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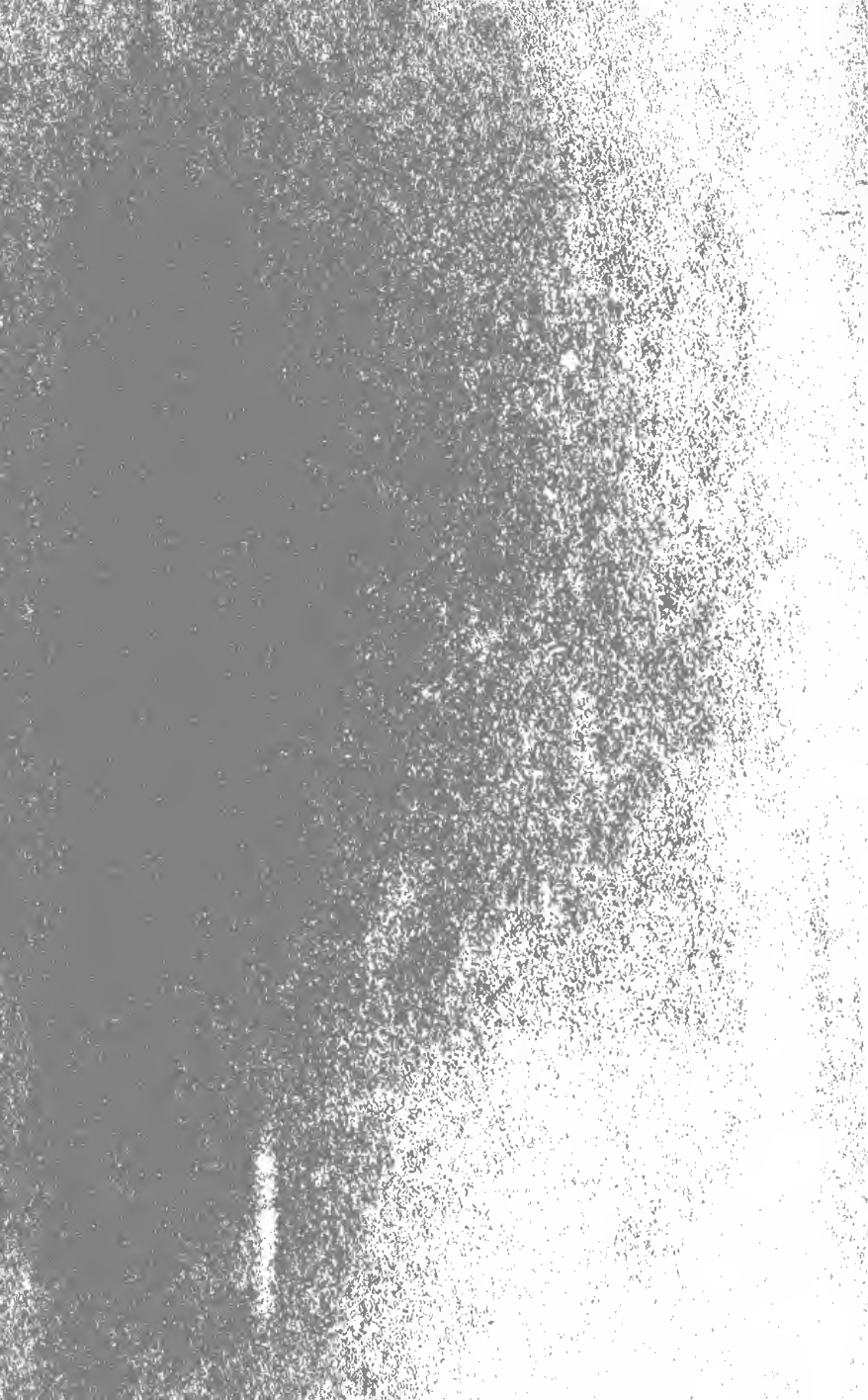
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1801-57



*Bought with the
Abram E. Cutter Fund*





Abram E. Cutler

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SCHOOL REPORT,

1850.

THE School Committee of the city of Charlestown, before surrendering to their successors the trust confided to them, present the following as their Annual Report :

THE past year has not been wanting in movement in our schools. Many changes in the corps of teachers have occurred, and an important change has been made in the organization of our Grammar Schools. These frequent changes of teachers and of organization, are much to be deprecated. When the last Annual Report was made, the grammar schools had each a Principal, a Sub-master, and two Female Assistant Teachers, which together formed an efficient corps, equal to the wants of the schools. In January, the school committee having received from the Joint Standing Committee on Finance of the city Council, a request for estimates of expenses for the support of the public schools for the ensuing financial year, submitted their estimates in detail, amounting in the aggregate to thirty thousand dollars. The city Council, without indicating to us wherein our estimates were too large, or how the schools could be carried on with less money than was asked for, appropriated the gross sum of twenty-five thousand dollars. The Committee labored assiduously to obtain an appropriation large enough to enable them to carry on the schools as then organized, but unhappily without success. The expenses of the schools must be lessened five thousand dollars, and the Committee did that, by dismissing the Music teacher, the Sub-masters, and the Female Assistant Teacher in the High school. We regretted very much the necessity of dispensing with the very valuable services of these teachers. We think that the amount of money saved by their dismissal, bears no comparison to the amount of injury which it inflicted upon the schools. It appears to us, that no more apt illustration of the old adage, "Penny wise and pound foolish," can be devised, than the attempt to save money by curtailing the school advantages of our children. We have endeavored to obtain the most that the money allowed us would afford. We suggest, that the whole amount appropriated, might have been saved to the City, by dismissing all the teachers, and closing the schools. Extracts from semi-annual reports of the sub-committee to the board, form a large part of this Report ; they, with the returns, show very clearly the condition of the schools. The Committee have under their charge twenty five Primary

schools, eight Grammar schools, and the High school. From the statistics which are herewith presented, it appears that the number of children enrolled in all the schools during the winter term, was 3,786 ; the number at the close of the term, April 30th, was 2,962 ; the number present at examination, 2,457 ; and the average attendance in all, was 2,384. The whole number enrolled in all the schools during the summer term, was 4,069 ; the number at the close of the term, October 31st, 3,051 ; the number present at examination, 2,653 ; the average attendance in all the schools, 2,389. The school Committee have made 1,019 visits to the schools during the year.

Primary Schools.

These schools are generally in good condition. Since the last Annual Report of the School Committee, the following changes of teachers of Primary schools have taken place. In November 1849, Miss Caroline Phipps, Miss E. M. Sweetser, Miss S. J. Bradbury, and Miss F. A. J. Morse, resigned, and were succeeded by Miss M. J. Brown, Miss H. M. Sampson, Miss M. A. Osgood, and Miss Mary R. Mayhew, in Primary Schools Nos. 1, 3, 23, and 25, respectively. In April, Miss S. B. Woodward resigned, and was succeeded by Miss R. T. Ames, in primary school No. 6. In May, Miss E. A. Thorndike, in No. 8, was succeeded by Miss Julia M. Ranstead, and Miss M. R. Mayhew in No. 25, by Miss Henrietta M. Sanborn. In June, Miss Sarah E. Sanborn resigned, and was succeeded in No. 19, by Miss Louisa W. Huntress. In September, Miss Louisa A. Pratt, resigned, and Miss Eleanor Butts was appointed to No. 18 ; and Miss Anna M. Gregory, was succeeded in No. 24, by Miss C. M. Chamberlain. In October, Miss M. O. Pennell resigned, and Miss Catharine D. Flint was appointed in primary school No. 12.

The school house in which Primary school No. 1, is kept, is altogether unfit for the purpose. Primary school No. 3, temporarily occupying a room in the Boylston chapel, ought to have a suitable school house provided for it ; the room recently built for this school in the rear of Ward Room No. 3, is much too small to accommodate one of our smallest schools. No. 4, has been kept too long already, in a part of the cellar of the Warren school house. No. 5, in Elm street, near High street, ought to have better quarters. Primary school house No. 6, Elm street, near Medford street, is described by the sub-committee on that school, as little better than a "shanty ;" this important school deserves a better house. No. 19, in Moulton street, needs larger accommodations. It is hoped, for the credit of

the City, and more especially for the welfare of the children who attend these schools, that our successors may see them put upon a par as regards school house accommodations, with the rest in the city.

If means can be obtained our immediate successors will have to establish Primary Schools, one to relieve Nos. 1, 2 and 3 — one to relieve Nos. 17, 18 and 19, and perhaps one or two more. We have quite too many children for our present school accommodations. In March last on representation to this Board that there were at the Almshouse on the other side of Mystic River quite a number of children, thirty-five, unprovided with instruction, measures were taken to organize a school for their accommodation. Owing to circumstances, beyond our control, no school has yet been established there.

[See Tables at the end of pamphlet.]

Grammar Schools.

The following is our Report of the changes of Teachers in the Grammar Schools and the condition of these schools as exhibited in the reports of their various sub-committees, made to the Board at the end of the Winter Term in April and the Summer Term in October.

Bunker Hill Schools.

DISTRICT I.

DAVID ATWOOD, *Principal*.
DORCAS E. FARNSWORTH, *Ass't*.

DISTRICT II.

JOHN W. HURD, *Principal*.
MARY A. STOVER, *Assistant*.

Sub-Committee, C. SOULE CARTER, I. W. BLANCHARD.

In March, Bunker Hill School District was divided into two School Districts, and the schools were organized with a Principal male teacher, and one female Assistant teacher in each school. Mr. David Atwood and Miss M. A. Chandler, were chosen to Bunker Hill School No. 1; and Mr. Joseph B. Morse and Miss M. Louisa Putnam, to No. 2. Miss Putnam was shortly after, by a vote of the board, transferred to Harvard school, No. 1, and was succeeded in Bunker Hill school, No. 2, by Miss Anna M. Moulton, who after a short time was transferred to Winthrop school No. 1, and was succeeded by Miss Mary A. Stover. In April, Mr. Jos. B Morse,

was transferred to Harvard School No. 2, and was succeeded by Mr. John W. Hurd. In October, Miss M. A. Chandler resigned her situation, and was succeeded by Miss Dorcas E. Farnsworth, as assistant teacher in Bunker Hill School No. 1

In April, the sub-committee report: "These schools had hardly recovered from the effects of former disturbing causes, when another and quite recent change came over them, by a new organization into two distinct Schools, each having its own district of territory. Nevertheless, they are in a healthy condition; and we doubt not, that under the present able teachers, the next six months will show a marked improvement."

In October, the sub-committee report: "We feel satisfied that the teachers, one and all, have been faithful in the discharge of their respective duties, and that the scholars have made due progress. It will be remembered, that but six months have elapsed, since the Bunker Hill School District was separated into two Districts, and that the schools were not made equal in character by the change. The difference in this respect, however, is gradually disappearing, and both schools will, in time, and under their present teachers, become what the original was in its palmy days."

Warren Schools.

DISTRICT I.

CALVIN S. PENNELL, *Principal*.
M. LOUISA BURROUGHS, *1st Ass't*.
M. M. HAYES, *2d Assistant*.

DISTRICT II.

JOSEPH T. SWAN, *Principal*
MARY J. CHANDLER, *1st Ass't*.
SARAH T. CHANDLER, *2d do*.

Sub-Committee. C. W. MOORE, A. K. HUNT.

In April, the sub-committee reported: "These schools continue to maintain their high character among the Grammar schools of the city. The teachers are all competent and faithful in the discharge of their duties. Both schools are much crowded with pupils; and the effect of the recent dismissal of the submasters cannot fail, at the next examination to manifest itself in their general depreciation. The present force is altogether inadequate to the labor to be performed."

In October, the sub-committee report: "That they had made a faithful and thorough examination of the different departments. Believing that it is not at the semi-annual examinations alone, that correct information is obtained as to the condition of the school, or the character and capacity of the teacher, they have made frequent visits; and they are confirmed in their opinion, that the schools are in a good condition. They are probably in as good condition, per-

haps better, than any other to develop the present arrangements for conducting the schools. There has been no change among the teachers, since the removal of the sub-masters: and the experience of the Principals and their assistants, have been of much value. But from all that is favorable, from experience and lengthened service, the committee readily perceive that there is not that thoroughness of instruction, nor that progress in study, which was manifested under the former system. The unfavorable results of the change made last Spring, are not yet fully developed — as the scholars are still deriving some benefit from the instructions previously given; but if the present plan is continued, another year will witness a decline from the standard to which the scholars might and ought to have advanced. The teachers have labored earnestly, assiduously; they have made diligent use of all the means in their power; but the number allotted to each, is too large, and they are not able to give that attention to each scholar which is desirable. With the present amount of funds at the disposal of the Board, perhaps no better arrangement could be made; but in the Warren, as in several of the Primary schools, there is not sufficient force; those desirous of obtaining knowledge, are not sufficiently advanced, and those that are backward, cannot be urged forward.

Winthrop Schools.

DISTRICT I.

LUTHER W. ANDERSON, *Prin.*
 OLIVE KELLEY, *1st Assistant*
 ANNA DELANO, *2d Assistant.*

DISTRICT II.

SAMUEL S. WILLSON, *Principal.*
 A. A. MORTON, *1st Assistant.*
 ANNA M. GREGORY, *2d Assist't.*

Sub-Committee. G. CUTLER, J. G. FULLER.

In January, Mr. W. S. Williams resigned the Mastership of Winthrop No. 2, and Mr. Samuel S. Willson, was elected to the place. In March, Miss Anna M. Bradley resigned as 1st Assistant in Winthrop No. 1, and was succeeded by Miss Anna M. Moulton, who in May, was succeeded by Miss Olive Kelley. In March also, Miss S. Abba Cutler resigned as 2d Assistant of the same school, and was succeeded by Miss Ann Delano. In September, Miss Lucy F. Hall resigned as 2d Assistant of Winthrop No. 2, and was succeeded by Miss Anna M. Gregory.

In April, the sub-committee on these schools, report: "These schools at present, manifest the disadvantage of having dispensed with the sub-masters. The present number of teachers cannot accomplish as much labor as that employed a few months since — nor

can the present teachers effect as much as they will when they shall become familiar with the present order of arrangement." In conclusion, the Committee express "satisfaction in regard to these schools; that they are all we can reasonably expect, under the present and now new organization."

In October, the Committee having given much time to the examination of the schools, say—"We are assured all the teachers of these schools, both male and female, labor devotedly and assiduously in the discharge of their several duties. Knowing what these schools were under the former organization, when there were four teachers, [in each school,] and what they are now, we unhesitatingly express our conviction, that there is great deterioration. The schools have sunk, and will continue, necessarily to sink below that standard of excellence, which has given them renown throughout the State. It was not economy to dispense with the sub-masters; it would be economy to introduce another teacher into each of the Grammar Schools."

Harvard Schools.

DISTRICT I.

WM. REYNOLDS, *Principal*.
M. LOUISE PUTNAM, *1st Assist.*
S. F. KITTRIDGE, *2d Assistant*.

DISTRICT II.

JOSEPH B. MORSE, *Principal*.
REBECCA DRAKE, *1st Assistant*.
ADELINE M. WEST, *2d Assist.*

Sub-Committee. WILLIAM TUFTS. WILLIAM SAWYER.

In March, Mr. Stacey Baxter resigned the Mastership of Harvard School No. 1, and was succeeded by Mr. Wm. Reynolds. Miss Julia E. Hinckley resigned as 1st Assistant of the same school and was succeeded by Miss M. Louise Putnam. In April, Mr. J. P. Averill resigned the Mastership of Harvard School No. 2, and was succeeded by Mr. Joseph B. Morse.

In their April report, the sub-committee on these schools, say: "Both of these schools, and especially No. 1, have it is believed, suffered more by the recent changes, than any others in the city, under the care of the Board. In common with the others, they have been deprived of the important, and, by many, deemed necessary labors and influence of the sub-masters. At the same time, while the other schools retain their Principals, whose familiar presence, instructions and commands, they have been accustomed to respect and regard; these have both been obliged to part with their former valued teachers, and to have their places supplied with new men. This change of itself, with its many usually attendant inconveniences and evils would operate unfavorably upon the schools, even

though the men called to fill the places vacated, might be the most efficient and faithful, that could be obtained."

In October, the Committee speaking of Harvard School No. 1, say—"The examination was as satisfactory as could have been expected, under existing circumstances. In this school, there are excellent materials for the skill of a master, and with a competent instructor, there can be no doubt, but that it will take its just position among the schools of the City."

Harvard School, No. 2, owing to its proximity to No. 1, has suffered somewhat, during the last term. "The examination satisfied the committee however, that the teachers have been hard at work; the scholars have been well drilled."

High School.

WILLIAM C. BRADLEE, *Principal.*
 A. M. GAY, *Sub-master.*
 MRS. P. G. BATES, *Assistant*

Sub-Committee. GEORGE P. SANGER, H. LYON.

The female Assistant of the High School, was dismissed with the Sub-master, but it was soon found utterly impossible for two teachers to manage the affairs of such a school, with even tolerable efficiency. Mrs. P. G. Bates was elected as female Assistant, in this school, and went into the school at the end of the August vacation. Any one who will give the subject half a thought, will see the importance of having a female teacher in a school composed in part, of young Misses, from thirteen to seventeen years of age.

In August, Mr. Caleb Emery resigned as Principal of this school, and Mr. William C. Bradlee, who had been its sub-master from its foundation, was elected to his place. Mr. Bradlee was succeeded as sub-master, by Mr. A. M. Gay.

This school maintains its former high character. In April, the sub-committee reported: "The Committee are satisfied with the result of the examination. It shows thorough, exact and efficient teaching on the part of the instructors, and with but few exceptions, diligent and faithful study, on the part of the pupils. The discipline of the school is in its former excellence."

In October, the sub-committee report; "An extended examination was made of each class and of each scholar. The result of the examination shows that the condition of the school is good, both as regards instruction and discipline."

The School Committee refer their fellow citizens to the published

Annual Reports of this Board for a full statement of many matters of great interest to the welfare of the Schools. In this Report they will merely call attention to a few of the subjects which seem to be of more pressing importance. The subject of establishing

Intermediate Schools

Has engaged the serious attention of the several School Committees for a number of years. Both the Primary and the Grammar Schools suffer much for want of a grade of schools intermediate between the two, which should take from the former certain children who, being too old for the Primary and not qualified for the Grammar Schools, are a burden to them; and relieve the latter of those in the lowest division who, from any cause, cannot go on with their fellows, but remain from term to term a drag upon the school. We recommend to our successors to establish one such school in each Ward of the City, as soon as the requisite means can be obtained.

Truancy.

In their October Report the Sub-Committee on the Warren Schools, say, "We have frequently had our attention called to the subject of Truancy. This evil seems to be increasing; and it must be evident to any one who is in the City during school hours, that many boys are in the streets who ought to be engaged in study. It will be remembered that at the last session of the Legislature, a law was enacted having reference to this description of scholars. No action has been taken upon it either by the City government or by this Committee; but it would seem necessary that more stringent regulations should be made, or the law of the State enforced. At the present time you may find scholars of this class in all the streets and lanes, on the wharves and bridges of the City. Some are engaged in fishing: some in other sports, but more learning the first lessons of crime, and preparing to occupy the enlarged accommodations, which are now in process of erection by the State in the westerly part of the City. It cannot be denied that the influence of these upon other scholars is decidedly injurious: and while all means should be, and we believe are, used by our Teachers to remedy the evil, they are entirely powerless—the evil still exists—and while children are upheld in this course by their parents, and while there exists a disposition to consider the matter of trifling importance, the evil will not be removed."

Superintendent of Schools.

The Sub-Committee of the Harvard Schools in their October Report to the Board give a good reason for the appointment of an officer who should exercise a more immediate supervision over the schools than they can have from the school committee as at present constituted. They say "It is impossible for members of the school committee, selected as they are from the active business men of the city, to devote to the interests of the schools the time and labor which those interests imperatively demand." The school committee express their entire conviction that the appointment of a "Superintendent of Schools" would be of great advantage to all the schools—and they recommend that the city government, if found requisite, apply to the Legislature for authority of Law, to enable the school committee to appoint and fix the salary of an officer, whose duty it shall be to have the general supervision of all the schools in this city; to visit them all at least once in every month, and to spend sufficient time in each to enable him to understand the relative merits of the several Teachers, and the progress of each school; also to make once in every quarter a detailed report to the Board of School Committee of the result of his enquiries and observations, with such comments as he might deem proper, having in view the best interests of the numerous children in this city.

In conclusion the school committee in resigning the trusts confided to them again call the attention of their fellow citizens to the condition of the schools as exhibited in this Report. The force employed in the schools is not sufficient to carry them on as they should be. The average attendance in the schools allows to each Scholar but a very small portion of the Teacher's time. One who has not looked into this matter will be surprised to find that, deducting the time lost in getting the school under way, forenoon and afternoon, the time taken for recess and that for matters purely of discipline, the time left, divided among all the scholars present, is so very small. The remedy for this is obvious: either increase the number of schools, or increase the number of Teachers in those already established.

SCHOOL RETURNS,
AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

HIGH AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

High School, Bunker-Hill . . . No. 1. } " " " No. 2. } Warren, No. 1. " " " No. 2. Winthrop, No. 1. " " " No. 2. Harvard, No. 1. " " " No. 2.	Term Ending April 30th, 1850.					Term Ending October 31st, 1850.											
	80	32	48	73	27	46	73	64	4	125	55	70	86	39	47	95,12	83
250	122	128	224	115	109	190	184	16	117	58	59	87	44	43	78,5	76	12
249	114	135	179	78	101	145	151	37	142	76	66	106	51	55	84	91	10
230	105	125	188	91	97	156	156	56	273	119	154	172	87	85	144,7	152	66
210	109	101	170	96	74	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	140	20	142	107	113	173	83	90	147,4	160	57
207	104	103	153	76	77	135	117	14	250	135	115	181	107	74	151,8	164	30
262	144	118	186	106	80	171	131	23	185	93	92	140	67	73	118	122	31
267	137	130	196	100	96	172, $\frac{1}{8}$	157	29	231	127	104	170	91	79	135,5	138	24
1755	867	888	1369	689	680	1188,3	1100	199	246	126	120	178	91	87	149,6	156	13
						1188,3	1100	199	1789	896	893	1293	660	633	1104,6	1142	262

No. of visits of School Committee.

No. Schools.	Primary Schools. Teachers' Names	Location of Schools.	Whole No. Scholars, Winter T.	Boys.	Girls.	No in Sch'l close W. T.	Boys.	Girls.	Average attendance for 6 mos.	Present at examinat'n	No. of visits of S. Comm	Names of Sub-Committee.
1	Mary J. Brown,	Near Bunker-Hill School-House,	95	46	39	60	33	27	48	48	11	I. W. Blanchard,
2	M. B. Skilton,	Mead street,	91	50	41	64	32	32	42	55	4	I. W. Blanchard,
3	H. M. Sampson,	Rear of 187 Main street,	92	58	34	76	45	31	56	61	16	C. Soule Cartee,
4	H. M. Rice,	Basement of Warren S. House,	73	42	31	69	40	29	47	61	12	Andrew K. Hunt,
5	M. H. Farnsworth,	Elm street, near High,	75	35	40	66	33	33	50	59	17	Andrew K. Hunt,
6	Olive M. Fuller,	Elm street, near Medford,	101	56	67	70	39	31	83	50	1	H. K. Frothingham
7	S. L. Sawyer,	Main street, rear of 162,	85	38	47	72	34	38	48	62	7	C. Soule Cartee,
8	E. A. Thorndike,	Corner of Cross and Bartlett streets,	54	34	20	48	32	16	42	40	10	C. W. Moore,
9	S. E. Woodbridge,	Corner of Cross and Bartlett streets,	70	49	29	46	25	21	50	41	12	C. W. Moore,
10	E. Ennes,	Common street,	59	32	27	56	29	27	39	50	8	J. G. Fuller,
11	J. S. Putnam,	Bow street,	86	49	37	72	41	31	59	59	7	J. G. Fuller,
12	M. E. M. Pennel,	Common street,	67	37	30	44	22	22	40	44	10	Wm. Tufts,
13	M. E. Lincoln,	Bow street,	79	41	38	68	37	31	45	55	3	Geo. P. Sanger,
14	S. E. Smith,	Bow street,	93	41	52	64	30	34	48	58	4	Wm. Tufts,
15	J. E. Rugg,	Bow street,	77	36	41	58	26	32	42	52	6	Geo. Psa nger,
16	A. E. Hinckley,	Common street,	105	56	49	80	46	34	48	55	9	Henry Lyon,
17	E. W. Butts,	Bunker-Hill street, at Point,	103	47	56	85	34	51	56	76	6	Wm. Sawyer,
18	L. A. Pratt,	Bunker-Hill street, at Point,	103	58	45	78	42	36	56	64	7	Wm. Sawyer,
19	S. E. Sanborn,	Moulton street,	82	42	40	65	33	32	47	53	6	Wm. Sawyer,
20	E. C. Hunting,	Winthrop street,	67	31	36	65	29	36	44	62	7	J. G. Fuller,
21	F. P. Hunting,	Corner of Sullivan and Bartlett sts.,	89	47	42	71	37	34	52	62	17	Geo. Cutler,
22	M. A. Lane,	Corner of Sullivan and Bartlett sts.,	80	34	46	65	30	35	38	60	7	Geo. Cutler,
23	M. A. Osgood,	Common street,	50	27	23	45	25	20	31	38	7	H. K. Frothingham
24	A. M. Gregory,	Common street,	57	31	26	54	30	24	41	44	5	Henry Lyon,
25	M. R. Mayhew,	Ward Room of Ward 2.	78	39	39	52	25	27	44	48	22	Geo. Cutler.
			2031	1056	975	1593	829	764	1196	1357	231	

No. of Schools.	RETURNS, &C., OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, October 31, 1850.	Teachers' Names.	Whole No. Scholars for Summer Term.		No. at the close of the Term.		Average attendance for Summer Term.		Present at examination.	No. visits of S. Comm.	
			Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			
1	Mary J. Brown,		124	68	56	86	47	39	58	75	11
2	M. B. Skilton,		112	55	57	88	42	46	59	82	7
3	H. H. Sampson,		103	54	49	78	37	41	54	55	24
4	H. Maria Rice,		84	50	34	78	47	31	59	67	22
5	Maria H. Farnsworth,		86	46	40	69	38	31	51	57	15
6	Rebecca T. Ames,		111	58	53	80	44	36	59	60	14
7	Susan L. Sawyer,		86	48	38	61	33	28	46	56	14
8	Julia M. Ranstead,		68	40	28	61	35	26	44	58	26
9	Sarah E. Woodbridge,		67	36	31	47	24	23	41	43	23
10	Elizabeth Emmes,		77	39	38	60	32	28	48	58	7
11	Joanna S. Putnam,		90	45	45	75	39	36	60	65	6
12	Maria E. M. Pennell,		86	46	40	54	29	25	45	48	12
13	Martha E. Lincoln,		82	43	39	67	32	35	49	58	14
14	Sarah E. Smith,		90	37	53	76	32	44	55	70	15
15	Jane E. Rugg,		82	36	46	70	30	40	49	68	8
16	Abby E. Hinckley,		118	63	55	76	40	36	55	60	10
17	Elizabeth W. Butts,		120	54	66	82	37	45	59	67	9
18	Eleanor Butts,		101	56	45	77	41	36	50	64	19
19	Louisa Huntress,		88	45	43	75	38	37	50	65	4
20	Elizabeth E. Hunting,		84	36	48	58	25	33	44	44	5
21	Louisa P. Hunting,		88	45	43	75	36	39	52	68	9
22	Frances M. Lane,		120	52	68	97	45	52	60	75	16
23	Mary A. Osgood,		68	35	33	57	28	29	45	51	4
24	C. M. Chamberlain,		63	35	28	48	28	20	45	42	10
25	Henrietta M. Sanborn,		82	42	40	63	35	28	48	55	23
			2280	1164	1116	1758	894	864	1285	1511	327

HENRY LYON, CHAIRMAN.

Charlestown, Nov. 1850.

In School Committee, Nov. 21, 1850.

Voted, That the foregoing Report be adopted and twenty-five hundred copies be printed for distribution.

I. W. BLANCHARD, *Secretary.*





