

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Town of Provincetown,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

Dec. 31, 1872.

PROVINCETOWN :
ADVOCATE STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
265 Commercial Street.
1873.

Town Officers 1872.

Selectmen and Assessors—S. S. Young, Artemas Paine, John Swift.
Overseers of the Poor—Alexander Manuel, Artemas Paine, John Swift.

Town Clerk and Treasurer—Paron C. Young.

Collector of Taxes—Henry W. Cowing.

Superintendent of Schools—B. F. Hutchinson.

School Committee—Henry Shortle, John M. Crocker, Horace A. Freeman, Mrs. A. J. Hutchinson, Mrs. Harriet F. Mitchell, Mrs. Mary M Hopkins.

Chief Engineer Fire Department—John D. Hilliard.

Assistant Engineers—Jonathan Cook, Charles A. Cook, Amasa Taylor, L. N. Paine, E. N. Young, E. K. Cook.

Road Surveyors—Asa Atkins, A. L. Mayo, Addison Nickerson.

Board of Health—Jonathan Cook, David Smith, Alexander Manuel.

Constables—Jonathan Cook, John M. Carnes, Edward J. Kilburn, Rob't D. Baxter.

Beach Grass Committee—Henry Atkins, John Smith, Leonard Cook.

Fence Viewers—Edward J. Kilburn, Rob't D. Baxter, John M. Carnes.

Surveyors of Wood, Bark and Lumber—J. S. Atwood, N. C. Brooks, Rob't Knowles.

Field Drivers—Josiah Hill, Freeman M. Bowley, Edward Lewis.

Pound Keepers—Josiah Hill, Freeman M. Bowley.

Sealer of Weights and Measures—Paron C. Young.

Truant Committee—Rufus Hopkins, Elisha Young, James Emery.

Monument Committee—John D. Hilliard.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF PROVINCETOWN :

The Selectmen respectfully submit their Report of the Financial condition of the Town for the year ending December 31st, 1872 :

Valuation of the Town, May 1st, 1872.

Real Estate,	\$915,818 00
Personal Estate,	941,201 00
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	\$1,857,019 00

Number of Polls at \$2 each,	1160
Number of Legal Voters,	891
Rate of Taxation on \$100,	\$2
Acres of Land Taxed,	673

Appropriations.

Support of the Poor,	\$3,000 00
Public Schools,	6,505 00
Fire Department,	3,201 64
Roads and Sidewalks,	3,000 00
Bridge and Beach Point Road,	900 00
Memorial Day,	150 00
Night Watch and Police,	1,600 00
Parallel Road,	5,000 00
Abatement of Taxes,	400 00
Interest,	2,200 00
Incidental Expenses,	4,500 00
Discount on Taxes,	1,200 00

State and County Taxes,	\$6,000 00
Center Cemetery Fence,	100 00
Public Library Fund,	216 45
Alterations to Hook & Ladder House & Town Office,	600 00
School Houses, Town House, Hill, &c.,	500 00
Repairs to Town Clock,	150 00
Small Pox Hospital,	2,000 00

\$41,123 09

Authorized to borrow, 1,662 71

Amount Assessed, \$39,460 38

Support of Poor.

Appropriation,	\$3,000 00
Paid Orders of the Overseers,	\$2,329 34
Balance in Treasury,	670 66
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	\$3,000 00

Public Schools.

Cash in Treasury Dec. 31st, 1871,	\$2,890 67
Mass. School Fund,	247 45
County Treasurer, Dog Fund of 1871,	61 00
Samuel Dyer, account tuition,	27 00
Appropriation,	6,505 00
Paid Orders Superintendent of Schools,	\$6,969 38
“ Dog Tax of 1869, '70, '71 to Lib- rary Fund,	191 45
Balance in Treasury,	2,570 29
	<hr/>
	\$9,731 12 \$9,731 12

School Books, Stationery, &c.

No appropriation.	
Paid Orders Committee, books & stationery for schools,	\$65 18
“ “ books furnished poor pupils,	85 05
“ “ 4 copies Mass. Atlas,	48 00
“ “ Guiot's Map,	11 00
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	\$209 23

Fire Department.

Appropriation,	\$3,201 64
Paid Orders of the Engineers,	\$2,664 67
Balance in Treasury,	556 97
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	\$3,201 64

Roads and Sidewalks.

Appropriation,	\$3,000 00
Paid Orders of Road Surveyors,	\$2,885 02
Balance in Treasury,	114 98
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	\$3,000 00

Bridge and Beach Point Road.

Appropriation,	\$900 00
Paid Orders of Committee & Road Surveyors,	\$687 40
Balance in Treasury,	212 60
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	\$900 00

Abatement of Taxes.

Appropriation,	\$400 00
Paid Orders of Assessors,	\$359 95
Balance,	40 05
	<hr/>
	\$400 00

School Houses, Town House, Hill, &c.

Appropriation,	\$500 00
Paid Orders of Superintendent of Schools,	\$479 70
“ “ “ Committee	36 62
“ “ “ Town House and Hill,	151 86
“ Elisha Young care Town Clock,	40 00
Deficiency,	208 18
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	\$708 18 \$708 18

Incidental Expenses.

Appropriation	\$4,500 00
Paid Joseph P. Johnson Moderator,	\$15 00

Paid Thos. Jacobs & Co., transportation 8 wrecked seamen,	\$ 7 00
S. S. Young, Road Notices, Town Hill,	1 46
E. J. Kilburn arrest and commitment J. A. Mayo,	4 50
Wm. Clark notice Selectmen's meetings,	1 00
Dr. A. J. Stevens med. att. John McQuillan,	2 00
Joshua Cook 21 meals to inmates of Jail,	4 20
Joseph P. Johnson agent Province Land,	29 00
Witnesses in Snow & Brooks case,	5 40
Robert Knowles care of Town Tomb,	10 00
" " recording 88 deaths,	8 80
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	\$88 36

TOWN OFFICE.

Paid G. A. Smith Books and Stationery,	\$31 20
" " " Stationery,	4 88
Joseph P. Johnson for Coal,	8 50
Wm. H. H. Weston for Stove and fixtures,	28 56
Paron C. Young for Stamps and Expressage,	13 86
John N. Swift for building fires, &c.,	10 00
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	\$97 00

PRINTING.

Paid Goss & Richards Town Reports 1871,	\$111 69
" " School Reports, &c., 1872,	34 50
" " Notices and Circulars,	18 00
" " 25 copies Voting List,	19 50
" " Vac. Notices and Certificates,	16 25
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	\$199 94

LEGAL ADVICE.

Paid B. F. Hutchinson in Macool & Smith case,	\$37 60
George Marston in Snow & Brooks case,	253 75
B. F. Hutchinson yearly account,	64 50
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	\$355 85

JURY AWARDS AND COSTS.

Paid J. M. Day in Snow & Brooks' settlement,	\$559 00
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SMALL POX.

Paid for Smoke House and fixtures,	\$17 09
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Paid for Clock for Pest House, flags, &c.,	\$6 37
W. H. H. Weston stove pipe for pest house,	1 40
I. G. Ward tubular well and pump for pest house,	23 25
Sparrow & Snow sundries for pest house,	3 60
H. G. Newton examining schools for vaccination,	8 00
" " " inspection small pox cases,	26 90
" " " vaccinating 16 poor persons,	12 00
J. M. Crocker " 5 " "	2 50
Jesse Rogers board of Manuel Terceira,	15 50
Sickness and burial of Mary Rogers,	141 36
Sickness of Charles Lynch,	180 73
Sickness and burial of Domingo Antoine,	86 40
Sickness of Antoine Costa,	142 58
Sickness and burial of Manuel Terceira,	179 49
Board of Health for services and bills paid,	170 08
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	\$1,017 24

RAILROAD COMMITTEE.

Paid Jas. Gifford expenses to and from Boston,	\$11 25
J. W. Davis services & expenses to and from Boston,	32 00
S. S. Young " " " "	16 50
Wm. A. Atkins, " " " "	16 80
Paron C. Young, " " " "	20 65
Nathan Freeman, " " " "	25 25
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	\$122 45

FISHERY COMMITTEE.

Paid John W. Davis services,	\$18 50
Allen Reed entertainment of Gen. B. F. Butler,	14 00
Henry Cook expenses to and from Washington,	90 35
N. D. Freeman, " " " "	90 35
S. B. Phinney, " " " "	135 00
S. S. Young telegram,	84
Committee telegram to Washington,	3 28
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	\$352 32

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Overseers of the Poor,	\$375 00
Selectmen and Assessors,	1206 00
4 Constables, salary \$40, extra service \$17.66,	57 66
3 Persons Beach Grass Committee, salary,	15 00

Paid 3 Persons Truant Committee, salary,	30 00
H. W. Cowing for collecting taxes,	237 45
Paron C. Young services as Treasurer,	200 00
“ “ recording & ret'g marriages and deaths,	49 80
“ “ attending meetings and recording,	33 00
“ “ care and services as sealer of weights and measures,	20 00
Henry Shortle School Committee services 1871,	70 00
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	\$2,293 91

HEARSE AND HOUSE.

Paid Joseph A. West B. Brush for Hearse,	\$0 85
Rob't Knowles oil and Cleaning Hearse,	2 50
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Appropriation,	\$4,500 00
Deficiency appropriation,	588 22
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	\$5,088 22
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	\$5,088 22

Night Watch.

Balance in the Treasury, Dec. 31, 1871,	\$320 00
Appropriation,	1600 00
Paid for a night watch and police,	\$1,588 19
Balance in Treasury,	361 81
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	\$1,920 00
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	\$1,920 00

It was voted at the last annual Town Meeting to continue a Night Watch the ensuing year, and the sum of \$1600 was appropriated for that purpose.

In accordance with said vote the Selectmen appointed six persons Night Watchmen, and they were on duty in that capacity from Jan. 1, 1872, to May 16, and from Sept. 9, to Jan. 1, 1873, at a cost to the town of \$1265.10.

In addition to the above sum there was paid to the Night Watchmen, Constables and three Policemen, for extra watch and police service, in Sept., Oct. and Dec., the sum of \$293.09; making a total of \$1558.19.

The wants of the Town seem to require a Night Watch and Police, and we would recommend that there be raised and ap-

propriated the sum of \$1600 for a Night Watch and Police the ensuing year; said appropriation to be expended under the direction and supervision of the Selectmen.

State Aid.

No appropriation.

Paid State Aid from Dec. 31, 1871, to Dec. 31, 1872, \$844 00

Interest and Principal.

Appropriation for Interest,	\$2,200 00
Paid orders of Treasurer for “	\$2,577 88
“ “ “ and principal,	2,475 00
Deficiency,	2,852 88
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	\$5,052 88
	<hr/>
	\$5,052 88

Parallel Road.

Appropriation,	\$5,000 00
Paid Orders of Committee,	\$4,710 83
Balance,	289 17
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	\$5,000 00

Pursuant to a vote of the Town, the Committee appointed to direct and superintend the building of the Parallel Road, let out to the lowest bidder, in sections, that part of the Parallel Road extending from Bangs Road, so called, to Lewis Road, so called, and from Pleasant Street to eighty feet west of Nickerson Street, so called,

Section One, 380 feet, was sold to E. K. Cook for	\$240 00
Two, 479 feet, was sold to John Swift for	425 00
Three, 368 feet was sold to James Gorman for	175 00
Four, 726 feet, was sold to Charles C. Hill for	390 00
Five, 528 feet, was sold to Stephen Bennett for	500 00
Six, 530 feet, was sold to “ “ “	710 00
Seven, 570 feet, was sold to “ “ “	1425 00
Eight, 400 feet, was sold to James Gorman for	300 00
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Total cost of working as sold,	\$4,165 00
Paid for extra material and labor, for walls, fences, &c.,	388 06

For selling the several sections of road,	20 87
For superintending the work, &c.,	104 40
Committee's bill of services,	82 50
Total amount of cost,	\$4,710 83
Balance in Treasury,	289 17
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	\$5,000 00

The eight sections of Parallel Road, put under contract the past year, are completed as required by the Committee, and open for travel. They contain 3981 running feet, and cost \$4,710 83, or \$1.18 per running foot.

Your Committee are of opinion that the Miller Hill section of Parallel Road, from Dyer's road to Bangs road, some 850 feet, should be worked the ensuing year, and a part of Vine Street graded, hardened and drained.

We therefore recommend an appropriation of \$3500 for for said purposes the ensuing year.

Town Office and Hook and Ladder House.

Appropriation,	\$600 00
Paid Committee Orders, removal Town Office,	\$309 51
" " Hook and Ladder House,	290 00
Balance,	49
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	\$600 00

The sum of \$600 was voted at the last annual Town Meeting to remove the Town Office, make alterations in the Hall of Hook and Ladder House, and place a well, pump, &c., in the building; said appropriation to be expended under the direction and supervision of the Selectmen and Hook and Ladder Company.

In pursuance of said vote the Committee procured rooms for a Town Office in the Post Office Building, fitted up and furnished the same to meet the wants of the town, and removed the office property thereto on the 15th of April last, at a cost to the town of \$309.51, including \$76.51 paid for rent.

The Hall of Hook and Ladder House was remodeled and

put in order, a well, pump and sink placed in the building, and needed repairs made at a cost to the town of \$290. The Hook and Ladder Company paying the expense of furnishing the Hall and extra work done.

State and County Taxes.

Appropriation,	\$6000 00
Paid State Treasurer State Tax,	\$3,280 00
" " Bank Tax,	69 72
County " County Tax,	1,961 74
Balance in favor appro.,	688 54
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	\$6,000 00

Discount on Taxes.

Appropriation,	\$1,200 00
Paid H. W. Cowing, col. discount Taxes, 1872,	\$1,168 71
Balance,	31 29
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	\$1,200 00

Memorial Day.

Appropriation,	\$150 00
Paid Order Committee, Post 128, G.A.R.,	\$140 90
Balance in Treasury,	9 10
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	\$150 00

Town Library Fund.

Appropriation,	\$25 00
Am't dog fund from Schools,	191 45
Paid copy Daily Advertiser, 1 year, & bind'g,	18 42
Balance due Library Fund,	198 03
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	\$216 45
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	\$216 45

Center Cemetery Fence.

Appropriation,	\$100 00	
Paid Rob't Knowles' bill repairs,		\$66 57
Balance in Treasury,		33 43
		<hr/> \$100 00

Awards on Roads.

Amount in the Treasury Dec. 31, 1871,	\$439 50	
Paid two persons award on Parallel Road,		\$ 1 00
Balance in Treasury,		438 50
		<hr/> \$439 50

Town Clock.

Appropriation,	\$150 00	
Paid orders of Committee for repairs,		\$154 51
Deficiency,	4 51	
	<hr/> \$154 51	

Small Pox Hospital.

Appropriation,	\$2,000 00	
Balance,		\$2,000 00

Treasurer's account for the Year ending Dec. 31, 1872.

The Selectmen have examined the Town Treasurer's account, and find that there has been received in the Treasury the following amounts, to wit:

County Treasurer Dog Fund	\$61 00
State Treasurer School Fund,	247 45
Town of Truro on account of bridge 1871,	234 41
Samuel Dyer, Truro, account tuition,	27 00
State Treasurer account Maria Days,	5 00
Freeman & Hilliard account Domingo Antoine,	86 40
State on account Aid in 1871,	600 00
State Corporation Tax 1871,	43 58

State Corporation Tax 1872,	\$1,042 29
Rent of keys to Cupola,	8 00
Fines on account Province Land,	10 00
Junk licenses issued,	15 00
Savings Bank on account Manuel Terecira,	120 00
Borrowed Money,	3,700 00
Collector of Taxes,	39,575 35
Cash in the Treasury Dec. 31, 1871,	11,189 60
	<hr/> \$56,965 08

The Treasurer has paid out, upon proper vouchers, the following sums:

Support of the Poor,	\$2,329 34
Fire Department,	2,644 67
Schools,	6,969 38
Roads and Sidewalks,	2,885 02
Bridge and Beach Point Road,	687 40
Abatement Taxes,	359 95
School Houses, Town House and Hill,	708 18
Incidental Expenses,	5,089 22
Night Watch and Police,	1,558 19
State Aid,	844 00
Interest,	2,577 88
Principal,	2,475 00
Parallel Road,	4,710 83
Hook and Ladder House and Town Office,	599 51
State and County Taxes,	5,311 46
Discount on Taxes,	1,168 71
Memorial Day,	140 90
Library Fund,	18 42
Center Cemetery Fence,	66 57
Awards on Road,	1 00
Books, Stationery, &c., for Schools,	209 23
Town Clock,	154 51
Cash in the Treasury Jan. 10, 1873,	15,455 71
	<hr/> \$56,965 08

Liabilities of the Town.

Individuals and Banks,	\$37,477 00
Public Schools,	2,570 00
Awards on Roads,	438 50
	<hr/> \$40,485 50

The following are reported as the assets of the Town :

Due from the State for Aid 1872,	\$844 00
“ “ Town of Truro on account Bridge,	115 45
“ “ A. L. Putnam for school books,	9 96
Cash in the Treasury Jan. 10, 1873,	15,455 71
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	\$16,425 12
Present indebtedness of the Town,	\$24,060 38
Town debt, December 31, 1871,	\$27,628 81
Town debt, December 31, 1872,	24,060 38
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Decrease the past year,	\$3,568 43

We would further report that in addition to the above the Treasurer has paid the first instalment of the Town's subscription to the stock in the extension of the Cape Cod Railroad from Wellfleet to Provincetown, to the amount of \$50,000, and for security, hold a certificate and agreement signed by the Superintendent of said Road and the President of the Old Colony Railroad, whereby they agree to pay five and seventeen one-hundredths per cent. interest on the same until the first day of June, or December, after the completion of the extension, when stock will be issued for the amount, which is expected to pay not less than seven per cent.

We would recommend that the sum of two thousand dollars be raised and appropriated for interest on the amount, in addition to the usual appropriation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SILAS S. YOUNG,	} Selectmen of Provincetown.
ARTEMAS PAINE,	
JOHN SWIFT,	

Provincetown, January 18, 1873.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Provincetown submit their Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1872 :

Support of Poor in the Alms House.

Paid Mrs. S. Sumner, Superintendent,	\$260 00
Groceries and provisions,	617 85
Fuel,	107 50
Clothing,	44 44
Boots and Shoes,	20 13
Crockery, &c.,	4 80
Stove and Fixtures,	14 73
Funeral charges,	14 80
Medicine and medical attendance,	81 55
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	\$1,165 80

Statistics of the Alms House.

Whole number supported the past year,	14
Admitted the past year,	2
Discharged “ “	3
Died “ “	1
Remaining in the House Jan. 1, 1873,	9

WHEN ADMITTED IN THE ALMS HOUSE.

Lucy Hill, April, 1851, age 57 years.
 Zillah Howe, April, 1853, age 43 years.
 Joseph Ghen, April, 1861, age 48 years.
 Rebecca Hill, December, 1869, age 26 years.
 George W. Newcomb, July, 1870, age 43 years.
 Lydia Nickerson, September, 1870, age 65 years.
 Michael Whealden, January, 1871, age 85 years.
 Phebe W. Valentine, June, 1871, age 8 years.
 Mary Valentine, October, 1871, age 21 years.
 Charles Lynch, December, 1872.

*Partial Support of the Poor out of the Alms House
for 1872.*

Mrs. Hitty Snow,	\$57 50
Francis Wareham,	101 47
Widow Asa Frenzen,	60 00
“ Priscilla Bush,	26 05
Miss Ida Newcomb,	78 00
John Peirce,	10 00
Nahum Haynes,	21 47
Robert G. Hooton,	298 26
Widow Robert Newcomb,	91 00
“ Dorcas Hill,	2 88
Maria Days,	5 00
Mrs. Jane Powers,	24 90
“ Hannah G. Holway,	57 39
“ George H. Terry,	26 00
Miss Mary C. Setters,	16 35
Widow Abner Nickerson,	2 88
Jonathan E. Smith,	13 00
William C. Curren,	32 50
Isabella Williams,	2 50
Manuel Ferera,	12 50
M. P. Brady,	46 63
Martha Bailey,	39 50
John King,	40 87
Mary A. Little,	37 25
Benjamin Briggs,	5 00
Newcomb children,	19 94
Medicine and medical attendance,	35 00
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	\$1,163 54

There was appropriated last year the sum of \$3000 for the support of the Poor. The amount expended was \$2329.34, leaving a balance in the Treasury, unexpended, of \$670.66.

We would recommend that there be appropriated the sum of \$3000 for support of the Poor the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER MANUEL,	} Overseers of the Poor for the Town of Provincetown
ARTEMAS PAINE,	
JOHN SWIFT.	

ROAD SURVEYORS' REPORT.

The Road Surveyors of the Town of Provincetown submit the following report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1872:

Roads.

Paid for hardening material, labor and teaming,	\$886 05
For repairs on Leverett and High Streets,	368 55
Asa Atkins labor with team,	76 35
Addison Nickerson labor with team,	115 90
A. L. Mayo labor,	22 50
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	\$1,469 35
Part of clay and labor bill on Parallel Road,	568 19
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	\$2,037 54

Sidewalks.

Paid for lumber,	\$525 00
For nails and labor,	118 48
For cleaning off snow,	174 00
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Amount expended on sidewalks,	\$817 48
Less plank sold,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$811 48
Cost of repairs on roads and sidewalks to town,	\$2,280 83
Surveyors' fees added,	30 00
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Total amount of cost,	\$2,310 83
Part of bill on Parallel Road,	568 19
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	\$2,879 02
Appropriated by town,	\$3,000 00
Bal. remaining in Treasury unexpended,	120 98
	<hr/>
	\$3,000 00

The Roads and Sidewalks at this date are in good condition throughout.

Bridge.

Paid for lumber, labor and nails,	\$287 40
S. Bennett for constructing road,	800 00
S. K. Hopkins' bill,	62 50
	<hr/>
	\$1,149 90
Less old plank sold,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,143 90
Provincetown pays one-half,	\$571 95
Truro " "	571 95—\$1,143 90
Appropriated by Provincetown,	\$900 00
One-half cost,	\$571 95
Balance in Treasury,	328 05—\$900 00

At the last annual Town Meeting it was voted to discontinue that portion of East Harbor Bridge beginning at or near the end of Beach Point and running southward about 660 feet.

In pursuance of said vote, the road has been laid out by the County Commissioners, built as required, and accepted by the Towns of Provincetown and Truro.

Therefore, we have to report a new road on Beach Point, in place of Bridge discontinued, fully as convenient as before and maintained at a much less annual expense.

Respectfully submitted.

ASA ATKINS, }
ADDISON NICKERSON, } Road Surveyors.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROVINCETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1872.

Engineers.

CHIEF ENGINEER—JOHN D. HILLIARD.

ASSISTANT ENGINEERS—Jonathan Cook, Charles A. Cook, Amasa Taylor, Lysander N. Paine, Enos N. Young, E. K. Cook.

Clerk.

Lysander N. Paine.

Firemen.

230 paid members. 76 volunteers without pay.

Apparatus in charge of the Engineers and its estimated Value.

Engine No. 1 and Hose Carriage,	\$2000 00
" " 2 "	2000 00
" " 3 "	1000 00
" " 4 "	1000 00
Relief Engine (old No. 1) ..	200 00
" (old No. 2) ..	400 00
Relief Hose Carriage No. 1,	75 00
Hook and Ladder Truck and apparatus,	500 00
Engine Houses Nos. 1 and 2, \$1200 each,	2400 00
" " Nos. 3 and 4, \$1500 each,	3000 00
Hook and Ladder House,	1500 00
Relief Engine House,	500 00
2000 feet Cotton Hose,	500 00
800 " Leather Hose,	300 00
1850 " Metropolitan Hose,	2000 00
31 Reservoirs,	5500 00
Powder Chest and Powder,	45 00
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	\$22,920 00

Expenditures.

SALARIES.

Chief Engineer,	\$20 00	
Clerk Board of Engineers,	15 00	
5 Assistant Engineers, \$10,	50 00	
230 Members, 5,	5150 00	
4 Stewards, 50,	200 00	
2 " 20,	40 00	
	<hr/>	\$1475 00

Repairing Houses,	\$58 18	
" Engines,	238 96	
" Flags,	3 49	
Fuel and Lights,	28 86	
Printing,	3 50	
Incidental Expenses,	159 05	
	<hr/>	\$492 04

Hose purchased, Dec., 1871,	\$654 75	
Hunneman & Co.'s bill, 1871,	20 63	
A. L. Putnam & Co.'s bill, 1871,	2 25	
	<hr/>	\$677 63

\$2644 67

Appropriation,	\$3201 64	
Balance in Town Treasury,	556 97	
	<hr/>	\$3201 64

Fires.

We have not been visited by any serious conflagration while the cities and towns in this and other States have been laid in ashes. Yet the number of fires the past year exceeds the year before. There has been three alarms.

February 24, 6 1-2 o'clock P. M., small building near Daniel Conway's; origin unknown.

March 1, 9 3-4 o'clock P. M., old Alms House. Damage slight; supposed incendiary.

April 27, 7 o'clock P. M., burning brush.

In addition there has been discovered and extinguished without general alarm,

Two explosions of kerosene lamps,

Two caused by defective flues,

One accidental,

One upsetting kerosene lamp,

And FIVE set by children playing with matches.

Any and all persons discovering a fire should give an alarm at once and do all they can to extinguish it; but never try to extinguish without giving an alarm for the time lost is of more value than hours after a fire gets beyond control.

The number of small fires caused by matches in the hands of children should be a sufficient warning to parents to take care of them.

Engines.

The Engines are in working order. The defect in the new Engine, Franklin No. 2, has been made satisfactory. Engine No. 4 started the packing under the air chamber, which has been replaced by new.

Hose.

The hose remains the same as last year. The bursted cotton upon a closer inspection was poorer than anticipated and condemned. There has been no addition or purchase of Hose the past year as we have not had occasion to use them, but it will be well to make an addition the coming year of five hundred feet.

Ladders.

We should be remiss of duty if we did not again call your attention to the supply of Ladders, and that our department is deficient in this one particular. There are short ladders enough, but with as many lines of hose as we have there is not as sufficient number of ladders long

enough to reach many of our larger buildings should it be necessary to take the hose into the upper stories or on the roofs.

In calling your attention to this fact we regret to state that to make any needed change would cause a considerable outlay. The building is not long enough and the truck hardly sufficient to carry the extra ladders needed.

Appropriation required for 1873.

In addition to the balance remaining from 1872 we respectfully ask for an addition of twenty-five hundred dollars for the payment of salaries and the necessary expenses of the ensuing year and the purchase of hose.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. D. HILLIARD,	} Engineers of the Fire Department.
JONATHAN COOK,	
CHARLES A. COOK,	
AMASA TAYLOR,	
L. N. PAINE,	
ENOS N. YOUNG,	
E. K. COOK,	

Relief Hose, No. 1.

House on Commercial Street near Church Street,

Foreman, James Young.

Clerk, R. Perry Bush,

Steward, Enoch N. Sumner.

5 of the Company paid for services. 4 volunteers without pay.

Ulysses Engine, No. 1.

House on Commercial Street east end of Town.

This Engine was built by Messrs. Hunneman & Co., Boston Highlands, 1869. Put into service July 13, 1869. 5 1-2 inch Cylinder. 16 inches stroke.

Foreman, John G. Whitecomb.

1st Ass't do., Isaac F. Mayo.

2d " " Bangs A. Lewis.

Clerk, Phillip A. Whorf.

Steward, Eleazer Young.

50 of the Company paid for services. 7 volunteers without pay.

Franklin Engine, No. 2.

House on Commercial Street west end of Town.

This Engine was built by Messrs. Hunneman & Co., Boston Highlands, 1871. Put into service Aug. 22, 1871. 5 1-2 inch Cylinder. 16 inches Stroke.

Foreman, Seth Smith, Jr.

1st Ass't do., Edwin N. Paine.

2d " " Warren Fielding.

Clerk, Lewis Nickerson.

Steward, Phineas S. Cutter.

50 of the Company paid for services. 30 volunteers without pay.

Mazeppa Engine, No. 3.

House on Commercial Street near Pearl Street.

This Engine was built by Messrs. Hunneman & Co., Boston Highlands, 1854. Put into service Oct. 12, 1868. 5 1-2 inch Cylinder. 16 inches Stroke.

Foreman, Lemuel Cook, 3d.

1st Ass't do., Joseph Whitecomb.

2d " " John M. Graham.

Clerk, Heman S. Cook.

Steward, Lemuel Cook, 3d.

50 of the Company paid for services. 16 volunteers without pay.

Excelsior Engine, No. 4.

House on Commercial Street near Court Street.

This Engine was built by Messrs. Hunneman & Co., Boston Highlands, 1850. Put into service Oct. 12, 1868. 5 1-2 inch Cylinder. 16 inches Stroke.

Foreman, Marshall L. Adams.
1st Ass't do., Gideon Bowly, Jr.
2d " " Geo. Tuttle,
Clerk, David N. Ghen.
Steward, M. L. Adams.

50 of the Company paid for services. 14 volunteers without pay.

Rescue Hook and Ladder, No. 1.

House on Commercial Street near Forest Street.

Built by B. A. Ellison, Wellfleet, 1859. Put into service June 3, 1859.

Foreman, Nathan D. Freeman.
Assistant do., Nathan Young.
Clerk, Andrew T. Williams.

25 of the Company paid for services. 5 volunteers without pay.

There is now on the Truck

One sectional ladder of three pieces each 18 feet long.

" " " of two " " 18 feet long.

2 ladders each 20 feet long.

3 " " 16 feet long.

4 roof ladders.

2 fire hooks with poles.

2 steel hooks without poles.

6 axes.

4 crowbars.

Crotch and pike poles.

There is in the House two ladders each 30 feet long.

4 spare fire hooks.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**FELLOW CITIZENS :**

The Board of Health in submitting the following Report would take occasion to thank the people for the general courtesy and good demeanor evinced toward them while in the performance of their official duties, some of which were very unpleasant.

This good deportment on the part of the great body of our people, while it has lightened our burdens and made our labors more pleasant, as well as more useful, has served to throw a darker shade on the conduct of the few, whose ignorance and self-conceit prompted them, not only to thwart the sanitary measures that the recent emergency justified us in adopting, but to also make the attendance to our legitimate duties as conservators of the public health, much more difficult and arduous. In one such case, it was, after taking legal counsel and the advice of the Selectmen, deemed advisable to resort to legal measures, and a complaint was made and a fine imposed. This was not done, however, until the employment of milder means proved unavailing. It was also done with great reluctance, as the offender was a venerated member of that learned profession to which, more than any other, a Board of Health constantly looks for counsel, advice and assistance in the performance of their arduous duties. We found however, in the emergency which was rapidly rising before us, no choice left us but prompt and decisive action, in order that the health and lives of the whole people might not be jeopardized, through the ignorance, stupidity or carelessness of a few.

Had we been satisfied even, that the offences complained of were the result of a gross mistake, or rather a series of blunders the Board might have borne with them, though even then it would have been a question, whether we should thereby have faithfully served our constituents, for, it must not be forgotten that mistakes and blunders, although excusable in, and easily afforded by, a private individual, admit of little or no excuse; involve frequently an enormous expense, and even

rise to the dignity and assume the importance of a crime, when committed by one to whom, with his consent and solicitation, is committed the welfare of suffering humanity. A professional blunder is regarded, and rightly too, as worse than a crime, and should not, especially when often repeated, shield the blunderer from the penalty incurred. In the common walks of life a blunder or mistake may mean the loss of a small, or at most a large amount of property, which time and energetic effort may replace; in the medical profession it means pecuniary damage, but infinitely more than this—loss of happiness and the ability to be useful, to which all are entitled.—loss of all that goes to make life desirable—a wife, a husband, a child, a parent, before which all earthly losses pale into insignificance—it means pain, sickness and death.

Passing from this matter, to which we may again allude, we would report the general sanitary condition of the town as unusually good during the first half of the year—no epidemic having afflicted our people, if we except a mild type of the measles, which prevailed for a few weeks in the Spring, with no very serious nor fatal results.

There was, later in the season, some indications of the existence in a slight degree, in some localities, of certain malarious or poisonous exhalations, such as induce epidemic fevers of a malignant type. Some fears were entertained and expressed, that we, in common with other thickly settled places, might be visited by the Cholera, which has recently prevailed in the East, and may at any time appear on this side of the Atlantic. Our community having been singularly exempt from such epidemics, we hope that no pains will be spared on the part of our people, to maintain as healthy a condition in the future, as we have enjoyed in the past.

We would in this connection, recommend that a better system of drainage, and in some streets sewerage, be adopted than that now in vogue, as it has come to our knowledge that in some instances houses are constructed without any drain or means of conveying away the slops or other filthy liquids from the kitchen or washroom, and that they are allowed to accumulate and ferment or decompose in cess-pools near the dwelling house, or are emptied into the streets, to the great annoyance of pedestrians. In either case noxious exhalations are generated and eliminated, dangerous to the public health. Besides, if we would aspire to the lucrative and desirable position to which our town is eminently entitled—the leading

place of sea-side resort in the summer season for those seeking both health and comfort—a position we are destined sooner or later to occupy if we work for it, we can afford to leave nothing undone that shall tend to hasten “a consummation so devoutly to be wished.” Looking at the case in this point of view alone, we can easily and plainly see that whatever goes to make the town a healthy, desirable and pleasant place to visit or reside in, must necessarily advance its material interests, increase its valuation, promote its general prosperity and bring adequate returns for any reasonable amount of expenditure for sanitary improvements. We hope our fellow citizens will receive these suggestions in the same liberal spirit with which we have been prompted to make them, and that they will not fail to make such application of the ideas and principles involved, as may be indicated by the circumstances of each case. It has been clearly and scientifically demonstrated in modern times, that, to a very great extent the health of each community,—like that of each individual,—is in its own keeping, and that in most cases of sickness, involving a large share of suffering and even premature death, not to speak of an enormous pecuniary expense, the whole might have been avoided, by the timely observance of a few simple sanitary rules and regulations.

The Board have, in a few instances, had their attention drawn to this matter, in some individual cases, and have taken such measures as they deemed proper to remedy the evils complained of at the time.

The principal work of the Board however, has been in the management and eradication of the frightful epidemic that has, for over two years past, been raging with increasing severity and prevalence in this country and other portions of the civilized world—the Small-Pox.

The first case that occurred here was that of Marshall Snow, who came from Boston in the Steamer, about the last of June, afflicted with what has since been ascertained to be varioloid. This is one of the cases before alluded to, as not having been reported to the Board, neither by the attending physician nor the head of the family where he was sick, and we cannot avoid the conviction, that, to the warm weather, the mildness of the case, and to other casual or Providential circumstances, rather than to any efficient precaution on the part of those who had the care of the patient, is due the immunity that our

citizens enjoyed from the contagion, which was liable to be engendered and propagated at that time.

The second case was that of Thomas Lewis, which was reported to the Board, Oct. 22d, as a case of small-pox of the discreet form. The necessary and usual precautions were instituted. By the advice of the attending physician, however, who was the one heretofore referred to, the Board allowed the patient to go out Nov. 1st, some ten days after being reported. This proved to be a grave error as by that means one of our number became infected with the disease, which, though a mild case and terminating in his own recovery, yet proved fatal to his wife, by inducing, through care and anxiety, a severe attack of heart disease to which she was pre-disposed.

From this case of Mr. Manuel, the disease was communicated to the wife of Mr. Franklin Atkins, who occupied a part of the same house.

On Oct. 30th, the case of Antoine Domingo was reported as likely to prove to be small-pox, though then in the first stage. Being in a boarding house, where he could not be properly isolated, he was removed to the Small-Pox House, where, the next day it was found to be a disease no less dangerous, the Spotted Fever.

The next case was that of Mary Rogers, who came from Boston Nov. 2d, in the steamer. This case came to our knowledge Nov. 4th, with an expressed wish that she should be removed. It was found to be impossible to procure nurses to go to the Pest House, and the patient was therefore removed to the old Alms House, and a faithful nurse, and an experienced medical attendant procured. The case proved to be a virulent one, of the confluent form—complicated with other diseases, and terminated fatally Nov. 8th.

This was followed by the advent of several other cases, as will be seen by the following tabular statement, of the whole number known to the Board as having occurred up to this date :

— T A B L E . —

Names of Patients.	Nationality.	Name and type of Dis. as reported.	Time when reported.	Names of Physician reporting.	Termination of the case.
Marshall Snow.	American.	Varioloid.			Recovered,
Thomas Lewis.	"	Dis. Small Pox.	Oct. 22.	Dr. Crocker.	Discharged Nov. 1.
Antone Domingo.	Portuguese.	Spotted Fever.	" 30.	Dr. Crocker.	Died Nov. 1.
Mary Rogers.	"	Con. Small Pox.	Nov. 4.	Dr. Stone.	" " 8.
Chas. Lynch.	Irish.	Varioloid.	" 11.	Dr. Crocker.	Discharged Nov. 25.
Chas. A. Cook, Jr.	American.	"	" 12.	Dr. Newton.	" " 27.
Geo. G. Hallett.	"	"	" 14.	Dr. Crocker.	Died Nov. 25.
Alexander Manuel.	"	"	" 16.	Dr. Crocker.	Discharged Nov. 25.
Mary Wilson.	Portuguese.	Con. Small Pox.	" 19.	Dr. Newton.	" Dec. 28.
Mrs. J. P. Lewis.	American.	Varioloid.	" 27.	Dr. Newton.	" " 19.
A. J. Lucas.	Portuguese.	"	" 30.	Dr. Newton.	" " 10.
Mary Hallett.	American.	"	" 30.	Dr. Newton.	" " 13.
Mrs. F. Atkins.	"	"	Dec. 1.	Dr. Crocker.	" " 16.
Arletta Lewis.	"	"	" 2.	Dr. Newton.	" " 19.
John P. Lewis,	"	Dis. Small Pox.	" 3.	Dr. Newton.	" " 19.
Alfred Lewis.	"	Varioloid.	" 3.	Dr. Newton.	" " 19.
Manuel Caton.	Portuguese.	"	" 3.	Dr. Newton.	" " 14.
Geo. E. Rich.	"	"	" 4.	Dr. Newton.	" " 28.
Aug. E. Rich.	"	Dis. Small Pox.	" 4.	Dr. Newton.	" " 28.
John E. Rich.	"	"	" 4.	Dr. Newton.	" " 28.
Manuel Terceira.	"	Conf. Small Pox.	" 13.	Dr. Stevens.	Died Dec. 24.
Wm. H. Butler.	American.	"	" 27.	Dr. Newton.	" Jan. 7, '73.
John A. McDonald.	Scotch.	"	" 27.	Dr. Crocker.	" " 8, '73.

It will be seen by reference to the above table, that, during the first half of December there was thirteen patients, and that up to this time, the whole number has been twenty-two who were attacked with Small Pox and Varioloid, and one with Spotted Fever. At the period just referred to, the first part of December, the Small Pox had been found to be on a steady increase, in spite of the best efforts of the Board.

Neither the Board of Health, the citizens generally, nor the medical profession, with one exception, had ever had much experience with the disease, and to the mistakes, carelessness, or incompetence of a moiety of the latter, was due the sickness of nearly half the cases then on the list.

Efforts were apparently made to conceal the existence of the disease by some, and a craven fear on the part of many others, led to very discourteous language and behaviour,—amounting almost to a social proscription,—towards either a physician or an attendant who had the requisite amount of humanity, moral courage and Christianity to minister to, and care tenderly for, the poor sufferers.

To add to this discouragement, one of the attendants was attacked with the disease the second time, and two others had the characteristic premonitory symptoms of a second attack. The disease, here and elsewhere, seemed to be assuming a deadly type, which, with the sad occurrence of its fatal termination in the case of one of our most highly respected citizens, had the tendency to increase the timidity and excitement of the people, which was so great as to seem likely to culminate in a panic.

The difficulties and labors of the Board were arduous and becoming more and more embarrassing, and an imperative need was felt for more assistance, especially of a professional nature. In view of this, it was deemed advisable to call to our aid the best talent available, to combat so formidable an enemy to the public health.

We therefore appointed on the fourth day of December, Horatio G. Newton, M. D., as our consulting physician, and were fortunate in securing his services, as his former experience, coupled with a thorough knowledge of the disease, and an enthusiastic devotion to the work before us, gave new hope and confidence, both to the afflicted, and the citizens generally.

The week following he visited all of the Schools, to investigate personally, and ascertain if the teachers and pupils were successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated according to the re-

quirements of the law; inspected every real or suspected case, and has been present at all, or nearly all of the meetings of the Board, which occurred almost daily, to aid by his counsel, advice and energetic action in the work of adding to the comfort and relief of the sufferers, and of eradicating the disease.

The want of a good Hospital, in a suitable locality, to which both nurses and patients would go willingly, and where they would be safe, and could be made comfortable, was severely felt at this time, as it would be again under similar circumstances. Nevertheless the Board did the best they could to isolate the cases as they occurred, and so far succeeded, that, in no instance has the disease been communicated since the date above referred to—Dec. 4th—though to fully accomplish this, it was found necessary to place a watchman near one of the houses where the inmates were sick with the disease.

Just prior to this time, the Selectmen issued an order to the citizens—requiring all who had never been successfully vaccinated, and all who had not been successfully re-vaccinated within five years, to be vaccinated and re-vaccinated as required by the General Statutes. This had some influence in inducing those who had before neglected this all-important preventive measure, to be vaccinated.

There are, however, without doubt, a very large proportion of our population, especially those of foreign origin, who have still neglected to comply with the law, and are at any time liable to be infected with this terrible disease, and thereby endanger the health of the public. No prosecutions have yet been made, though it may be necessary, as a matter of protection to the interests of the town, to resort to this should the disease re-appear, as it undoubtedly will, before the approach of summer.

The Board have enforced thorough fumigation and cleansing of all houses and attendants, that had become in the least contaminated with the infection, also all infected clothing or other material, and in cases where they thought proper, the latter has been destroyed or buried.

At the present date, the Town is entirely free from the Small-pox and Varioloid, which we cannot help attributing largely, to the adoption and enforcement of the above measures.

Owing to the same cowardly fear, which has deterred so many from extending to any who attended infected patients a decent respect, and the common courtesies of life, we have

often found it difficult to procure teams to remove patients to Hospitals, or to convey the bodies of those who died of Small-pox to the burial place; and had the disease continued to rage, it probably would have been necessary to have purchased one for this purpose. In this connection the Board would most earnestly recommend the appointment or election by the town, of an undertaker, whose duties should include the interment of all dead bodies, whether they have died of contagious diseases or not. It has been a very difficult matter to find parties who were willing to assist in burying those who had died of Small-pox. The custom has been to bury all such bodies away from the Cemeteries where their friends or families were interred, and where perhaps they owned burial lots. As this seemed to be unjust and inhuman, the present Board have ordered that any patients, dying of this disease, may, under certain restrictions, be interred in either of the Cemeteries.

The Pest House is in the same condition as usual, and as it has become nearly or quite worthless, from obvious reasons, we would recommend that the Selectmen have power to demolish or dispose of it, as they may deem best.

Should the disease re-appear before a good Hospital is completed, it will no doubt be necessary for the Board to take such a building as may be best adapted for the reception and kindly treatment of the patients, and in some way to completely isolate all cases. The expense to the Town in such a case would be considerable, but in the absence of a suitable Hospital, no other safe course would be left open for the Board to pursue.

There are, not remote from the Pest House, several graves of those who have died of Small-pox. Some of them were our own fellow citizens who, under former rules, were excluded from a Christian burial within our Cemeteries, and some were strangers, who, though faithfully and even tenderly cared for in their last moments, died where no loving hands of relatives and friends, could lay their corrupting mortal remains beneath the willow or the cypress, nor strew flowers on their graves. Can we, as a Christian and humane community, afford to do less, than to have this little consecrated spot properly cleared up, and neatly fenced, that we may thus manifest a fraternal sympathy for that stricken band of our common humanity.

In closing we invite your careful attention to the report of

the Physician of the Board, which is appended to this report.

JONATHAN COOK,	}	Board of Health.
DAVID SMITH,		
ALEXANDER MANUEL,		

Provincetown, Jan. 20, 1873.

Report of the Physician of the Board of Health.

GENTLEMEN :

Having been appointed to act as your medical adviser, and the special services required of me having been, as is believed, mainly completed, and hoping that an account of the experience gained in the management and eradication of the small-pox may be valuable in the future, and perhaps of some interest at the present time, I submit the following report as Physician of the Board of Health :

To understand fully the epidemic known as the small-pox, which has recently visited our community, and created such suffering, bereavement and serious apprehension among our citizens, it will be necessary to go back to a period prior to Dec. 4, 1872, the date of my appointment.

It seems that the first case of small-pox we have had for some years,—with the exception of one last summer,—was reported as occurring Oct. 22d, in the family of Capt. John P. Lewis, on Leverett Street, and was said to be of the discreet form of the disease. I was called to attend the case after it had been abandoned, the former physician not being protected from the liability to contract the disease. Having met with an accident by which I was temporarily unable to attend to practice, a third physician was called, by whose orders the patient was allowed to go out in about eleven days, and thus communicate the contagion to two other patients.

One of these cases, a very mild one, seemed to be so obscure, that the case was not discovered and reported by the attending physician, till nearly a week after its inception.—During this time one, and perhaps two persons being exposed to the patient, took the disease. The other one being the mother of the first patient and attended by the family physician, was reported as being attacked with brain fever, and not a case of either small-pox or varioloid, the true character

of the disease having either been concealed, or, we will charitably suppose, not fully understood by the attending physician, at any rate not being reported to the Board of Health, until I was sent by them to inspect the same Nov. 27th,—some ten days after the time the patient was first attacked.—From this case three others, in the same family, contracted the disease, and were attacked Dec. 1st, 2d and 3d, respectively. One of them had the disease very severely, but they all eventually recovered. The family physician having wisely ceased to visit the house, after the supposed attack of brain fever was superseded by the variolous eruption, I was called to attend the family. In another family, a patient was attacked with the disease in the confluent form about the middle of November. Not being isolated, the remainder of the family who were not protected, took the disease, and were attacked about the first of December, and it was found necessary to detain them all in the house four weeks longer. It is to the credit of the mother of this family, who were Portuguese people, that the regulations adopted by the Board were strictly adhered to, and that no person has contracted the disease from this source. I cannot forbear, however, in passing, to express the opinion that the risk to the lives, comfort and pecuniary interests of the community, is too great to justify the repetition of the course pursued in this family, though it seemed to be, under the circumstances, the part of wisdom to dictate or allow it at that time. It should not be referred to as a safe precedent. A vessel might be navigated from here to Boston without carrying an anchor, and perhaps by a single hand, but no owner nor underwriter would consider such a course safe to pursue, in the case of any vessels in which he might be interested. Besides other vessels which would be encountered on the way would be thereby endangered. Infinitely greater importance should be attached to cases of small-pox, than to the care of property, though neither should be neglected. By adopting all precautions in our power, making use of all prophylactic measures, that modern science and observation have made available, an epidemic like small-pox or cholera may be effectually warded off, which, if allowed to get a foot-hold, could only be eradicated with arduous efforts, and at a great expense of life, treasure and comfort.

The two families above referred to, with six other cases, were sick with the disease, on the first half of the month of

December, 1872. I have given the details of the manner in which the disease had begun to spread, to illustrate the manner in which it will almost always be propagated, when allowed to take its natural course, without intending in what I have said, to censure any party, to whom it has been necessary to allude. Perhaps all did what they deemed best, and the best that they could with the limited knowledge they possessed, of so formidable a disease.

All the cases had, fortunately, good nurses to attend them, an unusual circumstance in such an epidemic. The fact that one of the patients had taken the disease for the second time, while too faithfully nursing a former patient of mine, led me to fear that I should not be so highly favored in this respect, should the disease continue. To be willing to be a nurse in this disease, a much larger amount of Christianity must prevail in the heart than I have generally been able to find, even in the professed followers of Him who went about doing good. Those who stood with me, to minister to those who suffered from this terrible disease, will readily admit the truth of this.

The various Hospitals or houses in which the patients were sick, were not, from defective ventilation and other objections, at all calculated to induce a favorable progress, nor to betoken an early recovery. The poorest and most disgraceful one, was that owned by the town, known as the Pest House, a place to which, no patient will hereafter be sent with my consent, for I never should be willing to go there if I was sick.—Another unfavorable circumstance was the peculiar mental depression, induced by the well known malignant type of the present epidemic in other places, and its fatal termination in a case of one of our best citizens, in which the disease had commenced very mildly, assuming the malignant character in the second stage. This tendency to mental depression, in the small-pox, is too seldom taken into account, in the management of the disease, but should, perhaps, more than any other, be guarded against. In no case should we labor more assiduously to awaken and keep alive a hopeful, cheerful state of mind in the patient. The community generally, were filled at that time with similar gloomy forebodings, and painful apprehensions, such as I have known to precede a panic,—a state of things most to be dreaded, for if it had taken place, we should have been in circumstances to answer the question in metaphysics—"What if a whole community should go mad?"

As no systematic record had been made of persons vacci-

nated, and as this operation had, several years ago, in many instances, been imperfectly performed, and with virus, the doubtful propriety of whose use time will demonstrate, as it had not been, (though often urged by me, with all the persuasion I possessed,) till within a few days made compulsory by the town authorities, as no provision had been made by them for the general gratuitous vaccination of all the inhabitants, as a fear prevailed very extensively, either with or without reason, that the results which have in some cases followed vaccination, might perhaps be more disastrous than the average sufferings and dangers of small-pox, as the imperative importance of re-vaccination after five or ten years was not generally known, there was to me but little to hope from the protection afforded by this operation—so radiant with utility among the minor prophylactic measures, that we might compare its light, in the shadowy night of this “pestilence that walketh in darkness,” to that of the moon as compared with a few stars peering through the clouds.

On examining the fourteen schools I found either no vaccination at all, or one of doubtful protection, in the cases of at least one-third of the pupils. On canvassing average sections of both foreign and native inhabitants of the town, I was convinced that about two-thirds of the remainder of the people were still unprotected, and at any time liable to an attack of this enemy of our race.

To arrest the progress of the epidemic, I regarded at the outset, complete isolation as indispensable, and so advised the Board of Health, as I had often before, even if legal process had to be resorted to in the accomplishment of this measure, involving the vital interests of the largest part of the community. Still it was with no small difficulty, and with the sacrifice of the ordinary feelings of humanity, that I consented to the removal of any patient to the Pest House, so called. As complete isolation of the patients as could be made under the circumstances, was effected, however, and in this we have been so successful, that I am most highly gratified to know that in no instance has the disease been contracted within this town, since the first of December. Two other cases have been reported since then, Dec. 25th and 16th, both of which came from Boston; both of the most malignant type from the commencement of the disease, and both, though well cared for, terminating fatally Jan. 7th and 8th, respectively.

Since the last date, or rather since the 27th of December,

no case has been reported, though I have often been called to inspect suspected cases, and still continue to act in many cases as a detective,

Should the disease again appear, I should more strongly than ever, insist that all patients should be completely isolated, even if compulsory legal process had to be resorted to in every case. It may be necessary to take one of the best buildings in town for that purpose involving a large expense to the town. But, even if it should, I trust the Board is and will be composed of true and resolute men, who will dare to do right, and who will not shirk from the full performance of what, in such a contingency, would be clearly their duty to the patient and the community. For, it must be remembered, that, while the law gives the Board the power, and makes it their duty to thus act in the premises, they would have no moral nor legal right to remove a patient to a place that would not be suitable for his proper care and treatment, and, being held both morally and legally responsible in case of damages thus accruing, it would be right and legal, to take the building that might, with the least possible delay, be best adapted to the reception and treatment of the case or cases that it might be necessary thus to remove.

VACCINATION AND RE-VACCINATION.

The paramount importance of vaccination and re-vaccination, as shown by a brilliant array of facts and proofs, indicates that the question of the adoption or neglect of this sanitary measure, should be in the same hands as other sanitary measures—the Board of Health. There is no good reason why one preventive should be left with the Selectmen to adopt or reject, and another with the more active body of men on whom the community places the whole responsibility. There are now probably in this town, between 1000 and 2000 people who have not been recently successfully vaccinated or re-vaccinated.—These people, being liable at any time to be attacked with small-pox, are a constant and dangerous menace to the public health of the community. They hold the same relation to the people generally, that a torpedo in our harbor would to the vessels, only the figure is too mild. Now as the Board of Health has the power to do whatever in their judgment may be deemed the best means to eradicate and ward off this dreadful scourge—the small-pox, is it not clearly within their province, to establish some system for compelling the adoption by all, of this prophylactic measure. The most feasible mode is,

to provide for the gratuitous vaccination of all who remain unprotected by a recent successful vaccination, and then, to impose a fine on all who neglect to avail themselves of this privilege, or who remain unprotected after a certain date. While however, recent facts place vaccination in so very favorable a light, WHEN PROPERLY PERFORMED and attended to, (as shown by the fact that not one of the cases during this epidemic had been recently successfully vaccinated,) still I am more convinced than ever, that a large part of the vaccinations and revaccinations are carelessly and improperly performed, and that, in most instances the case is entirely neglected after the operation, the physician who vaccinated not having the opportunity afforded him to ascertain whether the pustule is good or not. This should not be allowed. Anything well done is twice done, and no patient should be satisfied with any but the best judgment, in regard to so important a measure. It is no boy's play, and should not be lightly regarded. If there is any doubt about the case, the operation should be repeated until it ceases to produce any effect. If this is done with PURE ANIMAL LYMPH, there is little or no danger of taking either the small-pox or varioloid, for several years. I prefer the animal or cow-pox lymph, because of its being free from the objections that seem to cling to the humanized virus, and because that, not having deteriorated, its protective power is much greater than that which has been transmitted through many human systems, and that has thereby, perhaps, been greatly modified. In a matter of so great moment, we should be doubly sure, if possible, and should be satisfied with nothing but the best, which is none too good. During the past year, I have used only the cow-pox virus which I obtained direct from Dr. Martin's establishment at Boston Highlands, and, never having known any evil results to follow its use, I naturally prefer that to any other. At the same time, although in many cases, there may be no impurities transmitted from one person whose blood may be tainted by some scrofulous, syphilitic or other infectious disease, to that of another whose blood is comparatively pure, and although every care is generally used, to procure the virus from those only, who are apparently free from any such taint, yet my observation confirms me more and more in the opinion, that in any case in which the humanized virus is used, great risk is incurred of implanting a disease of longer continuance, if not as much to be dreaded, as the one we would guard against. Still, taking

into account the whole number vaccinated, the per centage of those who suffer from such transmission of disease, super-added to those rare cases of vaccinal erysipelas, is so small as to compel me to greatly prefer the prophylactic, with all its faults, rather than the dreaded disease that has proved so very fatal. The neglect to provide free vaccination, and to enforce the law in relation to this operation, must prove a measure of present economy, perhaps, but of ultimate extravagance, just as would be the neglect to provide suitable food, clothing or shelter for ourselves in an inclement season. Let this matter be left in the hands of the Body who are in the best position to know when to enforce it, or when to make it gratuitous, and let the responsibility for its neglect rest on them.

I regard both vaccination and isolation as of about equal importance in arresting the epidemic, but as I have before intimated, both should, if done at all, be well done. Next in importance, is the immediate destruction, burial, or thorough fumigation or cleansing, of all infected material and premises, under the direction of some competent person. That all these measures may be fully and properly carried out, it is necessary and desirable, that all cases should, as soon as they present the characteristic symptoms, be at once reported to, and placed under the care of the Board of Health, who should as promptly, have them isolated, and placed under the best and most careful attention. Experience has shown that complete isolation can only be accomplished by removal to Hospitals, and that the chances for recovery are much greater in those patients who are early removed to Hospitals, than with those who are not. In the Lowell Hospitals, the rate of mortality was about one half what it was among the patients who had the disease outside the Hospitals—in their own houses and elsewhere. To reduce the mortality to a minimum, the Hospitals should be properly located, well constructed and ventilated, as well as properly warmed, and the patients properly and tenderly cared for, by both physician and nurse. The remark is sometimes made that a good nurse is everything. In reality it is only one favorable condition; but in this formidable disease, EVERYTHING should be favorable. Nothing should be neglected, that will increase the chances for recovery. And these should include pleasant and cheerful conversation, by kind and sympathetic attendants, with such food and dainties as are adapted to this class of patients, and in some cases, books, papers, and bouquets of beautiful flowers. The record

of mortality here, has not, it is true, been as large as in some places, but no one can look at it without a feeling of sadness, and every philanthropist must sincerely wish that any further calamity should be averted. Even if we lay aside all the higher feelings of sympathy for those who have been the immediate sufferers, and view the case only in the scale of political economy, the sombre shadow is around it still.

Sickness of any kind by reducing the aggregate productive power, which is the real wealth of the whole community, tends to impoverish each and every individual, and imposes on them more onerous burdens. The health department, then, rises in dignity and importance, and transcends any other. It is sheer extravagance, to neglect to expend what appropriation may be necessary to promote its true interests. A "penny wise and pound foolish" policy, in this particular, has cost the city of Boston during the past year, millions of dollars, and hundreds of valuable, precious lives. We laugh at the poor heathen Chinnee, who, having been saved from a watery grave, after leaping with his bag of clothes from the burning steamship America, and being congratulated that he had saved his clothes, replied, "Yes, and I should liked to have saved my wife too," but do we evince any greater wisdom, when we, by a niggard economy neglect the adoption of wise and prudential measures for the prevention of sickness in our families, or the promotion of the public health?

When the great and good Healer of bodies, as well as souls, enunciated the truth that our life was not all in wealth, that institutions were made for man, whose worth transcends all else, his burning words made despicable that meanness and short sightedness, which would value money above life and health, while they shed a bright ray of perennial sunlight across the pathway of those, whose benevolence, philanthropy and love, should prompt them to act the part of the good Samaritan.

In closing, I would, in behalf of the people, express the great obligations that are due to the Board of Health, for their courteous, prompt and faithful co-operation with me in suppressing this fearful epidemic.

Very respectfully,

HORATIO G. NEWTON, M. D.,

Physician to the Board of Health.

Provincetown, January 20, 1873.

Instructions for Controlling Small-pox Contagion Adopted by the Board of Health.

ISOLATION.

1. Every case must be reported to the Board of Health or the Physician of the Board upon its first recognized appearance.

2. The patient should either be taken to a Hospital or if deemed best, placed in a separate room and no person except the physician, nurse or attendant allowed to enter the room or touch the bedding or clothing used in the sickroom until they have been thoroughly disinfected.

3. Patients must not leave the premises until they, together with the bedding and clothing, have been disinfected, and permission given by the Physician of the Board of Health.

DISINFECTION.

1. All bedding and personal clothing infected with the small-pox contagion, which can, without injury, must be washed in boiling water.

2. Infected feather beds, pillows, and hair mattresses, must have contents taken out and thoroughly fumigated, and ticks washed in boiling water.

3. Infected straw and excelsior mattresses must have contents removed and buried, and ticks washed in boiling water.

4. Infected blankets, sheets and pillow cases, and all articles in contact with, or used by the patient, must be washed in boiling water.

5. Personal clothing and bedding, particularly comforters, which cannot be wet without injury, must be disinfected by baking or by fumigation.

6. Instead of using boiling water as the disinfectant, the following chemical process with cold water may sometimes be conveniently substituted: Dissolve in a wash-tub, containing eight gallons of cold water, one pound of the hyposulphite of soda, immerse all the articles of clothing and bedding used by or around the patient, and when thoroughly saturated add half a pint of sulphuric acid, first diluting it with one gallon of water; stir the whole and allow the clothes to soak an hour, then wring them out, rinse three times in cold water, and hang out to dry.

7. Disinfection of houses, clothing and bedding by fumigation may be effected by filling the closed rooms with the fumes of sulphurous acid, or chlorine gas. The first can be accomplished by putting half a pound of sulphur in an iron dish, pouring on a little alcohol and igniting, thereby causing the sulphur to burn and give off sulphurous acid fumes. The second can be accomplished by moistening with water four pounds of chloride of lime, contained in an earthen or wooden vessel, and adding thereto a pint of muriatic acid, to liberate the chlorine gas. Clothing and bedding, to be well fumigated, must be separated as much as possible, and hung upon the wall and

furniture of the room, so that everything will be thoroughly permeated. The rooms should be kept closed an hour or two after being charged with the gas by either method, and then thoroughly ventilated. No attempt should be made to fumigate the sick-room in this manner, while it is occupied by the patient.

8. On the recovery, removal or death of every case of small pox or varoloid, the clothing, bedding and premises will be disinfected, in accordance with the above rules, under the direction of one or more members of the Board of Health.

9. The members employed in disinfecting may cause the removal, destruction, or burial of such infected bedding and clothing as may, in their judgement, seem to require it, of which they shall keep a correct record, with date, kind of articles, whether new or old, estimated value, name and residence of the owner. No person shall burn any contagioned articles unless authorized by the Board of Health.

10. The sick-room should be kept well ventilated, with such precautions as not to expose the patient to direct currents of air, and should be occasionally fumigated, slightly, by throwing upon a heated surface a few teaspoonfuls of a *solution of carbolic acid*, made by dissolving one ounce of crystalized carbolic acid in a quart of rain water. Pieces of cloth may be soaked in this solution, and suspended in the room, also in the hallways adjoining. All vessels for receiving discharges of any kind from patients, must be emptied immediately after use, and cleansed with boiling water. When convalescence has taken place, the patient must be thoroughly washed in warm water and soap, and put on fresh, clean clothes throughout.

11. Privies, water-closets, and all kinds of drains and foul places in houses, stables, and yards, may be disinfected with a solution made as follows. Dissolve eight pounds of copperas (sulphate of iron) in five gallons of water, add one quart of the solution of carbolic acid, and mix well.

12. It should be remembered that there are no substitutes for pure air and water. Let fresh air and sunlight purify every place they can reach; open and dry all cellars; keep the grounds about dwellings dry and clean, and let personal and domestic cleanliness be everywhere observed.

VACCINATION, and re-vaccination, is of paramount importance, affording the best attainable protection against small pox, and mitigating its severity when not preventing an attack.

The above rules and instructions are recommended to be adopted in the management of the small pox.

H. G. NEWTON, Physician of the Board of Health.

At a meeting of the Board it was voted that the foregoing rules and instructions reported by the Consulting Physician, be adopted and printed.

JONATHAN COOK,	} Board of Health.
DAVID SMITH.	
ALEXANDER MANUEL.	

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The School Committee submit the following Report for the remainder of the school year, ending March 1, 1872:

The whole number of scholars attending school during the winter term, which closed March 1, 1872, was seven hundred and eighty-six, sixty-four of these were members of the High School, one hundred and fifty-nine were members of the Grammar Schools, one hundred and fifty-five were members of the Intermediate Schools, three hundred and thirty-eight were members of the Primary Schools, and seventy were members of the school for young men. The whole number that attended school during the term, over fifteen years of age, was one hundred and twenty-one. Forty of this number were in the High School, eight were in the Grammar, one was in the Intermediate, four were in the Primary Schools, and seventy were in the school for young men. The average attendance of the scholars at all the schools for the term was seven hundred and ten. The average attendance at the High School was fifty-eight, at the Grammar Schools one hundred and fifty-five, at the Intermediate Schools one hundred and forty-two, at the Primary Schools two hundred and ninety-two, and at the school for young men sixty-three.

FINANCIAL RECORD.

		Dr.
School Department.		
Jan 1, 1872, to balance in Treasury,		\$3046 58
“ Mass. School Fund,		247 45
		<hr/>
		\$3294 04
March 1, Cr. by cash paid for Teaching,		2031 25
Building fires and sweeping,		188 98
		<hr/>
		\$2220 23
		<hr/>
Balance in the Treasury,		\$1073 81
All of which is respectfully submitted.		
HENRY SHORTLE,	} School Committee.	
LUTHER NICKERSON,		
JOHN M. CROCKER,		

In accordance with the custom demanded by the General Statutes, your committee respectfully submit the following Report:

At the last annual Town Meeting we were authorized to appoint a Superintendent. B. F. Hutchinson, Esq., was, on the 22d of February, elected to this responsible position; and for detailed account of the condition and progress of the schools for the year, we call your attention to his report.

Regular monthly meetings have been held by the Committee and Superintendent for the purpose of keeping fresh in mind the condition of our schools and hearing suggestion and discussion as to their welfare. Several changes have been made which have resulted for the better, but before the best is obtained other changes are to follow. We have not remedied all the defects nor supplied all the wants of our school system. The Committee nor Superintendent cannot of themselves do this. Further action from the town is requisite. Whatever has been done by us has been with a spirit of progress. We might have accomplished more. But we believe it an unwise economy to see only the present,—having no eye to the future. Our town is already staggering under the burden accumulated by such an economy. Viewing things through the medium of

dollars and cents only has made us very poor indeed in many particulars.

GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD EDUCATION.

The debt we owe our children is first, good health; second, good education. For these the parent is most responsible; the teacher, perhaps, next. What are we doing as parents and with what assistance from our schools towards liquefying this debt? Twenty-nine years ago three school houses were erected and furnished at an expense of \$10,000. This was a step highly creditable to the Town, and must have well met the necessity of the case. These houses are still existing without material change. The lower room has been divided, the entries and recitation rooms altered and stoves used instead of furnaces. The seats are none the softer by quarter of a century's wear, but are just as uncomfortable, and the desks just as unhandy. The blackboards are miserable enough, being repulsive to chalk, roughly patched and of crumbling material. The floors are very bad indeed as you can well imagine any floor would be after such wear as they must have had since 1844. The dust generating from them is not at all conducive to the health of pupils. These dust particles are continually passing from the lungs of one scholar into those of another, and doubtless have been breathed over hundreds of times by the same child. It is not at all improbable that particles inhaled by pupils to-day in these school rooms, were exhaled by scholars many years ago. This is not to be laughed at when it is remembered how quick and to what degree school room air becomes impure, and that our means for ventilation are as imperfect as ever. The two houses built a few years since are only newer with more modern seats and desks; the latter of which should have been single rather than double. The High School room, excepting its position, is the most agreeable. To sum up,—all our school houses are deficient in ventilation, most of them in heating and lighting, and most in school furniture and flooring; thus weakening rather than strengthening the constitution of the child. Who can say how many of our young have been carried to premature graves by sickness generated in the school room; and how many older ones are now suffering from diseases originating in the same place.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION.

Besides contributing to the physical development of the child the design of the school is to educate the mental and moral faculties. What means have we for this purpose? Our

school organization is of a mixed character. More complete to-day, however, than ever before. The various changes made have been rather the result of pressure than of a spirit of improvement. There has been a lack of uniformity in schools of the same grade; the classification in each has been mixed and incomplete, and the studies pursued of the simplest order.—The schools have been taught by persons not qualified as teachers, but by those obtaining and holding the position through friendship or some nearer relation. Means for illustrating and teaching those things which cannot be taught clearly without objects have been sadly neglected. Parents have not known what their children were expected to derive in any particular grade, nor in all taken together. Teachers have not known how far to take their pupils in the several studies, and school authorities have been ignorant of the qualifications requisite for admitting scholars from one grade to the next higher.—Teachers have been allowed the greatest license, and parents have taken liberties extraordinary. In short, our system of schools has failed thus far towards insuring its share of what is meant by good education.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION.

A topic which has received most careful consideration by educators. The decision is in favor of supervision by a Superintendent. Committees cannot take its place. Towns are fast recognizing this fact. One mind comprehending all; advising teachers and prompting them to action; seeing needs and remedying defects, as far as circumstances will permit; watching, that school property is not abused and destroyed, and that teachers are faithful to their pledge, is the supervision needed, an authority feared as well as respected.—We may have few men fully competent to fill the office, yet the same man will do more as Superintendent than as Committee. A well organized system is worthy of being well kept; and if complete more easily kept. Things not cared for will of course go to destruction. Where is that valuable collection of books known as the High School Library, and that well selected philosophical apparatus belonging to the same school. Gone to the wind, and why? Simply because no one felt interested or responsible enough to protect them. This is the difficulty with supervision by Committee alone,—no one feels the responsibility; and even if the management is delegated to a member of the Board he does not feel responsible as does the real Superintendent. Again, we have been and

always will be troubled by frequent change of teachers. Under the guidance of a Superintendent there will be less interruption. For knowing what each teacher is doing he places the new one where the old one left off. If we cannot afford to pay this officer a stated salary let him be paid as provided by the General Statutes, which is so much per day for actual service. We believe the same amount will be better expended on a Superintendent than on a Committee.

COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING

The fact that our schools compare favorably with those of other towns on the Cape and of towns of equal population elsewhere in the Commonwealth (as we do not doubt) is very gratifying, but no reason for saying we haven't anything to do. Because our neighbor is starving is no reason why we should starve too. There are few towns of equal population with which Provincetown can be compared in its school system, for few have its advantages for organizing. If we desire to know the rank of our school system it should be compared with some model system, not with an inferior one alone. But it is not necessary to make any comparisons. The question is what do we want; and wanting can we have it?

We want a thorough organization of schools into practical grades. Each grade to have uniform, definite work as marked out by course of study; and promotion based upon qualifications in scholarship and previous rank, and not upon age alone. We want this system to be under the direction and control of a Superintendent checked by a Committee composed of men and women. Woman's influence and power has only begun to be felt. We want each school room made pleasant, agreeable and attractive in its furniture, and supplied with proper apparatus.

NON-ATTENDANCE.

Good attendance depends upon the system, teachers and parents. The better the system the better the attendance. A perfect system, however, will not secure perfect attendance; for parents must to a certain extent depend upon the child for assistance. People should be compelled to send their children to school, not so much by law as by appreciating the benefits of an education and the misery of ignorance. As long as our system is without head and tail we shall have additional cause for complaining of irregular attendance. If parents understand that their sons and daughters cannot advance unless regular attendants, and up to a certain standard, we

think, with few exceptions, children will be regular at school. Law should apply to exceptions. The matter of attendance is mostly in the hands of fathers and mothers, and taking the country at large grave considerations argue the course taken by them. Public sentiment is advancing; and when the people see a thing in its true light they will judge it by its merits and act accordingly.

What assistance you will get from schools in bringing up your children with sound bodies and sound understanding depends upon yourselves. You can have a good system or a poor system just as you feel inclined to vote. The question is, which will you have?

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

Two years ago the Committee were instructed to have kept a detailed account of every case of bodily pain inflicted by teachers. This account has never been recorded, not because the Committee do not favor it, for we see no harm in it but chance for some good. It has been neglected rather than from any intention on our part. We are of the mind, however, that the number of punishments of this character has been less the past year than previously. We do not believe in corporal punishment as often applied, yet without authority to use it our schools will be very much worse. Parents do not appreciate the position of the teacher. They are apt to think their children are very good in the school room, while at home they know they are very bad. If teachers raise the finger in chastisement it goes to the very quick of parents, while parents themselves are insensible to their own severe and abusive punishments. There is a little inconsistency in such action. Teachers are not by any means to be upheld in all their methods of punishment, but people too often censure them beyond their due.

We heartily recommend a continuation of the office of Superintendent and further recommend prompt action by the town towards furnishing room that the classification be more thorough. Our lower schools are too crowded; teachers cannot do them justice.

HENRY SHORTLE,
JOHN M. CROCKER,
HORACE A. FREEMAN,
MERCY M. HOPKINS,
HARRIET F. MITCHELL,
ANNA J. HUTCHINSON,

School
Committee.

Report of the Superintendent.

RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

In reporting to you the present condition of the several schools of the town, noting their progress and proficiency in all the essentials that are required to constitute, what may be called, a "model school" it is not only proper, but highly necessary, to keep constantly in mind, that the past year has been one of experiment, and that many of the changes intended to be made, have not yet become facts; but are still intended improvements, waiting the time, when they may be introduced into the organization of the present system, with a reasonable hope of success. It is no hidden secret, to any one who has given a reasonable amount of thought to the subject, that any change in an existing school system, is always attended with more or less difficulty and disturbance, for a short time, which call forth complaint and opposition from various sources; not only from those who make it a special business to watch and criticize, but from those who have given the subject some thought, and honestly differ in opinion from those having the matter in charge. How long these opposing elements to progress will continue, and the successful initiation of elements of improvement in the schools be delayed, depend very much upon the extent of improvement designed to be made, and the spirit of the opposition with which it has to contend. If it be merely the personal inconveniences of the few, then it will soon die of itself, but if there are many or few plausible objections, though not affecting the real merits of the question, it will continue much longer, and can be met the most effectually by constant and earnest effort making the matter a real and admitted fact of improvement "to be seen and read of all." The changes in our school system contemplated at the commencement of the year, have met with no greater amount of opposition than might reasonably have been expected. We could not start off with a full and definite plan of operation; showing exactly what should be done, in the premises; but were obliged to move forward, step by step, waiting some developments under the new, before we could well dispense with the old, and then only so much of it, as could readily and easily be removed without creating undue excitement. The idea of one Grammar School, in the center of the town, had its inception last year, and the initiative steps were taken for its introduction by closing one and reducing the number to two, located in the Eastern and

Western parts of the town. That experiment proving successful, as it was thought, opened the way for a further reduction, and one Grammar School was determined upon with two Higher Intermediates; the Grammar School to be located in the Center, and the Higher Intermediates at the Eastern and Western parts of the town. It was found upon instituting these several schools, that a very large majority of the scholars who would attend these Intermediate Schools, were west of the Center of the town. Consequently a portion of the scholars residing near the Center, had to go to the Eastern School and to travel a much greater distance than those attending the Western School, which called forth unnecessary complaint; for it is now admitted that no one suffered in health from the exercise of walking the required distance, but, some were decidedly more healthy than at any time previous, when attending school. Yet, notwithstanding the division line was carried as far to the west as Masonic Hall, seventy-nine scholars remained to be provided for at the Western while only sixty-two were attending at the Eastern School. This being a fact developed by the direct operation of the changes already made, it was found necessary not only for the convenience of those attending this class of school, but for the better discipline and instruction, to establish an additional school of like grade, at the central part of the town, and, as there was no room unoccupied, the one over the Old Post Office was hired for that purpose and a school placed there which, so far as known, has removed all causes of complaint, as to distance, on the part of parents, and the condition of the schools have been much improved, as it obviates the necessity of an assistant teacher in the Western part of the town, and places the pupils, just where they should be, under the constant supervision of the PRINCIPAL. We now have one High, one Grammar, three Higher Intermediate, three Intermediate, and five Primary Schools. Completing the grade, so far as naming them, is a part of a system. The classification in these several grades has not yet been made, in respect to the studies to be pursued in each, and cannot be, until the commencement of the next school year. At that time it may be made with something like uniformity in all the various grades of studies, and the pupils of the schools will move on from the Primary to the High School, in the same order and in the same way, that they pass from one class to another in any school, with no special examination for the High School. The standard of qualification for

that School will be the school record from the time the applicant enters the schools, until the time he wishes to become a member. His constancy in attendance, diligence, application and proficiency in his studies, each and all, to be taken into account in deciding upon his admittance to the benefits to be derived from a course of study in that department of our school system. Should the question be asked, is the system you are endeavoring to inaugurate, a perfect system? We answer, not at all; it would be an additional wonder of the world, to find a perfect school system, let who will be the author of it. Then the question is, is it the best, and does it meet all the requirements that may be reasonably demanded of a system? Now in answering the first part of the query, it will be well to consider what is to be understood by the term BEST. Are we to understand it, as meaning the best that can be imagined or conceived of without any regard to material or surroundings? that there shall be perfect location, perfect school room, perfect apparatus, perfect scholars with perfect teachers? or are we to understand it, as best applying to our own peculiar situation and surroundings? If the former is the proper interpretation of the question, the answer should be a most emphatic No; but if the latter the answer might reasonably be Yes, with some slight modifications. That system is best, which meets the wants and furnishes the means of the highest education to the greatest number at the least expense of time and money. The success of any system, depends much more upon the energy and ability with which its requirements are executed, than upon the system itself. The first and most essential element under any system is good order in the school room, without regard to grade. It is an easy matter to say what good order is, but the best method to secure it, cannot be defined in such a manner that one can follow the directions given, under all circumstances, without alteration or deviation. The idea must first become definite in the mind of the instructor, and such means adopted to secure good results, as his best judgment affords. Each one should enjoy the greatest liberty to work out his idea in his own way; and if he gives the subject proper attention, he will be quite sure to succeed; very few will fail, if properly supported during the day or weeks of trial. Insubordination is the greatest evil with which we have to contend, and it is fostered too much by the thoughtless, idle talk of parents and others at the stores and on the streets. Let us have free and full discussion of school, as of all other

public matters, at all times and in all places, but let it be conducted in a proper manner and in accordance with facts. It is said "that curses like chickens, always come home to roost." So it is with idle, thoughtless words, spoken in derogation of good order and discipline in our schools. The curse meets you every day and hour upon our streets. So far there has been no decided failure in any of the schools and those for whose welfare the greatest anxiety was felt, have come bravely out of the contest and good order prevails in the school rooms. There is another matter which has awakened much discussion and some opposition from certain parents, but which cannot be laid to the charge of School Committees but to that of the wise men we elect to serve as legislators. They make the laws regulating school studies, and it is the duty of the School Committee to see that they are faithfully obeyed. Thus the matter of Drawing presents itself to the School Committee and demands a place among the studies of the school room. What is this art or science of Drawing? Making pictures say some. "I am not going to buy books and pencils for my children to waste their time in making pictures." Now making pictures is not the worst thing a child can do. It is far better than idleness. But this is not Drawing. All forms are bounded by either straight or curved lines. No matter how complicated it may be in the concrete, it is made up of a combination of straight and curved lines, and the teaching of Drawing is teaching one how to unite and combine these two kinds of lines so as to represent any given object on paper or other flat surface. To use the expression said to have been used by Prof. Smith, teacher of Drawing in the Boston schools, "it is teaching the eye to see and the hand to execute." It learns one to see any object just as it is, in all its proportions, lights and shadows, and with the aid of paper and pencil, to give a correct and life like representation of it. Instead of being of no use, it is the most useful art we have, not less than penmanship. There is no tradesman or mechanic, that does not make use of it almost every day in his daily avocation. We might enumerate the carpenter, ship builder, tailor, painter, blockmaker, mason, and even among the ladies are dress makers and milliners, to say nothing of the thousand and one things that have to be "cut to match," in every household; and in all these the art of Drawing will be a great help if learned as we learn "to write and cypher," as a daily task in the school room. Let those who are disposed to laugh and cavil, try their skill in

drawing two lines of any given length, the one to be just twice as long as the other; or let them draw a horizontal line six inches long, and from the center point erect a perpendicular line, four inches long, and see how near they can arrive at correctness. The probabilities are not one in ten, can come anywhere near correctness. If trained it can be done very readily, errors will be very rare. They will also learn, that forms of beauty, or comeliness, depend principally upon the exact proportion of relative lines. Let a picture be drawn portraying manly beauty, you will see that all the facial and other lines have a just proportion, and the effect is pleasing, but let the horizontal lines across the eye brows and cheek bones be widened, those delineating the eyes and mouth elongated, and the whole expression is changed, it may be made to look either hideous or foolish, just as the artist wishes, by only changing the length of a very few lines. How to make forms of beauty when we desire, and not forms of hideousness, is what the art of Drawing teaches. The principal objection seems to be the cost of books. Certainly no good reason appears why books and pencils, that now cost the town forty cents, could not be afforded for twenty cents. The only plausible reason for the extravagant prices now asked for text books on Drawing, is the limited demand and small sales. It is very evident that if the prices were less, the sales would be much greater, and the profits in the aggregate be increased and not diminished.

Of the eight hundred and twelve scholars, between the ages of five and fifteen years, returned by the Assessors of the town, only six hundred and ninety-eight were, at any time during the Spring term, members of any of our schools. Six hundred and sixty-six were connected with the schools in the Fall, and six hundred and twenty-nine in the present term. More than one-eighth of all the children in town, between the ages of five and fifteen, have not seen the inside of the school room during either term. This is altogether too great a discount for absentees. But where is the remedy? It is thought to be just here. Let the Assessors, when they take the number of children, take the name, age and residence, of every scholar, and then if they are not in school, we shall know where to look for them. There were three hundred and twenty-one scholars in the Summer, three hundred and thirty-four in the Fall, and three hundred and seven the present term, in our Primary Schools. So it is fair to infer, that it is not the little children that stay away from school. Since nearly one-half of all the

children in school during the Spring and present terms, and more than one-half during the Fall term, were in these schools, it is reasonable to believe, that the one hundred and fourteen that were absent during the Spring, the one hundred and forty-six during the Fall, and one hundred and eighty-three during the present term, are, for the most part, either kept or permitted to stay out of school, by their parents. How great a wrong and injury they are doing their children, many of them do not understand, having not the slightest idea of what an education is, or the benefits to be derived from knowing how to read and write. They look upon the school room, as a nursery, where their children are to be taken care of, so they may be the better able to attend to their own labors. This is a matter that needs to be looked after and the proper method devised to remedy so great an evil, which it is believed is on the increase, in certain parts of the town.

The whole number of scholars connected with the school during the Spring term was seven hundred and sixty-two.—Three hundred and twenty-one were in the Primary, one hundred and fifty in the Intermediate, one hundred and forty-one in the Higher Intermediate, ninety-one in the Grammar and fifty-five in the High School. The average attendance in all the schools was five hundred and eighty. Two hundred and thirty-six in the Primary, one hundred and twenty-seven in the Intermediate, one hundred and ten in the Higher Intermediate, sixty-three in the Grammar and forty-four in the High School. Number over fifteen years of age was sixty-four; one in the Intermediate, six in the Higher Intermediate, twenty-two in the Grammar and thirty-six in the High School. Per cent. of attendance was in the Primary 73.5; Intermediate 84.7; Higher Intermediate 78; Grammar 70, and High School 80 per cent. Fall term the whole number was 714. 334 were in the Primary, 157 in the Intermediate, 121 in the Higher Intermediate, 57 in the Grammar and 45 in the High School. Average attendance in all the schools was 600, there being 278 in the Primary, 131 in the Intermediate, 105 in the Higher Intermediate, 45.3 in the Grammar, 41 in the High School.—Number over fifteen years of age was 47. Of these 39 were in the High School, 7 in the Grammar and 1 in the Intermediate. Per cent. of attendance was in the Primary 83.23, in the Intermediate 83.43, in the Higher Intermediate 86.77, in the Grammar 82.36, High School 91.1 per cent. The whole number belonging to the schools the present term is 833.—

There are 307 in the Primary, 150 in the Intermediate, 126 in the Higher Intermediate, 57 in the Grammar, 43 in the High School, and 51 in the Winter School for adults. Number over fifteen years of age 102, 1 in the Intermediate, 4 in the Higher Intermediate, 11 in the Grammar, 36 in the High and 50 in the Winter School for adults.

The class of schools that claims our first attention is the Primary. There are five of these schools with an average of about three hundred scholars, making about sixty to a teacher. The average attendance has been very much reduced on account of Measles in the spring, and Small-pox prevailing to some extent since. More than half of some of the scholars were afflicted with measles, at the same time, causing a serious interruption of the studies. The order in all the schools has been good and the progress in the studies as great as could reasonably be expected. Their principal object seems to be overlooked on the part of the teachers, in their anxiety, to have them "get along fast," as it is termed. It would be well to have the motto "make haste slowly" written upon every side of the school room. The primary object should be, to teach the children habits of good order and attention. If they do this and nothing more, they fulfill in the highest measure the object for which they are instituted. It must also be borne in mind, by all those who have children in these schools, that it takes time to learn sixty or seventy little ones, what obedience means, especially when they know nothing of it at home. Too much in the way of book instruction is demanded and expected of these teachers. Should the improvement now contemplated be put into operation the coming term, the number of scholars will be reduced, and more time will be left for general discipline of the whole school. It is wrong to expect much teaching to be done in these schools under the most favorable circumstances, and most certainly it is a far greater wrong, to expect the teachers to bring their several schools up to the proper standard of good order, and at the same time hear twenty classes recite each day. Better let the recitation go, than to neglect the discipline necessary to the school room. It may be asked, if the improvement be made by limitation of the studies to be taught, will materially reduce the number of scholars attending these schools? It is thought that it will, for a time, at least. But if not, would it not be better to have two distinct schools each day, of three hours' session each; certain classes to attend in the morning, and certain other

classes in the afternoon. In this way one teacher could take care of eighty scholars as easily as she now can forty. There is every reason to believe that the children would be benefitted as much or even more than under the present system. This method has been tried with good results according to report, and and it is thought to be worthy of trial here, if we should be short of room. Three hours is better than six, provided the school is so arranged that the scholar gets as much time for drill as he would in an all-day school.

The Intermediate Schools have not been so full this year as common, neither of them having an average of fifty scholars either term. The discipline has been fair and the progress in their studies better than the average in years past. But something is wanting to put new life or more life and animation into either children or teachers or perhaps both. It is thought that there is too much machinery or superfluous talk in some of the studies, it makes them exceedingly tedious and wearisome, especially in Intellectual Arithmetic. The formula used in explaining examples might be reduced, in some instances, one-half with good effect. Of what use is it to have children repeat over a long string of words to express an idea, that would be better conveyed by three? It is enough to solve a problem and take the proper steps with the reason for them, without giving in conclusion another solution, or the same in different words. Let one solution suffice, and let that be in the briefest manner possible, provided it is understood by the scholar. These lengthy formulas are just so much useless lumber piled up in their memory, occupying the space that should be filled with more important facts or principles. If there is anything wanting in these schools it is life, enthusiasm. We must all strive for it and see if it cannot be found.

The establishing of the Higher Intermediate Schools, instead of a Grammar School, was an experiment and has proved, so far, a very successful one. There was some irritation when the schools were first instituted and at the commencement of the present term, but no more than usually accompanies change. There has been sickness and frequent change of teacher, so that the progress has not been so great or uniform, as it otherwise might have been, yet a good work has been done and is still being done. There has not been better order or more careful instruction at any time since they commenced than there is today. There is quite a difference in number of scholars attending the Eastern and Western schools, but it only serves to

awaken a healthy spirit of emulation, seeking to have the rank equal without regard to numbers. It seems sad to think and it is much more sad to know, that parents, influenced by prejudice, and that prejudice founded in the grossest ignorance of all the facts, will not permit their children to attend these schools, simply because they are taught by females, yet it is so, and children are kept out of school to roam the streets for no other reason. If a man was there, though as ignorant as themselves, they would send their children to school. These schools occupy just that position which takes that class of scholars who do not like to attend after the larger boys have left in spring, so being once in the school, continue all the term, because there are no "big boys" going to close.

The Grammar School being a sort of secondary High School ought to take quite an elevated position in the school system. Most certainly it has, and does occupy a much higher position as a Grammar School, than any ONE SCHOOL of the kind within our knowledge. It is higher in more points of view than one, but in one it ranks equal to any school of like grade of which any information is now attainable, and it is in this: The object has not been so much to make good recitation scholars, although the rank is high in this particular, as to make intelligent scholars. Now it is comparatively an easy task to follow a text book and have parrot like recitations, but it is not an easy matter to keep up the interest of scholars in searching out and looking up all the accompanying facts and circumstances attending any given state of facts, so that they can have a good common sense understanding of the subject. In one case all that is known can be told as a parrot repeats his name, in the other, it is laying a foundation upon which to build up an education. This method should meet the approbation of all. The discipline has been mild but firm, sufficiently severe to secure attention to studies and not so imperative as to cause fear and trembling on the part of the scholars. It will not be strange if there are those who differ from this idea of education.—Probably there are many who would prefer to visit a school and listen to the rapid recital of words that neither they or the scholars understand, than to hear the same scholars give their own ideas of the same matter after the most careful study of the subject. No thinking man will question which is the better method of instruction to benefit the child. It is to be hoped that we shall have much more of just the kind of teaching we now enjoy.

The High School, it is safe to say, is in a flourishing condition. No one needs to be reminded of its failure to meet the wishes and expectations of its best friends the closing term of the past year. It is not our business to go back and recount the causes or to try to discover in what was the error, or mistake. It is enough to know that all who felt any interest in the welfare of this school were sad and sorrowful. Consequently extra efforts were made to call life back to those who remained and gave evidence that all that was wanting was a leader, and they were willing and anxious to work. The school started well and by the voluntary aid of the Physicians and Rev. Mr. Perry in giving lectures upon Natural Science increased interest was awakened and all misgivings as to success fled. Much is due to our friends who gave these lectures. They not only opened new fields of thought to the pupils, but furnished an opportunity for further inquiry by their being made a subject for recitation. It is to be regretted that these lectures could not have been continued, as they would have been, but for the location of the school room. The object being to bring as many of the friends of the school together on these occasions as convenient and thus stimulate all who were laboring to promote the interest of teachers and pupils. The discipline of the school has been excellent; good order always prevails. The teaching has been thorough and comprehensive. Things have been taught, not words alone without their significance. It would be difficult to say in what the school as a whole excels, where all is so well done. It is thought that, all things considered, the school has never met all the requirements of a High School, so well as now. Undoubtedly there have been as good or better scholars and teachers in terms past as at the present; but there has never been that happy unity of effort which secures the highest degree of success. There is good reason for the town to feel not a little proud of having so good a school standing in its midst, as a "crowning glory to all the schools embraced in its present school system."

The Winter School for adults is doing the work designed for it as well as can be expected. Adhering strictly to the recommendation of the special committee of the town, the studies to be pursued and the number of scholars admitted, have been kept within the ability of the teacher to do ample justice to all. The school is popular, and in a certain sense the most popular of any one in town. In fact it is too popular. Boys who have been more than a year in the High School leave that and

attend this, when it would be much better for them to remain and finish the course. While there are great benefits derived from the separate school for winter boys, as they are called, yet there are some very serious objections to the system, and one is, that boys influenced by the idea that time and opportunity lost or wasted at the other schools, can be made up at this; neglect to attend as they should. It should be borne in mind, that it cannot possibly be done. Time wasted can never be recovered and opportunities once neglected can never be enjoyed. Besides it is only an additional waste of time for advanced scholars to attend this school with the idea that they are making the most of their school privileges. From the very necessity of the case it consists and must consist principally of backward scholars who from one cause or another have failed to maintain a standing in their studies so that they can class to their advantage with the scholars of the other schools.—There are parents, however, who blindly prefer to have their children attend here rather than either the High or Grammar School. It is presumed upon conversation with them, that they are influenced almost entirely in their preference by the wishes of their children, who think it more manly to be classed with those who attend this school from any cause, than to attend as one expressed it "with those little young ones."—The school as a whole is doing a good work in the community and should receive the favor of all those who earnestly desire the improvement and elevation of the young men of the town. It is thought the expense of the school will not exceed the sum specially recommended for its support, namely, three hundred and fifty dollars, unless the Town and the Committee deem it advisable to have it continue more than twelve weeks.

Hereto is appended a statement giving the names of the teachers employed for each school; the whole number of scholars, the average number, the per cent. of attendance and the number over fifteen years of age attending each term. Also a statement of the account with the Town Treasurer, with the Selectmen and with the Book Agent:

STATEMENT.

School.	Teacher.	Term.	Whole No.	Average No.	Per cent Att.	No. over 15 years.
High School	A. F. Blaisdell Sara A. Hamlen	Spring	55 44	80	36	
		Fall	45 41	91.1	39	
		Winter	43		36	
Grammar School	H. A. Freeman Hattie F. Weeks	Spring	91 63		22	
		Fall	55 45.5		7	
		Winter	57	82.36	11	
Eastern Higher Intermediate	Lucia N. Cook Rebecca D. Sparks Carrie F. Nickerson	Spring	62 50.1	80.8	4	
		Fall	33 33	90.9		
		Winter	35		1	
Centre Higher Intermediate	Lucia N. Cook	Fall	42 36	85.7		
		Winter	39			
Western Higher Intermediate	Abbie N. Hamlen Lizzie H. Kenney	Spring	79 60	76	4	
		Fall	46 39	84.8		
		Winter	52		4	
Eastern Intermediate	Carrie O. Atkins Alice D. Keefe Jennie Keefe	Spring	49 42.1	86		
		Fall	47 43.1	91.7		
		Winter	45		1	
Centre Intermediate	Carrie O. Atkins Rebecca D. Sparks	Spring	50 43	86		
		Fall	53 42	80		
		Winter	48		1	
Western Intermediate	J. M. Nickerson	Spring	51 42	82.3		
		Fall	57 46	80.7		
		Winter	54			
Western Primary	Ella A. Small	Spring	65 42	64.6		
		Fall	62 50	82.2		
		Winter	57			
Conant Street Primary	Carrie F. Nickerson M. Ella Emery	Spring	79 53	67		
		Fall	83 66	80		
		Winter	76			
Centre Primary	Alice D. Keefe Lizzie H. Kenney Lizzie W. Clark	Spring	66 55 2-15	83.6		
		Fall	73 63	86.3		
		Winter	62			
Centre Primary No 2	Henrietta Whitney	Spring	59 45	76.2		
		Fall	57 49	85.9		
		Winter	49			
Eastern Primary	Ella L. Bush Lizzie P. Chapman	Spring	52 41	73		
		Fall	57 50	87.2		
		Winter	63			

STATEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:

Cr. by balance in the Treasury re-appropriated,	\$670 04
“ “ State School Fund 1872,	247 45
“ “ Town appropriation,	6505 00
“ “ Cash rec'd Sam'l Dyer, Truro, tuition,	27 00
	<hr/>
	\$7449 49

To Town Treasurer	Dr.
To cash paid Town Library,	\$131 45
“ Teaching Spring Term,	2076 25
“ Building Fires & Sweeping,	118 95
“ Teaching Fall Term,	1540 00
“ Building Fires & Sweeping,	92 75
“ Teaching Winter Term,	100 00
“ Building Fires & Sweeping,	100 00
“ Hard Coal,	374 00
“ Charcoal,	47 20
“ Salary of Sup't three quarters, 300 00	\$4850 60
	<hr/>
Balance in Treasury.	\$2568 89
Liabilities for teaching Winter Term,	\$2077 50
Building Fires and Sweeping,	214 68
Estimated cost of charcoal ordered but not received,	20 00
One quarter salary Sup't,	100 00
	<hr/>
Balance in the Treasury.	\$156 71
Total cost of school for the year,	\$7292 78

To the Town Treasurer,	Dr.
For cash paid for Books for Teacher's Desk,	\$65 18
“ “ “ Poor children,	85 05
“ “ Guiot Map of the World,	11 00
“ “ Blackboard Erasers,	10 42
	<hr/>
	\$171 65

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“ “ Guiot Map of the World,	11 00
“ “ Blackboard Erasers,	10 42
	<hr/>
	\$171 65

BOOK ACCOUNT AS STATED BY THE AGENT.

Town Agent Jan. 4, 1873,	Dr.	
To Books and Case,	\$228 94	
Cash received of Town,	106 35	\$335 29
Cr. Jan. 4, 1873.		
By Books and Case,	\$325 33	
Cash in hands of Agent,	9 96	\$335 29

If the schools continue under the present system of organization the expenses for another year will be about \$7500.—There will be a balance of \$150 in the Treasury together with the State School Fund, which may be estimated at \$250, making in all \$400 which would leave a balance of \$7100 to be raised the present year. As it is impossible to fix the exact amount that may be wanted it is herein recommended that the Town appropriate the sum of \$7200 in addition to what will remain in the Treasury for the support of Schools the ensuing year.

The school buildings and their surroundings have been kept in tolerable repair, but no more has been spent on them than was absolutely necessary to prevent waste. The three buildings known as Grammar School Houses, are about worn out, and when anything is done to them need a thorough repair.—The bulkheads on Mechanic Street and in the rear of the Western House, will have to be rebuilt next summer, to save the town from risk of loss by damage done some persons or their property, through the defects in these would be protections. It is said the fence on the west side of the Center and Eastern Houses will have to be rebuilt. It would be better policy not to do much until we are either ready to make thorough repair of the present buildings or build new, when some better locations can be found. At the present time these houses stand in regular CESS POOLS. Every one of them occupy grounds lower than the roads and lower than the adjoining grounds; consequently all the sand and filth from the adjoining premises find lodgment in the school yards to breed pestilence to all who breath the tainted atmosphere. New lots should be purchased forthwith and these houses moved upon them and repaired, or they should be sold and new ones built to take their places. They are dark, damp and unhealthy, with no chance to ventilate but by opening doors and windows, and in this manner the children take colds. It is not known what the Committee appointed at a special meeting to consider the mat-

ter of repairs on the several School Houses will recommend to be done in the premises, if anything,—therefore it may not be out of place to suggest to the inhabitants of the town, that in as much as we have to hire rooms to accommodate two schools at the Center of the town, it would be well to purchase a suitable lot somewhere near the Center and move the present school house upon it, and remodel it as it is, or make further additions thereto, for the better accommodation of the town. Probably it could be changed so as to make four rooms that would accommodate sixty-four scholars each, at a cost, not exceeding three thousand dollars, and would give room for the Higher Intermediate School, now occupying Dr. Stone's building, at a rent of one hundred and twenty dollars a year, which would be saved annually to the town. These houses were first class when they were built twenty-nine years ago. There has been but slight alteration in them since, and their day is past, as first class school houses, and yet they are worth more to the town, to-day, than to any individual. They can be made very comely and convenient school rooms for a much less sum than you can build new, besides you have much better stock in them; consequently they will be more durable than a new building. Let this matter be well considered, to-day, and not delay it for a more convenient season.

The expenses on the several School Houses are stated below. The High School room has been fully repaired except the blackboards. A few were put in as an experiment, this year. They are portable boards, and are so put up that they can be taken down and transferred to any other room at pleasure. It would be well to complete the repairs in this particular another year. The blackboard and stock in the desks prepared for the school of adults are the property of the town to be disposed of at the close of the term.

Paid for cleaning and repairs of High School room as follows, to wit:

Mrs. Ellis for cleaning,	\$24 00
H. P. Dearborn for paper and hanging,	48 95
J. A. West blackboards,	42 33
J. L. Hammet liquid slating and brush,	10 00
W. H. H. Weston plaster,	1 05
Francis Joseph painting and varnish,	6 47

Carried forward, \$132 80

Brought forward,	\$132 80
J. A. West brooms,	85
H. Holmes repairing stoves,	1 38
Total,	\$135 03
Paid for repairs on Eastern School :	
Oliver B. Conant labor,	\$5 20
Catharine Smith cleaning house and curtains,	22 00
Hiram Holmes stoves,	10 73
Lewis Morgan,	7 00
J. A. West,	4 32
Old bill,	3 98
Oliver B. Conant,	1 75
H. Holmes stoves,	5 63
J. A. West lock,	3 15
H. & S. Cook & Co.,	96
Total,	\$64 72
Paid for repairs on Western House :	
Ambrose D. Knowles stock and labor,	\$31 94
Hiram Holmes stoves,	37 63
Benj. Lancey stock and shingles,	4 50
Isaiah A. Small repairs of bell,	3 50
Union Wharf Co.,	2 45
J. & L. N Paine,	4 25
Ambrose D. Knowles,	11 35
Samuel Taylor cleaning house,	20 00
Total,	\$115 62
Paid for repairs on Conant Street Primary :	
Ambrose D. Knowles,	\$15 95
Hiram Holmes stoves and repairs,	23 60
J. A. West,	2 34
Samuel Taylor cleaning house,	8 00
Total,	\$49 89
Paid for repairs on Center House :	
Elisha Young labor,	\$1 20
Mrs. Harvender cleaning House,	20 00
J. A. West,	21 76
H. Holmes,	1 25
Carried forward,	\$44 21

Brought forward,	\$44 21
W. H. H. Weston,	2 50
James Lecount,	1 00
Total,	\$47 71
Paid for repairs, &c., on Center Primary, No. 2 :	
Mrs. Ryder cleaning school room and out buildings,	\$15 00
J. A. West,	3 20
W. H. H. Weston,	1 75
Total,	19 95
Dr. Stone's building, up stairs :	
Hiram Holmes,	\$1 62
W. H. H. Weston,	45
J. A. West for curtains,	4 80
Total,	\$6 87
Winter School Expenses :	
J. A. West blackboard and seats,	\$34 86
Hiram Holmes labor, pipe and wire,	1 75
J. L. Hammett liquid slating,	2 60
Total,	\$39 21
Recapitulation in gross.	
High School,	\$135 73
Eastern School,	64 72
Western School,	115 62
Conant Street Primary,	49 89
Center School,	47 71
Center Primary No. 2,	19 95
Dr. Stone upstairs,	6 87
Dr. Stone Winter School,	39 21
Total expense of Prudential Committee,	\$479 70

In conclusion, let it be remarked that while an honest claim may be made, to stand superior to any other town in the County in the support of education and of having a more simple and perfect school system, yet we cannot disguise the fact that more than one-eighth of all our children do not attend these schools, however high the standard of scholarship or however perfect the system. This solitary fact, admonishes us that there is yet work to be done; constant, earnest work, with but little cessation or relaxation. It will not be well to

lose sight of the constantly recurring fact, that all our efforts are needed to meet the demands of daily life upon the rising generation. Let it be remembered that it will not be with them as it has been with us; that years do not repeat themselves, and bring each returning moment charged with the same or even similar duties; but that each new year brings new labors, new duties, to claim our attention and devotion. Some sage has very wisely remarked "that education is a debt due from the present to future generations." Acknowledging our indebtedness to the past, the question is, how are we discharging it to the future? Are we doing all we can for them? and are we doing what we attempt to do, in the best way to benefit those who are to occupy our places in the years to come? These are questions for us to solve, and apply the answer in our future labors for the young now under our care.

B. F. HUTCHINSON, Sup't.

REPORT OF RAILROAD COMMITTEE.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF PROVINCETOWN :

The undersigned appointed a special committee at a Town Meeting held October 3d, 1871, and authorized to act in behalf of the town's subscriptions of \$98,300 to the extension of the Cape Cod Railroad from Wellfleet to Provincetown, in such manner as should best secure the interest of the town and promote the object of said subscription, having completed the discharge of their duties,

REPORT:

That, in pursuance of the authority and obligations thus conferred, your committee caused a town meeting to be called December 21, 1871, at which the town treasurer was authorized to subscribe for, and to contract to purchase, shares of stock in aid of the extension of the Railroad to this place to the before mentioned amount of \$98,300, at a price not exceeding \$100 per share. He was also authorized to borrow money of the Commonwealth or of other parties to pay for said stock, and to give notes therefor, subject to the approval of the Selectmen, at a rate of interest not exceeding seven per cent., and for terms of time not exceeding twenty years.

Prior and subsequent to this period your committee had frequent meetings, held interviews with the Directors and officers of the C. C. & O. C. Railroad corporations and corresponded upon matters having reference to the contemplated extension, never failing to make use of every suitable opportunity to urge such prompt action as would ensure its early completion.

At a meeting of your committee with the President and Directors of the C. C. Road, held at Wellfleet November 20th, 1871, for the purpose of consummating any measures preparatory to the commencement of active operations in the construction of the Road, the President and Directors expressed satisfaction of the fulfillment of the obligations assumed by the town, and signified their readiness to proceed with the working of the projected Road without delay. The grading, they

assured, the committee might be begun in a fortnight from that time. How this assurance has been realized you need not be informed by the undersigned. For whatever damage, disappointment and ill-effects may have resulted from this procrastination, your Committee claim they are in no wise chargeable.

The removal of obstructions from the road-way in Wellfleet was begun November 20th, 1872, just one year from the before mentioned meeting, and ground was first broken, in grading, on the line of the Road, in that town, the 26th of last November. Grading on the route in Provincetown was commenced December 30, 1872, and is progressing favorably.

In the latter part of October, 1872, your committee received notice from the proper officers of the Cape Cod Road that an instalment of \$50,000 of the town's subscription was then required, precedent to the commencement of grading the road bed, accompanied with a statement of the conditions of the subscription and of the security offered the town for the same. This proposition, after due consideration and conference with the Selectmen, was, by your committee, submitted, with explanations, to the Railroad Commissioners of this Commonwealth, who pronounced it to be in conformity to law and in accordance with the previous action of the town. Thereupon your committee, on the 1st day of November, 1872, unanimously adopted the following motion, to wit:

"That the terms and the security offered by the Cape Cod Railroad and endorsed by the Old Colony Railroad to secure the town for the payment of the money voted by the town of Provincetown in aid of the extension of the Railroad from Wellfleet to Provincetown are satisfactory to the committee, and that we recommend immediate action on the part of the Treasurer and Selectmen, in raising and paying over the money to the Treasurer of the Cape Cod Railroad, in accordance to the terms of said agreement."

In compliance with this recommendation to the town Treasurer and Selectmen \$50,000 was paid the Treasurer of the Cape Cod Road, and the following certificate taken therefor, to wit:

"BOSTON, Nov. 26, 1872.

This certifies that I have received as Treasurer of the Cape Cod Railroad Company the sum of \$50,000 from the town of Provincetown, which is in payment of 500 shares of the stock of the C. C. R. R. Company which said town of Province-

town was authorized to take and duly voted to take and subscribed for, for the purpose of aiding the extension of said Railroad from Wellfleet to Provincetown; for which the Cape Cod Railroad Company agree to issue 500 shares of the stock of said Company. And which stock is to be convertible into stock of the Old Colony Railroad Company at the rate of seventeen shares of the latter for twenty-three shares of the former stock, which stock is to be entitled to dividends from the O. C. R. R. Co. after said extension is completed, and until that time interest is to be paid on said \$50,000 at the rate of 5 17-100 per cent. per annum, such interest to be computed up to the 12th day of June or December after the completion of the extension, so that interest shall not be had for the same time as dividends are received."

(Signed)

E. N. WINSLOW,
Treas. Cape Cod R. R. Co."

"The Old Colony Railroad Company hereby assent to the foregoing receipt and agreement and will issue stock according to the terms thereof.

Old Colony Railroad Company by
WINSLOW STEARNS, President."

By this arrangement, rendered necessary by the consolidation of the Cape Cod with the Old Colony corporation, the change of shares from the former to the latter became indispensable. It was made on the same basis upon which the exchange of individual shares was effected with the exception of retaining the bonus agreed to be allowed the Cape Cod Company, amounting upon the whole subscription of 983 shares, at \$25 per share, to \$24,575. At the rate of exchange set forth in the foregoing certificate by which 23 shares of Cape Cod stock, at \$100 per share, are allowed the Old Colony for 17 shares of its stock at \$135.30, the 983 shares of the old corporation will purchase 727 10-23 shares in the new corporation. Valuing shares in the Cape Cod Company at \$100, the price agreed upon, there was included a bonus of \$25.—Later quotations of sales of Old Colony stock made since payment of dividends and during a stringent money market, indicate their present value at \$113, which deducted from \$135.30, the cost price, including bonus, reduces the bonus to \$22.30 per share—thus making on the 727 10-23 shares a saving by the exchange of \$1964. There is reason to expect further advancement in the value of this stock and that the sum loaned this enterprise by the town will ultimately be refunded with

but little loss, and without imposing upon the inhabitants any considerable financial burden. This consideration may not unfairly be regarded as partial compensation for the vexations and disappointments suffered by delays.

The grading of the road bed throughout the entire line is being vigorously pushed by a numerous force, and promise is thus afforded of its early construction. As to a definite time when the rails will be laid, rolling stock supplied, stations built and the transportation of passengers and freight begin, your committee are not authorized to predict. They can, however, state they have the assurance of the President of the Old Colony Road that no obstacles within the control of the corporation he represents will be allowed to arrest the steady prosecution of the work to completion. They therefore venture, in conclusion, to congratulate you upon the now speedy fulfillment of this long cherished project, and to express the hope that the high anticipations of renewed activity in business, of enlarged enterprise and of the substantial prosperity of this community, as its fruition may be fully realized.

JAMES GIFFORD,	} Committee
HENRY COOK,	
JNO. W. DAVIS,	
E. M. DYER,	
WILLIAM A. ATKINS,	

Provincetown, February 10, 1873.

Marriages.

The whole number of Marriages registered was	60
Married in Provincetown,	57
In other towns,	3
The whole number of intentions of marriages registered,	63

Deaths.

The whole number of Deaths registered for 1872 was 91.
Males, 42; females 49.

AGES.	
Under 1 year,	26
From 1 to 20,	18
" 20 to 40,	19
" 40 to 60,	11
" 60 to 80,	10
Over 80,	7
	91

Births.

The whole number of Births registered for the year 1872 was 102. Males, 54. Females, 48.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number born in January,	2	6	8
February,	4	3	7
March,	1	1	2
April,	2	3	5
May,	1	4	5
June,	5	5	10
July,	4	5	9
August,	7	9	16
September,	5	3	8
October,	5	2	7
November,	4	3	7
December,	14	4	18
	54	48	102

PARENTAGE.

Both Parents American,
 Portuguese,
 Irish,
 From British Provinces,
 Norway,
 Father American and Mother Nova Scotian,
 Mother “ and Father “ “
 Father French and Mother Irish,
 “ Scotch and “ Nova Scotian,
 “ Portuguese and “ American,
 “ Nova Scotian “ “ Irish,