth,
18 who depend upon common schools for instruction may
19 have the best education which those schools can be
20 made to impart.

1 SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Board of Ed-
2 ucation annually, to make a detailed report to the
3 Legislature of all its doings, with such observations,
4 as their experience and reflection may suggest upon

5 the condition and efficiency of our system of popular
6 education, and the most practicable means of improv-
7 ing and extending it.

1 SEC. 4. The Board of Education, shall have pow-
2 er to encourage or provide for the better education of
3 common school teachers of both sexes, in such man-
4 ner as to them may seem expedient for the promotion
5 of the object ; and for that purpose may expend an-
6 nually during the pleasure of the Legislature, the
7 the sum of dollars, and the Governor is author-
8 ized to draw his warrant therefor accordingly.