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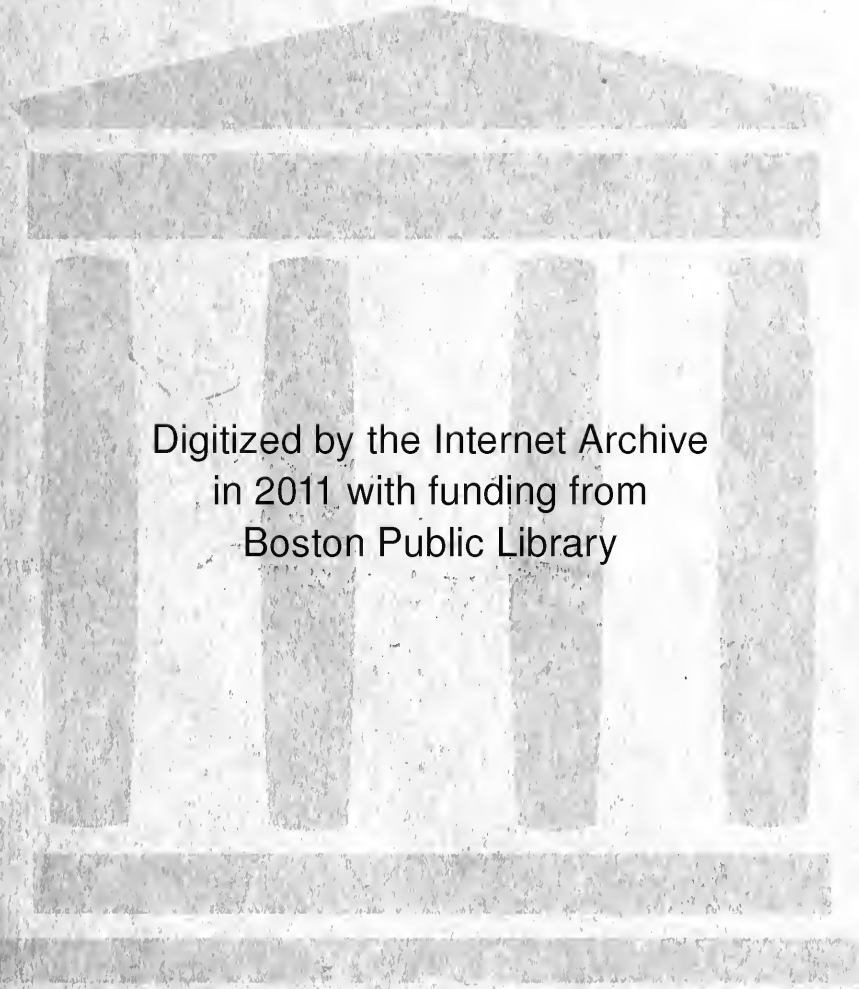
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Abram E. Cutler

SCHOOL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, 1847.

The Board of Trustees of Charlestown Free Schools, in compliance with the laws of this State, ask leave to present this their Annual Report of the Public Schools of Charlestown.

The time has again arrived, when it becomes the duty of your Board to make known to the citizens, their doings in that department of the municipal affairs of the City, entrusted to their direction, and to report upon the condition of our Public Schools.

At the Annual Town Meeting held in May last, a vote was passed authorizing your Board to purchase a lot of land on the corner of Sullivan and Bartlett Streets, and to erect thereon a two story wooden building for a Primary School House; they were also instructed to re-build the Primary School House in the rear of the Town House, and to erect a new building for the accommodation of a new Primary School to be formed for that section of the Town including Wapping, Water and a part of Chelsea Streets, &c.; and at the same meeting, certain repairs were authorized to be made on several of the School Houses in Town.

To enable the Board to effect the wishes expressed in the foregoing instructions, an appropriation of \$3,875 00 was made, which has been expended as follows, viz :—

For Land on corner of Sullivan and Bartlett Streets,	\$886 85	
For the Building erected thereon by Mr. Amos Brown,	\$1,512 73	
For Gravel for Yard, &c.	6 60	
		<hr/>
		\$2,406 18
For Primary School house in rear of the Town House, built by J. P. Moulton,	485 25	
For Primary School House erected on South side of Training Field lot, by Aaron Clark, 2d,	\$440	
For Fences and out-buildings, by Abijah Blanchard,	110	
		<hr/>
		\$550 00
For repairs of sundry School Houses,	280 50	
		<hr/>
		3,721 93
Balance of appropriation for above unexpended,	153 07	
		<hr/>
		\$3,875 00

There was also appropriated by the citizens at their meeting in May last, \$16,300, for the support of the schools for the "current year," which amount has been expended as follows, viz:

For Salaries of Teachers,	13,288 88	
“ Contingent expenses,	2,368 99	
		<hr/>
		15,657 87
Balance of above appropriation unexpended,	642 13	
		<hr/>
		\$16,300 00
Total amount of appropriations,	\$20,175 00	
“ “ “ expenditures,	19,379 80	
		<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$795 20	

The following Table presents a view of our Public Schools at the close of the year, ending April 1st.

	No.	No. of Teachers and Assistants.	Salaries.	Scholars.	Average Attendance	Average Absence.
Primary,	21	21	4,177 12	1,455	1,074	381
Grammar,	4	21	9,111 76	1,241	995	246

The members of the Board of Trustees, have made 164 visits to the Grammar Schools, and 442 to the Primary Schools during the past year.

Average visits to the 4 Grammar Schools, 41

“ “ “ “ 21 Primary “ 21

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The new Primary School, occupying the building erected on the Training Field, was organized on the 22d of July last, and placed under the charge of Miss M. A. C. Bodge; and that occupying the new building on the corner of Sullivan and Bartlett Streets, was organized on the 2d of November last, and Miss C. A. Goodridge was appointed as its Teacher. In June last, Miss Caroline Phipps was appointed to the charge of Primary School, No. 1, Miss Mary A. Lewis having been transferred to the Bunker Hill School, as Second Assistant Teacher. In the same month, Miss Elizabeth D. Moulton was appointed Second Assistant in the Grammar Department of the Winthrop School, and Miss Sarah A. Clark was appointed to her place in Primary School, No. 15. Miss E. M. Sweetser was appointed Teacher of Primary, No. 3, in place of Miss E. M. Whittemore, resigned. Miss M. E. Lincoln was appointed to Primary, No. 13, in place of Miss E. A. Blanchard, and Miss Susan L. Sawyer to Primary, No. 7, in place of Miss L. A. Keith.

The following table presents the number, attendance, &c., in our Primary Schools, at the last examination, closing April, 1847.

No.	Teachers' Names.	Location.	Sub-Committee for 1846-7.			
			Whole Number.	Average Attendance.	Present Examination.	
1	Caroline Phipps, .	Near B. Hill School House,	90	64	78	Joseph F. Tufts.
2	M. B. Skilton, ..	Mead Street,	62	48	54	N. Lamson.
3	E. M. Sweetser, .	Rear 187 Main Street,	72	49	55	J. F. Tufts.
4	M. A. Chandler, .	Warren School House,	54	40	49	Henry Lyon.
5	E. D. Pratt,	Elm Street,	64	47	60	N. Lamson.
6	F. A. Sawyer, ...	" "	59	48	48	Henry Lyon.
7	S. L. Sawyer,	Rear 162 Main Street,	79	54	52	J. G. Foster.
8	Mary J. Chandler,	Cor. Cross and Bartlett Sts.	67	55	67	James Adams.
9	S. F. Brown,	" " " " " "	76	55	65	N. Y. Culbertson.
10	Elizabeth Emes, .	Training Field,	65	51	57	George Farrar.
11	Jane S. Putnam, .	" "	73	53	54	George Farrar.
12	J. M. Burckes, ..	Bow Street,	58	48	49	J. G. Fuller.
13	M. E. Lincoln, ...	" "	77	57	48	J. G. Fuller.
14	S. E. Smith,	" "	73	54	69	J. W. Bemis.
15	S. E. Clark,	" "	76	75	51	J. W. Bemis.
16	M. Peabody,	Harvard Street,	69	50	53	H. K. Frothingham.
17	S. J. Bradbury, ..	Bunker Hill Street, at Point,	62	43	59	N. Y. Culbertson.
18	C. Brockett,	" " " " " "	77	60	55	James Adams.
19	M. M. Sanborn, ..	Moulton Street,	54	41	47	Jona. Brown, Jr.
20	M. A. C. Bodge, .	Training Field,	70	42	53	H. K. Frothingham.
21	C. A. Goodridge, .	Cor. Sullivan & Bartlett Sts.	78	40	68	H. K. Frothingham.

The salary of each of the Primary School teachers, is \$210 per annum.

The whole number of children in the Primary Schools on the 1st of April, 1846, was 1343.

1st of April, 1847, was 1455—increase the past year, 112.

Our Primary Schools, generally, will compare well with their condition in former years. In most of them, there has evidently been an advance from the year immediately preceding the past year.

In cultivating the mental powers of young children, there should not be so much anxiety to prove how rapidly, and how extremely they may be developed, as to prove that each step in the development is thorough.

It will not be found difficult for a child to be made to excel in almost any one acquirement, but it should be borne in mind at what hazard he is made to do so; for the extraordinary development of any one organ or power of the mind—especially in very early life, cannot be effected without risk of injurious consequences to the full development of all the powers of the mind or the body; consequences which it may not be possible to overcome or remove in after life. Teachers of youth will do well always to remember, that in exerting and exercising the mind, they are dealing with something which is dependent upon the body, and which requires physical aid, and therefore, an acquaintance on their part with physical anatomy and physiology; the relation between mind and body; is of great value to those who take upon themselves the important duty of cultivating and disciplining the human mind.

A distinguished Phrenologist says, in allusion to this subject, that “many parents strive to cultivate the intellect of their children, and neglect to fortify their constitution. They believe that children cannot too soon learn to read and write.—The mind ought never to be cultivated at the expense of the body; and physical education ought to precede that of the intellect, and then proceed simultaneously with it, without cultivating one faculty to the neglect of others—for health is the base, and instruction the ornament of education.”

WARREN SCHOOL.

This School is for both sexes, though each occupying separate rooms.

In June last, Miss M. E. Sprague was appointed second assistant teacher in the Grammar department in place of Miss M. A. C. Bodge; but Miss Sprague, having received an appointment in one of the Medford schools, in October last, her place was filled by Miss Emeline Brown. Miss Sarah E. Woodbridge, the first assistant teacher in the same department, was appointed to the charge of one of the Medford schools in November last, and Miss Frances H. Clark was appointed to her place.

Mr. Daniel H. Forbes, who has for several years filled the office of Principal in the Grammar department of this School, resigned his situation in February last, in consequence of ill health, — he was succeeded by Mr. Calvin S. Pennell, from the High School at Springfield.

This department of the Warren School has suffered from the frequent changes which have occurred in it during the past year, but we have every reason to feel confident, that with its present faithful and efficient teachers, it will rank high in comparison with the former merit which has been awarded to it. In the writing department no changes have occurred among the teachers, and we find here continued evidence of the fidelity and success of those who have the charge of this department.

The room formerly occupied for a Primary School room in the basement of the Warren School House, had been fitted for, and is now used as a recitation room for both departments of the School, and answers very well for this purpose.

WINTHROP SCHOOL.

Exclusively for Boys.

In June last, Miss E. D. Moulton was appointed second assistant teacher in the Grammar department of this School, in place of Miss M. A. Stover. Miss C. W. Lincoln, second assistant in the Writing department, having received an appointment in one of the Boston Schools, in July last, her place was filled by Miss Evelina A. Flint. Miss Caroline M. Sylvester, who has for several years filled the office of first assistant teacher in the same department, having resigned her place in August last, Miss Julia E. Hinckley was appointed as her successor.

The Writing department of this School continues in all respects steadily to improve, — the proficiency of the pupils will compare favorably with any former period: — and while the same may be said of the divisions under the assistants in the Grammar department, we should be highly gratified if we could feel warranted in bestowing equal praise upon the upper division of this department of the School.

HARVARD SCHOOL.

This School is for Girls only.

There has been no change of teachers in this School during the past year, and it sustains the high rank which it has heretofore enjoyed among our public Schools.

BUNKER HILL SCHOOL.

This School embraces both Sexes.

In June last, Miss Mary A. Lewis, was appointed second assistant teacher in place of Miss Caroline Phipps, who was appointed teacher of Primary School, No. 1; and in February last Miss Hannah S. Austin resigned her office as first assistant teacher, she having been appointed to one of the schools in Boston; her place is now filled by Miss Lucretia Foster.

Those who know of the former high character of this School, must be gratified to learn, that it exceeds the standing which it has heretofore enjoyed, and which it has justly merited.

No change has been made the past year in the mode of conducting the semi-annual examinations of our Schools;—half a day is usually spent in examining each of the Primary Schools, on these occasions; and from two to three days are devoted to each of the Grammar Schools. After the Spring examinations, there is a public exhibition in each Grammar School, and it is gratifying to the Teachers, Pupils and the Trustees, to meet so many of our citizens on occasions like these; it would be no less gratifying, if Parents and citizens generally, would at other times than at the exhibitions, visit our Schools more frequently than they have heretofore been accustomed to do; by doing so, they would become better acquainted with the teachers and their method of governing and conducting their Schools, and be less inclined to listen to the unfounded rumors which are sometimes put in circulation to the detriment of the best interests of our Schools.

The number of children in our Grammar Schools at the last examination, was as follows, viz :

In the Warren School,	355
“ “ Winthrop “	360
“ “ Harvard “	328
“ “ Bunker Hill “	198

Total, 1,241

The average daily absences in our Grammar Schools, during the past year, have been as follows :

Schools.	Whole Number during the year.	Whole Number at the close of the year.	Average Daily Attendance.	Per centage of absences.
Warren,	572	355	282	20 $\frac{5}{100}$
Winthrop,	508	360	282	18 $\frac{5}{100}$
Harvard,	454	328	261	18
Bunker Hill,	301	198	170	19 $\frac{5}{100}$

The number of children in our Public Schools for the year ending April, 1827, was as follows, viz :

In the District Schools outside of the neck, ..	225
In the Grammar Schools, within the neck, ...	632
In the Primary Schools, within the neck,	476
	1108
	Total, — 1333
Expense of supporting the Schools the same year, \$7,000.	

For the year ending April, 1837, as follows, viz :

In the District Schools, outside of the neck, .	294
In the Grammar School, on the Training Field,	249
In the Grammar School for Girls,	223
In the Grammar School, at neck,	122
	594
In the Primary Schools,	893
	1487
	Total, — 1781

Expense of supporting the Schools the same year, was as follows, viz :

For Salaries,	\$7914 50	
For Contingent Expenses,	1317 30	
		9231 80
For New School House at Prospect Hill,	904 49	
		Total, ——— 10,136 29

For the year ending April, 1847, as follows, viz :

In the 4 Grammar Schools,	1241	
In the 21 Primary Schools,	1455	
		Total, ——— 2696

Expense of supporting the Schools the same year was as follows :

For Salaries,	\$13,288 88	
For Contingent Expenses,	2,368 99	
		15,657 87
For Land, New Buildings, &c.,	3,721 93	
		Total, ——— 19,379 80

Increase of children in our Schools from 1827 to 1837, .. 448
 Increase of children in our Schools from 1837 to 1847, not including the District outside the neck,—now Somerville, 915

In the year ending April, 1827, the cost of schooling for each child, was \$5 25
 In the year ending April, 1837, the cost of schooling for each child, was 5 18
 In the year ending April, 1847, the cost of schooling for each child, has been 5 81

The expense of erecting new Buildings is not included in the above estimate of cost for each child.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. TEACHERS AND SALARIES.

WARREN SCHOOL.	WINTHROP SCHOOL.	HARVARD SCHOOL.	BUNKER HILL SCHOOL.
Grammar Department. Calvin S. Pennell, . . . \$ 900 Frances H. Clark, . . . 225 Emeline Brown, 210 Writing Department. Joseph T. Swan, 900 Sarah G. Hay, 225 Sarah T. Chandler, . . . 210 \$2,670	Grammar Department. Aaron Walker, Jr., . . \$ 900 Mary L. Rowland, . . . 225 Elizabeth D. Moulton, . 210 Writing Department. Stacy Baxter, 900 Julia E. Hinckley, . . . 225 Evelina A. Flint, 210 \$2,670	Grammar Department. Paul H. Sweetser, . . \$ 900 Mary J. Whiting, . . . 225 Rebecca Drake, 210 Writing Department, Robert Swan, 900 Harriet L. Teel, 225 Maria L. Thompson, . . 210 \$2,670	Grammar and Writing Department. Benjamin F. Tweed, . . \$900 Lucretia Foster, 225 Caroline Phipps, 210 \$1,335

NUMBER OF PUPILS, ATTENDANCE, STUDIES, &c. &c.

Schools.	NUMBER OF PUPILS, ATTENDANCE, STUDIES, &c. &c.													Volumes in the Library.							
	No. of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	Present at Examination.	Reading.	Spelling.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Composition.	Declamation.	History.	Natural Philosophy.		Chemistry.	Astronomy.	Algebra.	Geometry.	Book Keeping.	Map and other Drawing, &c.	Languages.
Warren,	355	282	295	355	355	355	355	188	329	20	14	39	11	2	2	51		19	50	5	450
Winthrop,	360	282	303	360	360	360	360	229	360	59	59	33				30		15	31	20	531
Harvard,	328	261	293	328	328	328	328	192	328	84	22	53		7		57	1		84		521
Bunker Hill,	198	170	172	198	198	198	198	99	198	11	10	24	11			13	2		132		432

It has been sometimes said, that from a want of virtue among the people, Republics have crumbled to the dust. But it will be found equally true, that if *virtue* could exist without the diffusion of *knowledge* among a whole people, it would not secure to them their liberties.

Give them the means of being enlightened and educated, and if these are faithfully improved, you give them the power of perpetuating freedom and a means of securing happiness. Where the benefits of Free Schools are appreciated and improved, new sources of interest and pleasure are opened to the mind, and thus it is saved from the debasing influences which too often inflict the heaviest calamities upon society. These institutions devoted to the cause of virtue, knowledge and science, have claims upon the patriot, philanthropist and Christian, which should ever be recognized and watched with a jealous care.

As early as 1635, public Schools were established in our midst, and supported by the inhabitants; and by the Legislature of the Colony of Massachusetts, in 1647, it was decided as a general law, that every township of fifty families, should provide a School where reading and writing should be taught, and every township of one hundred families, should provide a Grammar School where the young "should be fitted for the University." No person will attempt to call in question the wisdom which dictated these measures at so early a period in the history of this nation, nor will they be at a loss to determine what has elevated the mass of the people in this land, so much above the masses in other countries where public education is not free, and is not authorized or sustained.

One object of education should be to fortify the mind against all improper extraneous influences, and prepare it to correct immediately any injurious tendencies by which the mind may have been biased.

If from a chance influence of evil, or a vicious suggestion, the mind can be materially turned aside from virtue, it must be because previously it was more than half inclined to transgress. Such an one wants that power which it is the work of education

to impart, — that power of right action which God has made man capable of exercising at will, and for the use of which he will hold him responsible.

It is almost universally the case, that those whose pecuniary means are limited, and yet who know how to estimate the blessings which intelligence, civilization and freedom confer upon society, are found ready to contribute their utmost to the great work of education,— knowing this to be the only inheritance they can leave to their children, and that this is of more importance to them and their success in life, than silver or gold.

Much of the success of a teacher may be said to depend upon his personal qualities, as well as upon his intellectual attainments; he must communicate genius and enthusiasm to his pupils,—he cannot teach these, they must be exemplified in him, and then, he has the power of communicating and influencing others;—nor should it ever be forgotten, that dullness or stupidity are contagious evils, always to be guarded against.

The hope which the success of education promises, is brightened, as we behold so many mature and gifted minds of both sexes, deeply penetrated with a sense of the magnitude of this work, who are devoting their hearts and lives to the service of training the rising generation to knowledge, virtue, love, and truth.

The time has arrived when a want is not only felt, but openly expressed, for teaching in those branches of study usually pursued in the best High Schools in our State.

As the number of children in our public Schools increase, the number of those qualified, or capable of pursuing these branches of study, increases also; and although there may not yet be enough of this class of children to warrant the expense of supporting a regularly established High School in our midst—still, we think some public provision should be made for those who are capable, and wish to avail themselves of instruction in the languages, and the higher branches of science. We think an arrangement could be effected to secure these advantages, without incurring the expense of buildings, additional to

those now belonging to the city. We will not attempt to dictate any plan, but make allusion to this subject, that the attention of the successors of the present Board may be drawn to it, and that some provision may be made to meet it.

It will doubtless be found necessary during the coming year, to make some further provision for the increased number of children in our schools. Primary School No. 1, is in a very crowded condition—the daily average attendance for some portion of the time during the past month, having been about eighty;—of this number, from 35 to 40 reside above the canal bridge; and your Board feel, that in justice to the children and teacher in this school, and for the accommodation of those residing in this district, a Primary School should be located in some central place above the canal bridge.

Primary School No. 21, on the corner of Sullivan and Bartlett Streets, is now full, and the population is increasing so rapidly in the section of the city in which this School House is located, that there is hardly a doubt of the upper room of this building being wanted before the close of the present year.—The expense of finishing it will not probably exceed \$150.

If that portion of the city embraced in the Bunker Hill School District, should increase as rapidly in population as it has the past year, it may become necessary to finish the second story of that building, and occupy it as a school room. The cost of doing this would not probably be much, if any, over \$1000.

Some improvements should be made in the ventilation of several of our Primary School buildings, and in the Winthrop and Harvard Grammar Schools.

Our Primary Schools, except those which have been built within a few years, are quite too small for the number of children who daily attend them; they might be made more tolerable by improving their ventilation. The same is the case with the Winthrop and Harvard School Houses; no suitable provision is made for the ventilation of these buildings, especially the latter, which is badly constructed—inconvenient and too contracted

for the number of children who occupy it. It may be asked, why it has not been discovered before now, that these buildings are deficient in size, and means of ventilation ?

The answer is this. They have not, until recently, been so crowded with pupils ; it never was designed that so many children should be assembled daily in these Schools, nor in the Primary Schools spoken of ; but in order to keep down the expense of the latter class of Schools, many of them have been filled to the utmost extent of their limits.

We believe the same will hold true also, with respect to the Grammar Schools alluded to above—especially so, to the latter of the two.

The subject of ventilation, has occupied the attention of a Committee in the City of Boston for the past year, who have reported upon the subject, which report has been accepted, and its recommendations carried out. We should be glad to make extracts from a large portion of it, but will only insert here the following :

“ Children, confined in the atmosphere of such Schools, soon lose the ruddy and cheerful complexions of perfect health which belong to youth, and acquire the sallow and depressed countenances which might reasonably be expected in overworked factory operatives, or the tenants of apartments unvisited by the sun and air. We noticed in many faces, also, particularly towards the close of school session, a feverish flush, so bright that it might easily deceive an inexperienced eye, and be mistaken for a healthy bloom. Alas ! it was only a transient and ineffectual effort of nature to produce, by *overaction*, those salutary changes, which she really wanted the *power* to accomplish.

“ The grave consequences of a long continued exposure to an atmosphere but a little below the standard of natural purity, although not immediately incompatible with life, can hardly be overstated. These effects are often so insidious in their approach, as hardly to attract notice ; they are the more necessary to be provided against in advance.

“It has already been shown, that healthy blood is essential to the proper action of every organ in the body, and that the healthy condition of the blood, and even life itself, depend entirely upon the act of respiration; that, to breathe air deprived of its oxygen, or containing any thing which prevents the necessary changes in the blood, is to breathe disease and death. And yet, with all these facts staring us in the face, habit has reconciled us to practices which would otherwise be noxious and disgusting. We instinctively shun approach to the dirty, the squalid, the diseased, nor use a garment that may have been worn by another; we open sewers for matters that offend the sight and smell, and contaminate the air; we carefully remove impurities from what we eat and drink, filter turbid water, and fastidiously avoid drinking from a cup that may have been pressed to the lips even of a friend. On the other hand, we resort to places of assembly, and draw into our mouths air loaded with effluvia from the lungs and skin and clothing of every individual in a promiscuous crowd; exhalations which are offensive to a certain extent from the most cleanly individuals; but when rising from a living mass of skin and lung in all stages of evaporation, and prevented by the walls and ceiling from escaping, they are, in the highest degree deleterious and loathsome.”

Your Committee cannot close this Report, without renewing the suggestions made in the Report of the Board of Trustees, in April, 1846, relative to the introduction of Music into our Grammar Schools, and urging upon the citizens, some attention to this subject. We think, that “little need be said to convince all reflecting and rational minds of the power, the eloquence, and beneficial influences” of this beautiful science. Public opinion in other places in our vicinity, is decidedly in favor of its practice, and there, it is cheerfully supported by the citizens; the expense cannot, we think, make it objectionable in this city. Like reading or spelling, wherever practicable, singing should form one of the daily exercises of the school; it helps to animate the minds of both teachers and pupils—to restore har-

mony, and impart vigor to the whole routine of school exercises—it is an incentive to harmony and order, and combines the happiest and purest moral influences. We cordially approve of it, and cheerfully recommend its practice in our Schools. It serves to discipline the mind ; it is a valuable attainment ; a fine accomplishment ; and its influence upon social happiness—the moral and devotional feelings, are worthy the high consideration which the subject justly merits.

On resigning the charge which has been conferred upon us for the past year, we trust we shall be allowed to express our hope, that those who may succeed us in the responsible duties from which we are now relieved, may be deeply impressed with the importance of preserving, unimpaired, the best interest of our Public Free Schools, and of elevating them still higher in the estimation of the public, as a means of intellectual and moral advancement, until they shall attract and secure the admiration of every lover of wisdom, virtue and freedom.

HENRY K. FROTHINGHAM, *President.*

April 7, 1847.

Voted, That the foregoing Report be accepted, printed, and distributed to the inhabitants of the city.

JONATHAN BROWN, JR., *Secretary.*

