

HOUSE....

.....No. 53.

REPORT AND RESOLVE

IN AID OF THE

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March, 1839.

Reported by a Select Committee consisting of

MESSES. GREENLEAF, of *Bradford*,
LELAND, of *Holliston*,
FOWLER, of *Danvers*.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of the Essex County Teachers' Association, have attended to that duty, and ask permission to submit the following

R E P O R T .

By examining the records of the society, we find, that it was organized December 31, 1830, at a meeting in Topsfield.

It was composed of the teachers in the county together with several of the clergy and gentlemen engaged in the cause of education.

At its first meeting the following Constitution was adopted :

Article 1.—The society shall be called the Essex County Teachers' Association. Its object shall be the improvement of teachers and the system of education generally.

Art. 2.—Any gentleman of good moral character may become a member, by signing the constitution and paying at the time of his entrance a fee of fifty cents.*

* This fee at a subsequent meeting was raised to one dollar.

Art. 3.—Any member wishing to withdraw from the association, shall have, at his own request, an honorable dismissal.

Art. 4.—The annual assessment of one dollar shall be laid upon each member; by neglecting to pay which, for more than one year, after due notice from the treasurer, he shall cease to be a member of the society.

Art. 5.—For dishonorable conduct, a member may be dismissed by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting.

Art. 6.—All ladies, who feel an interest in the business of instruction, may attend the meetings of the association, to hear addresses, lectures, reports, and discussions.

Art. 7.—Meetings of the association shall be holden semi-annually at Topsfield, in the months of May and November, at such times as the board of directors may appoint, giving notice in the public journals.

Art. 8.—The officers of the society shall be, a president, a vice-president, recording and corresponding secretaries, a treasurer, and six counsellors, who, together, shall constitute a board of directors.

Art. 9.—The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting in November.

Art. 10.—It shall be the duty of the president, and, in his absence, the vice-president, to preside at the meetings of the association.

Art. 11.—The recording secretary shall keep the records of the society, and of the board of directors, and shall notify all meetings.

Art. 12.—The corresponding secretary shall be the organ of communication.

Art. 13.—The treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys of the society, and shall present a written report

of his receipts and expenditures at the annual meeting, and whenever required by the board of directors. He shall make no payment except by order of the board.

Art. 14.—To the board of directors shall be entrusted the general interests of the society, with authority to devise and carry into execution such measures as may promote its objects. They shall appoint suitable persons to deliver the addresses and lectures before the association, collect information relative to the state and progress of education in the county, and provide accommodations for the meetings. They shall report to the institution, at each annual meeting, an account of their doings, and such facts as they shall have collected, connected with the objects of the society.

Art. 15.—This constitution may be altered by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any semi-annual meeting; provided such alterations have been proposed at the meeting next preceding.

In order that teachers might be benefited by each other's labors, the following resolves were passed at the first semi-annual meeting of the society:

Resolved, That instructors make a report of their schools at every regular meeting, stating the number of their scholars, the books used, the construction of their respective school-houses, and other facts generally bearing on the interests of district schools.

Resolved, That teachers not belonging to this association be requested to unite with us and present similar reports.

Resolved, That there be at Topsfield, under the care of the recording secretary, a depository for books and

school apparatus, and that all publishers of school-books are requested to send copies of their several publications for the inspection of teachers.

The society feeling it important that they have the co-operation of the selectmen, school committees, and teachers of the several towns in the county, directed the corresponding secretary to write to some teacher in each town in the county, and forward the following resolve and circular :

Resolved, That we invite the several towns in the county to send a delegation of two persons to our next semi-annual meeting, at Topsfield, in May next, to hear the lectures and reports, and examine our common school apparatus.

Circular.

To the Selectmen of ——

GENTLEMEN :—The object of our association is to improve ourselves in the art of teaching. It is a subject in which the towns and districts in the county are deeply interested. We wish to know our duty, and qualify ourselves for its performance ; what the community expect from us as teachers ; and to obtain an expression of public opinion respecting the manner in which we can best contribute to the improvement of our common schools. We therefore respectfully request you to use your influence before your towns, if you think it important, and to procure the appointment of said delegates.

One object of the society has been to improve the school-houses. To effect this, committees were appointed in the several towns, who particularly examined the condition of each school-house, its location, &c. The President of the society, Rev. Gardner B. Perry of Bradford, Ct. delivered several lectures on the subject of school-houses in various parts of the county. His lecture was subsequently published, and copies of it sent to each school district. A most excellent model of a school-house was also constructed by the same gentleman, and exhibited at the semi-annual meeting of the society. The effect has been, that many old school-houses have been rebuilt on improved plans, better adapted to the comfort and convenience of the pupils. The tract, published by the society, on the subject of school-houses, was considered of so much importance, that a great part of it was re-published the last session, under the direction of the Board of Education.

The members of the society, besides paying an annual tax of one dollar, have been under the necessity of contributing a large sum to defray the necessary expenses.

Your Committee are of the opinion, that the society has effected much in the improvement of the common schools, and that the teachers are much better qualified for their arduous task than formerly. They also believe that their object is good, and that they deserve the patronage of the Commonwealth. They therefore unanimously recommend the following Resolve.

BENJ. GREENLEAF,
SAMUEL P. FOWLER,
ALDEN LELAND,

Select Committee.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

R E S O L V E .

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Treasury of the Commonwealth, to the Essex County Teachers' Association, the sum of one hundred dollars, annually, for five years.