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# REPORT

OF THE

Joint Committee on Public Instruction,

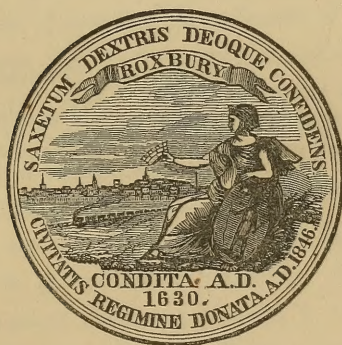
ON SO MUCH OF

THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

AS RELATES TO

SCHOOLS,

APRIL, 1855.



ROXBURY:

PRINTED FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.

1855.



## City of Roxbury.

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IN COMMON COUNCIL, JAN. 15, 1855.

ORDERED, That such portions of the Mayor's Address as relate to our Schools, be referred to the Committee on Public Instruction.

Sent up for concurrence.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, JAN. 15, 1855.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

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IN COMMON COUNCIL, APRIL 2, 1855.

Mr. Williams, from the abovenamed Committee, submitted the following Report and Order, which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed for the use of the Council.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*



# REPORT.

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The Committee on Public Instruction, to whom was referred that part of the Mayor's Address pertaining to the subject of schools, have considered the same so far as relates to provision for Evening Schools, and respectfully

## REPORT.

That, in their opinion, evening schools for adults and such as can have no other mode of acquiring the rudiments of education, are highly important to a large class of our population, and of very essential benefit to the entire community. In their origin and for several years thereafter in most of the cities of New England these schools have been maintained by private enterprise and contributions, assisted, generally, by public appropriations. At present, in several of the same cities evening schools are now maintained at the city's expense, and are under the direction of the general School Committee. This has rendered them more efficient in action and more permanent in character. During the present season, the City of Salem has taken under its charge the evening school for the past seven years so successfully conducted by Mr. John Ball, the City Missionary. In regard to this matter Mr. Ball writes as follows :—

“The City Council appropriated \$450 on condition that the School Committee should procure the services of the teachers of the Grammar

Schools. The School Committee accepted the trust or management of the schools, as we were desirous they should, so that they, by a Subcommittee of three, have entire charge and make provision for the conducting of operations. The Committee procured five Principals of our Grammar Schools, one of whom acts as Superintendent, and the Committee pay the five the sum of \$225, which they divide among themselves. This is for the whole term. These teachers procure the services of as many of their female assistants as possible ; and as many others also as volunteers, as they can, and also make use of some of their oldest scholars.

“ In addition to this, members of the School Committee have been in every evening and assisted as teachers.

“ The school should be kept four nights in the week. As to age of admission, the Committee have adopted fourteen years and upwards. No scholars of day schools are admitted, and only those admitted who *cannot*, from a variety of circumstances, attend day schools. If we can once get *our evening schools* fairly into the hands, and under the management of the School Committee, and give them the means to prosecute the work with vigor, the *evening school* will rank almost as high as the day school. I ought also to state that every evening there is an increase of scholars in our evening school, so that nearly every seat is now occupied. If you can get your Council to make a liberal appropriation, and the School Committee to take hold of the matter, as has been done here, you will have a noble account to make to the public.”

It will be thus seen that the plan so successfully in operation in Salem, is attended with a very small outlay of money, when looked upon as a matter of dollars and cents ; but your Committee believe that there are other considerations of much greater magnitude and importance than the yearly expenditure of some four or five hundred dollars. The evening school would almost entirely draw to it those whose poverty of circumstances or want of opportunity prevents them from enjoying the benefits of the day school, and whose unemployed evenings are often times spent in a manner that leads almost imperceptibly to those corrupting influences and vicious habits that sooner or later bring many

of them within the discipline of our police regulations with its attendant necessary expenses. So that even on the score of economy, the measure commends itself to every lover of law and order, and the blessings that flow from the light of education.

Your Committee believe the experiment one well worth trying, and respectfully submit the foregoing report and accompanying order for your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM ELLISON,

*For the Committee.*

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## City of Roxbury.

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IN COMMON COUNCIL, APRIL 2, 1855.

ORDERED, That the sum of Five hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the Contingent School Fund, for the purpose of establishing evening schools for adults and such as can have no other mode of acquiring the rudiments of education,—said schools to be under the direction of the School Committee.

















