

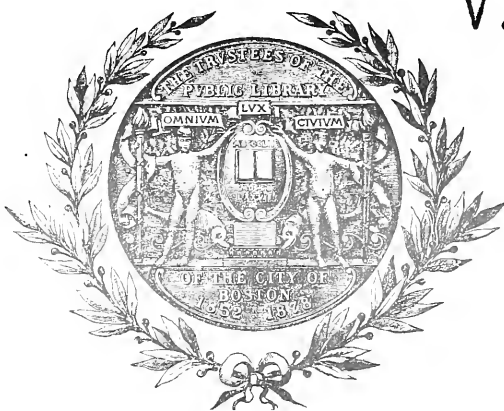
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
CITY OF CHARLESTOWN.

DECEMBER, 1860.



CHARLESTOWN :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM W. WHEILDON.
1861.

SCHOOL REPORT.

THE School Committee of the City of Charlestown, make the following report of their doings, and of the condition of the several public schools under their charge during the past year :

NEW SCHOOL-HOUSES.

One of the first acts of the Committee, after its organization, at the commencement of the year, was the appointment of a Sub-Committee to petition the City Council for the erection of two new Primary School-houses. The petition was presented and referred to the Committee on City Property, with instructions to confer with the School Committee in regard to locations, plans of buildings, &c., the result of which conference was the selection of a lot of land on Mead street, and another on Moulton street, on which have been erected two brick buildings, each to accommodate four primary schools, and a description of which we give, as follows : The school-house on Mead street is built upon a lot of land about sixty-seven feet by ninety feet, and it is set back twenty feet from the line of the street. This

gives a spacious front yard, which is enclosed with an iron fence set upon a stone foundation, and paved all over with brick. The passage from the front yard to those in the rear, and the walks in the back yards are also paved with brick. The back yards are enclosed with planed board fences seven feet high, and each of them is provided with a good well and pump, and everything which the comfort and convenience of the scholars will require. The building is of brick, with vaulted walls sixteen inches thick, and is fifty-eight feet long by thirty feet wide, and two stories, of eleven feet each, high. Each story is divided into two school rooms, 28 feet long by 19 feet 6 inches wide, and two clothes rooms, 7 feet by 10 feet, entered only through the school rooms, and suitable halls. The stairways are made with an easy rise in two runs, with a platform landing at one-half the height. The rooms are each lighted with six windows placed on opposite sides to give a good and rapid ventilation. All the rooms and entries are finished entirely with hard pine, well oiled and varnished, and fitted up with proper platforms, blackboards, hooks, &c. Each of the rooms will be furnished with *fifty-eight* seats and desks, similar in style to those in the Grammar Schools, but of a new and much improved pattern. The building is heated by one of Bryant's hot air furnaces of the largest size. The cellar is well drained and cemented. The building on Moulton street is of the same general plan as that on Mead street, but it is heated with a "McGregor" instead of a "Bryant" furnace. The lot of land is 62 feet by 110 feet, and the school-house is set back from the street—the front yard being enclosed with an iron

fence, and the rear with wooden fences, as in Mead street. The buildings are well proportioned and substantial, and every way creditable to the contractor, Mr. J. B. Wilson, and to the city. The cost of the one on Mead street, with the lot, \$9,028.43; of that on Moulton street, \$10,395.00; cost of furniture, \$650 for each building.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL-HOUSES, &c.

The upper story of the High School house was furnished early in the year, with settees, desks, &c., and with the exception of some defect in the ventilation, and the manner of heating, the condition of things about the building is all that could be desired. We are decidedly of the opinion that it will not only add much to the comfort of the school, but will be for the interest of the city to dispense with the stoves now in use, and arrange for warming the rooms with a furnace and hot air pipes; and at the same time, with small expense, the defective ventilation may be remedied. The Grammar School-houses are in good condition, and have been carefully looked after by the Committee on City Property during the year. Some of the Grammar Schools are at times much crowded, a difficulty which must ere long be obviated by additional school accommodations. An alteration of the Bunker Hill School-house may be made by the addition of another story; and the Winthrop School building, which is very badly arranged inside, may be so altered, we think, as to better accommodate a much larger number of scholars. The manner of warming the Grammar School-houses would be much improved by the use of furnaces;

and the saving of fuel, and the cost of putting up and taking down and repairs of stoves, would soon pay the expense of the alteration. We hope before another winter that these changes will be made. When the *Primary* School districts are re-arranged, and the new buildings occupied, most of the schools will be well provided for. Since the destruction, by fire, of the little school-house on Charles street, School No. 1 has occupied a very unsuitable room in the third story of a store on Main, near Cambridge street; and we have suggested to the Committee on City Property, that the removal of the building now occupied by School No. 2, to some favorable lot of land on the Neck, would remedy this difficulty. It would be well, too, we think, to dispose of the old building on Elm street, and provide a more suitable one for that school. The old building in the rear of the Gun-house, on Bunker Hill street, is hardly creditable to the city. The location is a fine and healthy one, and a small expenditure on the building during the coming year, would be wise, in our judgment. These improvements, with a change of furniture in a few of the *Primary* School-houses, would require but a moderate addition to the city expenses for the coming year, and we hope will be thought of when the annual appropriations are being made up.

SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURE.

The estimate of the Board, of the amount which would be required for the support of the schools, the present financial year, was Forty-six Thousand Dollars. (\$46,000); which sum was appropriated by the City

Council. The amount already expended, is \$32,934.91, leaving a balance of \$13,065.09, which will certainly more than cover the expenses for the remainder of the year. If our estimate of the additional expenses is reliable, we think there will be an unexpended balance of more than \$2000, to the credit of the School appropriation on the 1st of March, 1861, and we shall be very glad if it proves so, for we have appreciated the liberality of the City Council, and have endeavored so to expend the money placed at our disposal as to justify the confidence reposed in us.

TRUANCY—ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL.

We are sorry that we have reason to make another appeal to the City Council and to the officers appointed to carry into effect the ordinance in relation to Truants and absentees from school. But we should fall short of our duty did we not reiterate what we have expressed in previous reports, that too little interest is taken in this subject, and but little if any effort is made to enforce the law. The ordinance was passed for the purpose of accomplishing something towards the cure of the evil of Truancy, and the City Alms-house was assigned as the "institution of instruction, house of reformation or suitable situation" required by the law of the Commonwealth, for the commitment of truants and absentees from school; and *sometimes* when complaints are made, they are sentenced and taken by the duly appointed truant officer to this place, but no proper provision for their care and instruction while there has ever yet been made. They have been allowed to

run away with impunity, and so loosely has the whole affair been managed, that instead of checking or lessening the evil, it has rather had the effect to aggravate and increase it. Truancy is a great evil, and we should all be alive to the fact that a few idle, neglected, mischievous children can greatly disturb any community. The interest of all our children and the happiness of all our parents, the comfort and usefulness of teachers, the proper care of our schools, the quiet and security of our people generally, all demand that the utmost vigilance should be used in counteracting the evil influence which neglectful parents, and neglected children, are continually exerting, and besides we should never disregard or be remiss in the duty which we owe to these unfortunate children themselves—to care for, to instruct and to protect them from the dangers and troubles which beset and surround them. We earnestly hope that greater interest will be manifested in this matter hereafter, and that when we refer again to the City Ordinance in relation to Truants, it will be to speak of it as a faithfully executed and efficient law. And here, as this report is intended for general circulation, we desire to add a word or two which we hope will meet the eyes of all parents who have children in the schools; and if any of them have not realized it before, we trust they will not fail to understand the truth of our remark, that *constant attendance* is indispensable to the success of the scholar and the interest of the school, while frequent absence for slight causes, is the step towards the greater evil of utter dislike of school and truancy.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

During the past year the changes of teachers in these schools have been as follows:—In May, Miss Lane, who had charge of No. 1, resigned, and Miss Ellen M. Crafts was appointed to fill the vacancy. In September, Miss Sampson, by vote of the Board, was granted leave of absence for six months, and Miss M. J. Smith was placed in charge of her school (No. 3) until her return. On the 23d of October, the Board received the resignation of Miss Susan L. Sawyer, the teacher of School No. 7, to take effect at the end of the term. Miss Sawyer had been employed in the schools as a teacher, for a very long time, and a vote of thanks for her faithful and efficient services, offered by the Sub-Committee on her school, was passed unanimously by the Board. Her place has since been filled by the election of Miss M. A. Foster. Miss Mary A. Pillsbury, who was elected on the 21st of June to fill a vacancy in No. 27, has since been transferred to the Intermediate School No. 2, and Miss Susan V. Moore has been elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by this change.

No alterations have been made during the year in the Primary School Districts, notwithstanding some of the schools have been very full, and in one or two instances altogether too large for the care of the teachers. This inconvenience has been suffered and submitted to, by the Committee and teachers, while the new Primary School buildings were being erected, with the expectation that a new arrangement of all the districts would be made as soon as they were ready for occupation. The new buildings are now nearly completed, and a

Committee has been appointed to re-arrange the districts, so that comfortable accommodations for schools of reasonable size, will soon be the condition of the Primary department of our school system.

The semi-annual examination of the Primary Schools have generally warranted favorable reports. Many of the teachers are admirably fitted for their work, and most of them have given evidence of fidelity and efficiency. "They secure good order without any direct effort at governing—vary the exercises of the school with great tact and skill, so as to keep the children employed without wearying them, and win their confidence and love by uniform kindness and attention.—They look carefully after the manners and habits of their pupils, and are patient in explaining their studies and duties." These are some of the excellencies of many of the Primary School teachers, which have attracted the attention of the Sub-Committees, and have been mentioned in their reports to the Board. With so many schools as we have in the city it can hardly be expected that all of them will be kept up to a proper standard of discipline and instruction, or that all the teachers will manifest that decided interest in children which is requisite for successful labor. Yet it should always be the aim of the Committee to secure such a state of things, and wherever there is evidence of unfitness or lack of adaptability, however unpleasant the task, the work of reform must be accomplished.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

We continue to think highly of these schools, and to rate them second to none in importance, not only to

the scholars who enjoy their advantages, but to the community. The class of children who attend them, need more than any other, the protection and interest of the public, and they should always be carefully and faithfully dealt with. We are happy to present very favorable extracts from the reports of the Sub-Committee on both schools. Of No. 1, in May, the Committee remark:—"We have visited this school frequently since our appointment, and always with pleasure and satisfaction. The teacher maintains fully her high character. She is patient and thorough in her instruction; good order always prevails; the scholars are contented and happy, and make rapid progress. Twenty-four of them were sent up to the Grammar Schools after the last examination, and they were fully qualified for the promotion." In November, they add:—"We are more than ever convinced that this teacher is fitly placed in charge of the class of children who are under her care and instruction. Twenty-one pupils were found qualified to enter the Grammar Schools at the examination in October." Concerning School No. 2, the Committee report in May as follows:—"The teacher appears much attached to the scholars and shows an earnest desire to do her whole duty; and under her energetic and judicious management we are confident the school will continue to maintain its well-earned reputation." The report in November, alludes to the resignation of Miss Trowbridge and to the appointment of Miss Pillsbury, who had but recently entered upon her duties, but whose experience and success heretofore as a teacher warrant the expectation that she will make good the place of her predecessor.

BUNKER HILL SCHOOL.

WILLIAM H. SANDERS, Principal.

L. A. DARLING, Sub-Master.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNIE M. LUND,
MARTHA A. BIGELOW,
CAROLINE E. BIGELOW,CAROLINE PHIPPS,
PHEBE A. KNIGHTS,
MARY S. THOMAS.*Sub-Committee*—HENRY C. GRAVES,
HORACE B. WILBER,
HERBERT CURTIS,
SAMUEL M. POOK.

In their May report, the Committee say:—"We have endeavored to give a careful and thorough examination to each department of the school. Sufficient time has elapsed since the changes in the building were made to enable us to judge of the benefits resulting. There is a marked improvement through the entire school, especially in the discipline and order. Some of the divisions may be considered as models in these particulars. Division No. 1, has always satisfied the Committee, both as to discipline and thorough mental training. Almost every pupil could give a rationale of recitation with clearness and ease; and where analysis can best be applied, as in Arithmetic and Grammar, that has been the course pursued. We are entirely convinced of the faithfulness and ability of the teacher. His manner of instructing is calculated to give character to his pupils and to develop quick and accurate thinking and mental power. The second division has some excellent scholars, and showed considerable discipline of mind. The Sub-Master exhibits a commendable knowledge of the improved methods of instruction. Each one of the assistant teachers now employed in the school, is believed to be faithful and well adapted to the

position she occupies. While there are some things of lesser importance, we would correct, in general we are unanimous in commending the course of instruction in each of these divisions. In some of the classes the Reading was excellent; while in each division and every recitation, the pupils showed a promptness and clearness of perception, which made it a positive pleasure to conduct the examinations. The good effect of instruction in Music was very evident. The exhibition was largely attended, and afforded evident gratification. We doubt, however, the practical utility of school exhibitions as at present conducted. An exhibition of what the scholars can do in the various branches of study taught in the schools, would be far more useful, and we believe more satisfactory to the majority of parents." In November the Committee remark: "Each pupil in division No. 1 was carefully questioned in all the studies pursued during the half year, and the rank estimated according to the standard commonly employed in the school—*five* being the perfect mark. In deportment there were no failures. To each of the scholars test questions were given, selected at random from the text books. Of 28 pupils examined, one made no mistake, eight were marked fractionally between 4 1-2 and 5, thirteen 4 to 4 1-2, four between 3 and 4, two between 2 and 3. The average percentage of recitation was 66 plus. This examination shows just what the pupils can do when thrown entirely upon their own responsibility. The instructor, as in previous reports, we recommend as efficient and faithful.

"The same course of examination was adopted in the second division, under the charge of the Sub-

Master. We express our gratification at the decided improvement made during the term, both in government and the mode of instructing. In this division one pupil was marked nearly perfect, two between 4 1-2 and 5, sixteen ranged from 4 to 4 1-2, fifteen from 3 to 4, two from 2 to 3. The number examined was 39 minus. Percentage of scholarship, including deportment, 60. We are confident this average is much better than that of last spring's examination; and can therefore recommend the teacher with greater confidence to the Board. Division No. 3 showed the great amount of patient drill bestowed upon it, and the general readiness of answer in all the lessons, and the good order which prevailed. Division No. 4 seemed a model for thorough discipline and accurate instruction. Division No. 5 appears not to have fallen behind in rank that of former examinations. No. 6 is also in good condition. The teacher of No. 7 is qualifying herself constantly in that which is wanting in young teachers, namely, experience, and we pronounce her faithful in her position. No. 8 is the largest and most fluctuating division in the school. It is often overcrowded with scholars, especially directly after the promotions from the Primary Schools. The Committee are of opinion that it will be necessary, ere long, to re-arrange the school and form a new division; to accomplish which the building will have to be enlarged by the addition of another story, which may be finished as one room. A hall of this character is needed for singing and other general exercises."

HARVARD SCHOOLS.

TEACHERS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
C. SOULE CARTEE, Principal.	JOSEPH B. MORSE, Principal.
ASSISTANTS.	ASSISTANTS.
ANN E. WESTON,	ELIZABETH SWORDS,
MARTHA BLOOD,	CAROLINE S. CROZIER,
SARAH E. ARCHER.	HANNAH J. BLISS.

Sub-Committee—WILLIAM W. WHEILDON,
EDWIN F. ADAMS,
G. WASHINGTON WARREN.

We extract the following from the reports of the Sub-Committee :—“The several divisions of School No. 1 were examined by different members of the Committee, and were found to have made the usual progress in their studies. The pupils were quite ready to answer the questions put to them, and to perform such exercises in Arithmetic and Grammar as are customarily required. In Reading and Spelling, the first division exhibited commendable proficiency. The school was neat and orderly, and it always gives evidence of being under good discipline. School No. 2 was examined early in April, and was entirely satisfactory. The first division was small, and has had for some time the whole attention of the Principal, the good results of which were apparent in the examination. The teachers appear to be in all respects faithful to the trusts reposed in them.” “The examination in November, found School No. 1 in all its departments in a satisfactory condition. The Principal is a careful and conscientious teacher, who always manifests a deep interest in the success of his scholars. He has methods of instruction peculiar to himself, and in his hands they are promotive of good results. The assistant teachers in this school have been long in their present places, and are

still entitled to the confidence and commendation of the Committee. They keep up the system heretofore practiced and continued, and we believe do all that can be done for the advancement of the scholars. Of School No. 2, we have nothing particular to say, except that in its several divisions it appeared to be in as good condition as at any former period; and the teachers continue to be attentive and faithful."

WARREN SCHOOL.

GEORGE SWAN, Principal.

WILLIAM BAXTER, Sub-Master.

MARY A. OSGOOD,

MARIA BROWN,

MARY J. FULLER,

MARGARET VEAZIE,

REBECCA M. PERKINS,

JULIA A. WORCESTER.

Sub-Committee—GEORGE B. NEAL,
CALVIN C. SAMPSON,
HENRY K. FROTHINGHAM,
CHARLES F. SMITH.

In May, the Sub-Committee remark as follows:—
“ Since the date of our last report, we have visited this school often. It has also had frequent visits from other members of the Board, and from teachers of schools in other cities, who have expressed themselves highly pleased with the order of the school and the proficiency and readiness of the pupils. Not the least attractive part of the exercises has been the Vocal Music, which, under the efficient training and instruction of the Principal, has been brought to a greater degree of perfection than is generally attained in a public school. The semi-annual examination was conducted as usual by the Committee, who are happy to bear witness to the continued zeal, and faithfulness of the teachers, which was clearly shown in the condition of the school and the

advancement of the pupils in their studies. The exhibition was a pleasant occasion, and was very largely attended by the parents and friends of the children. We are of opinion that too much valuable time is expended, both by teachers and pupils, in preparation for these exhibitions, and that for a long time before, and several days after they take place, the school is in such a state of excitement, that little, if any progress is made in the studies; and that all this is allowed for a single afternoon's entertainment." From the November report, we extract the following:—"We have during the past six months made frequent visits to the school, and have heard recitations from the several classes in the various studies pursued by them, in order to form a correct judgment of the progress of the classes, and of the individuals composing them. We have also at different times in the day made short calls, to observe the appearance of the teachers and scholars while in working order. From these visits as well as from the semi-annual examinations, we have made up our minds that the progress of the pupils has been good, and that the parents as well as the Committee have reason to be gratified at the condition of the school."

WINTHROP SCHOOL.

TEACHERS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
B. F. S. GRIFFIN, Principal.	SAMUEL S. WILLSON, Principal.
ASSISTANTS.	ASSISTANTS.
SOPHIA W. PAGE,	NANCY M. CASWELL,
H. AUGUSTA ADAMS,	ABBY M. CLARK.
SARAH A. ODELL.	ANN M. HOBBS,
	AMELIA R. HAMILTON.

Sub-Committee—HENRY LYON,
JOHN SANBORN,
JAMES B. MILES.

In May, the Committee report as follows :—“ Sufficient time was given to the examination, which was conducted entirely by ourselves, to allow of a pretty thorough scrutiny of each class. Corresponding classes in both schools were examined as near as could be to each other, with a view of judging in regard to their relative advancement and the relative merits of the teachers. In general we report the school in a healthy condition. While decided differences were found to exist in the character of the instruction and training under the different teachers, nothing was found which appeared to us to call for special mention to the Board. We found some of the teachers making greater efforts than others, and some more successful than others, and we shall endeavor by admonition and friendly counsel, to stimulate the backward and correct the faulty, with the hope and expectation of decidedly good results.”

The Committee say that in their opinion a *Superintendent of Schools* is greatly needed. That Sub-Committees can at best become but very imperfectly acquainted with the schools under their charge. They

cannot devote time enough to them, and some one who has the time, and whose business it should be to visit and look after all the schools, should be employed by the city, and paid for his services.

In November, the Committee say:—"Our examination of the school has been as thorough as the limited time at our disposal would allow, and the result afforded, on the whole, about the usual amount of satisfaction. As is generally the case, some classes acquitted themselves finely, while others did but tolerably well. We have made this difference the subject of special attention at the school, the effects of which, we have no doubt, will be seen in the improved condition of things at future examinations." They allude again to the great need of a *Superintendent of Schools*, and say they "are more than ever convinced that in such a place as Charlestown it is a real want." "In the Winthrop School there are ten divisions, and each division has at least two classes, no one of which pursues less than five studies, including Reading, Spelling and Writing, and to suppose that the Sub-Committee can become very much acquainted with all these classes during the brief and infrequent visits which are made in term time, or that in the time provided in the School Regulations for the semi-annual examinations, they can form a correct judgment of the character and ability of the teacher, or of the standing of the school, is absurd. A Superintendent of Schools could examine thoroughly, and make comparisons between the different divisions, which would be of real service."

PRESCOTT SCHOOL.

TEACHERS. •

JOSEPH T. SWAN, Principal.
STACY BAXTER, Sub-Master.

ASSISTANTS.

SARAH M. CHANDLER,		ABBY L. SWAN,
MARY JANE BROWN,		JOSEPHINE M. FLINT,
H. A. T. DADLEY,		FRANCES M. CLARK,
HANNAH M. SAWYER,		AMY E. BRADFORD.

Sub-Committee—JAMES ADAMS,
ABRAM E. CUTTER,
GUSTAVUS V. HALL,
TIMOTHY T. SAWYER.

In May, the Committee remark:—"The general condition of this school has not much changed since our last report. The teachers are faithful, and worthy of the confidence of the scholars, their parents and the Committee. The Board having concluded to reduce the number of teachers to ten, the Principal has to take the whole charge of the classes in one room; and it will be expedient, we think, to relieve him from the responsibility and labor of superintending a part of the lower divisions, and to place them under the care of the Sub-Master. Indeed, an arrangement of this kind seems to be absolutely necessary; and we are of opinion that if two equal and separate divisions can be formed, it will be for the comfort and advantage of the whole school. As this school is located near large tracts of open and unoccupied land, which afford peculiar facilities for the congregation of vagrant and truant boys during school hours, who at times disturb the school, and tempt the scholars to wrong doing, the question is often suggested, Why cannot the laws be enforced and the evils of Truaney be met and removed? And the only answer that we can get to this question, is the unsatisfactory one, that the city makes no provi-

sion for the payment of the officers they appoint to look up unruly and truant children, but only proposes in the terms of the law to pay them in *fees* for as many as become so notorious and bad as to be brought before the magistrate. This is surely wrong, and the good of our community requires the employment of officers to follow up exposed and tempted children, and to deal properly with truancy in every stage, from the first offence to the inveterate habit."

In November, the Committee report :—"We have examined the several divisions and classes of the school, and find no marked change since the Spring report. With one exception the same teachers have been employed, and with about their usual success. The new teacher is trying hard to interest her pupils, and in the opinion of the member of the Committee having particular oversight of her room, with a good degree of success. In a former report a suggestion was made in relation to a division of the work of superintendence of the lower divisions, between the Principal and Sub-Master. We are now decidedly of opinion that this change should be made. The school is very large, having 515 pupils on its roll, and it is impossible for a teacher having special care of one of the higher divisions to give that attention to all the other divisions which they need. And we see no reason why there should not be parallel divisions throughout the school, culminating in two parallel first divisions from which promotions can be made to the High School. We commend this subject to the early attention of the new Sub-Committee."

VOCAL MUSIC.

The experiment of making *Vocal Music* one of the regular studies in the Grammar Schools, which the granting of our request for an appropriation by the City Council, has enabled us to try, has proved successful. And the Sub-Committee of this Board, having the matter in charge, speak of it as follows:—“The progress made by the scholars is of a highly gratifying character. The teacher employed has a happy faculty of imparting to children an elementary knowledge of rhythm and melody. The time devoted to this study is two hours per week in each school, and although some children cannot learn to sing well, all may derive benefit, physically and morally, from the introduction of this delightful change in the routine of duty.”

HIGH SCHOOL.

Principal—CHARLES E. STETSON.
Sub-Master, J. M. FAIRFIELD.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS.

KATHARINE WHITNEY,		MARY CURTIS,
FRANCES M. READ,		HELEN F. WEST.

SUB-COMMITTEE.

TIMOTHY T. SAWYER,
G. WASHINGTON WARREN,
WILLIAM W. WHEILDON,
JAMES ADAMS,
HENRY LYON.

The report in May speaks of the school as follows:—
“The teachers continue to maintain good reputations, and are pursuing their duties faithfully. This opinion is expressed as the result of the examinations. The general aspect of each of the divisions, the quiet and happy appearance of the scholars, their respectful man-

ner towards their teachers and towards each other, their willing attention to their studies and their manifest interest in the character and progress of the school, afforded conclusive evidence that a healthy influence had been exerted, and that tact and judgment had been successfully exercised by the directing minds in the school. With so large a number of scholars, it is of course to be expected that some will fail to make the best use of their advantages, and that others will be unequal to the mental requirements of the school; and so fall behind in their classes, or be unprepared for advancement. Such cases were found to be few, and were disposed of after consultation with the Principal, in the manner thought to be most promotive of the interest of all concerned in them. And in this connection we would remark that the experiment authorized by the Committee of last year, of allowing some scholars to deviate from the studies required by the rules of the Board, has failed to show such results as to warrant its continuance. The teachers are unanimously of the opinion, that each of the scholars in each class should be required to pursue *all* the studies of the class; and that confusion in the school, and injury to the scholars has been uniformly the result when special privileges have been granted. It may be that the course of studies now required by the rules of the Board, can be changed to advantage. But this should only be after careful investigation and deliberation by a Committee, and not because of requests made by parents, and based, as is generally the case, on the wish of their children to be relieved from studies not particularly interesting or pleasing to them.

“The exhibition of the school took place on the 19th of April. It was as successful, we think, as any of the previous exhibitions, and on some accounts an improvement upon them—less time being taken up by it, and some things deemed by many persons to be objectionable being omitted entirely. The Committee believe that there is a growing opinion among our people that these exhibitions had better be discontinued. Those who know how much time is taken in preparation for them, which could certainly be more profitably employed, are decidedly of this opinion. And those who judge from what takes place on the day of exhibition, and compare the interest and enjoyment of the occasion, with the disappointment and dissatisfaction which grows out of the necessity for limiting the number of tickets of admission, are also generally disposed to doubt at least their utility and the good policy of continuing them. The Committee, understanding both the amount of time misappropriated, and the *impossibility* of distributing *satisfactorily*, the number of tickets warranted by the capacity of the largest hall in the city, are very glad to fall in with the adverse opinion, and they recommend such a change in the rules of the Board as will *dispense with the annual exhibition of the High School*, and substitute therefor public days, at the School-House, at such times as the Sub-Committee may deem to be convenient and advantageous.”

In November, the Committee allude to the resignation of Mr. GAY, the former Principal, which took place on the 19th of September, unexpectedly, and on very short notice, and they add, “under the circumstances we were obliged to make the best arrangement we could

for the school. Mr. STETSON, the Sub-Master, (who was on the 4th of October elected Principal,) was at once placed in charge of Mr. GAY'S classes, and entrusted with the management of the school, and an additional female assistant (Miss WEST) was temporarily appointed by the Committee. This arrangement was continued until October 26, when Mr. J. M. FAIRFIELD, the newly elected Sub-Master, entered upon his duties. Since that time the Board have elected Miss WEST as a permanent teacher, and the school is now amply supplied with instructors." The Committee add :—"It will be seen from the foregoing, that the school has labored under great disadvantages during the greater part of last term. With his mind on the formation of a private school which he has since established, it is hardly to be supposed that the former Principal kept up fully his interest in this, during that part of the term in which he remained in charge ; while with the changes which were made necessary by his resignation, and the increased care thrown upon the new Principal, it would be unreasonable to expect that everything would go on as smoothly, and as much progress be made, as if the case were otherwise. Yet the Committee believe that the new Principal, with his assistants, by extra attention and labor, have succeeded in overcoming these difficulties and in keeping up the character and standing of the school. In its examination we were assisted by Mr. MILES and Mr. GRAVES, of the School Board—the former of whom, by request, gave particular attention to the classes under the immediate instruction of the Principal, and the latter rendered good service in the examination of classes in Geometry and French. The

result of their labors is given in written communications annexed to and making part of our report. The other classes examined by us, were generally found to be in as good condition as heretofore. The order of the school is fully maintained, and so far it seems to be as *skillfully* disciplined under the new arrangement as the old. The new Principal has entered upon his duties with great interest and zeal, and the new Sub-Master stands well with the teachers and scholars, and bids fair to be an acceptable and successful teacher. Mr. GRAVES in his communication speaks of the classes examined by him as follows :—“The class in Geometry were beginners, but had evidently been thoroughly drilled in the principles of the science which they had discussed, and I was abundantly satisfied with the recitation. The two classes in French gave evidence of faithful and accurate instruction. I was especially pleased with the thorough manner in which the recitation was conducted by the first assistant teacher. I think the classes seemed to labor under the disadvantage of too frequent change of teachers, having had four different ones since commencing the language. Another fact which it appeared to me acted against a rapid and thorough progress was, that only two recitations were heard per week. French requires much practice *viva voce* to familiarize the pupils with the pronunciation, and I would suggest that the recitations should follow more immediately each other, and if no more time during the term can be given to the study, for a portion of the term there should be at least *four* recitations per week, which, it seems to me, would more than double the amount of actual knowledge acquired.” From the

communication from Mr. MILES we take the following: "I examined four classes in Latin and one class in Greek. I determined to occupy ample time and to make the examination so extensive and thorough as to satisfy myself in regard to the character of the instruction and the diligence and application of the pupils. I am happy to say the result was, with hardly an exception, highly gratifying. The Senior class, composed of about an equal number of Misses and Lads, read to me from the *Æneid* of Virgil, and rendered the Latin with a good degree of neatness and precision. In regard to the principles of Grammar, to which I give great prominence, I questioned the class somewhat freely, and was gratified with the evidences that they had given a commendable attention to these. This class is about to take up the subject of "Scanning," when the important departments of Ortheopy and Prosody will be made matters of especial study.

"Next in order came the College Class, which I carefully examined in Cæsar's Commentaries and Felton's Greek Reader. This class is in the first stage of preparation for College, and expect to enter one year from the next Commencement. It gave me great pleasure to find they had been taught upon the principle, that it is better to accomplish a little thoroughly and well, rather than go over a great deal of ground imperfectly. The class showed an unusual familiarity with those parts of the Greek Grammar to which they have attended. I regret there are in the School, no scholars who are to enter College the coming year. I also examined two large and interesting classes of beginners in Latin—one class in Latin Reader, the other in Latin Lessons.—

Both of these classes seem to be mastering, successfully the rudiments of Latin, and give good promise for the future.”



At the close of the term ending October 31, the schools, teachers and scholars numbered as follows :

27 Primaries, with	27 teachers,	1986 scholars.
2 Intermediate,	2 “	120 “
7 Grammar,	44 “	2172 “
1 High,	6 “	142 “
—	—	—
37 schools,	79 teachers,	4420 scholars.

The following tables will afford the required information concerning them :

It will be seen by reading the foregoing reports on the High and Grammar schools, that there are several subjects of importance and interest referred to, and recommended with some decision and emphasis. *The Public Exhibitions of the Schools*, which for a long time heretofore have been authorized and encouraged, and which have called together large companies of the parents and friends of the children and teachers, are thought now to be of no practical utility. They are made up of exercises and representations, which are well enough for amusement and recreation, and which children will be very apt to spend a good deal of time about, but which time should not be taken from school hours. Heretofore we have thought that perhaps the gain in interest in the school, would compensate for the loss of time which has been taken in preparation for, and recovery from the excitement of the exhibition, but more careful reflection upon, and inquiry into the matter, has convinced us that neither teachers or scholars are paid for their trouble, and that the pleasure of those who witness the exhibitions would be very much lessened, if they understood that the time taken in preparation was so considerable as really to interrupt the course of study, and retard seriously the progress of the school. We are inclined, therefore, to recommend a discontinuance of these exhibitions, and a substitution of public examinations, on public days, when visitors will be expected, when they can hear the recitations and witness and listen to the usual exercises of the school, and so form a fair judgment of how the

children are employed, of the course of instruction, and of the manners and influence of the teachers over the children entrusted to their care.

These remarks are intended to apply to the Grammar and High School exhibitions; but in the latter case there is an additional reason for the discontinuance of the exhibition, which is referred to in the report on the school, and which we will repeat in the remark, that until a more spacious and convenient public hall than any now within the limits of the city shall be provided, it will be impossible to have a satisfactory public exhibition of the High School.

Another matter referred to in the semi-annual reports, is that much talked of subject—a *Superintendent of the Schools*. The appointment of such an officer depends upon the passage of an ordinance by the City Council, authorizing it to be done. Without such an ordinance, the School Committee have no warrant, under the law, however much they may believe in its importance, to appoint or pay for the services of a School Superintendent. They can only appeal to the City Council; and this they have done by presenting, early in the year (February 13,) a memorial, referring to previous memorials, and setting forth some additional reasons why their request should be granted. The action upon the application of this year, so far as we have been able to learn, was a reference of the subject to the appropriate Joint Committee of the City Council, who have finished up their official year without making a report. So much has been said in previous reports on this subject, that it will be, perhaps, inexpedient and useless to enlarge upon it in this; nevertheless we

shall venture again to ask for a careful examination of the subject, and to express our unanimous judgment that the ordinance should be passed, a Superintendent appointed, and the experiment be fairly tried.

Our judgment is, that school privileges are afforded for our children, because that is the best use of so much of their time. Substantial and tasteful school-houses, neatly furnished, are provided, because the mind can be best developed and exercised, when the body is comfortable and the senses calm. And what is accomplished in the schools must be done by diligent and patient application to *study*. We know that children need physical exercise, amusement, and contact with the world, and that these are no less important than study and restraint; but we firmly believe that habits of industry, and application, are essential to the proper enjoyment and use of time. And the school-room is not the place to effect much in the way of physical exercise and developement, or to cultivate and gratify the lighter part of our natures. Employment for the mind and constant industry in that direction, should be the duty and desire for school hours. Freedom from restraint, activity and mirth, for hours of recreation. The cultivation of the affections—a generous friendship and an unselfish spirit, is an *unceasing* demand, at home, in school and in the world. That they may understand, be happy, and be useful, is what we aim at, and mean, by the education of our children.

By order of the Committee.

TIMOTHY T. SAWYER, President.

Charlestown, December, 1860.

GEO. B. NEAL, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH
TRUSTEES OF CHARLESTOWN FREE SCHOOLS.

Dr.

1860.	Jan. 1,	To Balance brought forward,	645.65
	" 3,	Interest on \$5000 note, 6 mos. of City Treasurer,	150.00
	" 3,	Tuition of sundry non-residents,	11.15
	May 11,	Interest on \$600 note, one year, of City Treasurer,	36.00
	July 3,	" \$5000 note, six months, "	150.00
			\$992.80

Cr,

	Jan. 24.	By paid Elliott & White, Cyclopædia No. 8,	3.50
	April 22,	" Mary Curtis, on acct. of salary,	12.50
	May 7,	" Elliott & White, Cyclopædia No. 9.	3.50
	" 14,	" E. S. Ritchie, repairing apparatus,	75
	" 14,	" Smith, Knight & Tappan, diplomas,	12.50
	Oct. 31,	" Elliott & White Cyclopædia No. 10,	3.50
			36.25
Balance in hands of Treasurer,			\$956.55
			992,80

GEORGE B. NEAL, Treasurer.

Charlestown, December 27, 1860.

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We the undersigned hereby certify that we have examined the above account, and have compared the several items thereof with their respective vouchers, and find the balance on hand to be nine hundred and fifty-six 55 100 dollars, (\$956.55.)

W. W. WHEILDON,
GUSTAVUS V. HALL, } Committee.
JOHN SANBORN,

Charlestown, Jan. 7, 1861.

