



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SELECTMEN AND TREASURER

— AND —

Superintendent of Public Schools,

— OF THE —

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, N. H.

— FOR THE —

YEAR ENDING MARCH. 1st, 1876.



NEWMARKET, N. H. :
ROCKINGHAM ADVERTISER STEAM PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1876.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

1875.

Paid Caleb F. Edgerly, note and interest,	8471 03
Betsey Winslow " "	193 05
Robert B. Stott, clearing snow,	3 00
Andrew Jackson, special police at election,	3 00
Israel Bartlett, searching records at Lee,	2 00
John Mathes, interest on note,	51 00
Deborah Gould, note and interest,	512 82
Blake Roberts, repacking Tiger engine,	7 00
George E. Lane, blank books,	2 30
Hose Co. for services to April 1, 1875,	48 00
Tiger Engine Co. services to do,	160 00
Granite " " to do,	160 00
Blake Roberts, " police officer,	10 00
James R. Smith, steward Tiger Engine Co., &c,	5 00
Robert B. Stott, " Granite " "	3 00
James D. P. Wingate, printing town reports,	42 00
Blake Roberts, keeping tramps,	19 00
Benjamin F. Tuttle, interest on note,	27 25
Hannah Watson, " "	18 00
Robert B. Stott, oiling hose, Granite Engine,	5 00
Daniel W. McNeal, time and expense to Boston,	5 40
John W. Wiggin, as per bill,	4 50
Blake Roberts, oiling hose Tiger Engine,	7 00

Paid John F. Willey, services police officer,	10 00
N. C. Smith, as per bill rendered,	28 65
Susan E. W. Creighton, interest on two notes,	84 00
Edward F. Senter, as per bill,	1 00
Charles W. Perkins, school money, district 4,	60 00
Abednego Robinson, 3 cows for town farm,	165 00
Hannah L. Marden, interest on note,	36 00
Benjamin F. Haley, school money for district 1,	700 00
Levi C. McDaniel, school money for district 5,	55 00
Wm. J. Ciannell, school money for district 6,	50 00
Geo. H. Pike, breaking roads in Grant district,	45 20
Hannah L. Marden, note and interest,	604 10
Blake Roberts, bill for police offenses in 1874,	95 05
George H. Pike, cutting bushes,	8 25
John Mathes, plank for bridge,	36 00
Nathan Durgin, interest on two notes,	118 12
Elizabeth Watson, two notes and interest,	785 70
Henry W. Norton, school money district 3,	60 00
John A. Robinson, school money district 2,	60 00
Hugh Kelsey, interest on note,	61 80
Edward Hilton, note and interest,	620 44
Daniel Pinkham, services special police at elec- tion, &c.	5 00
Alice J. Wiggin, interest on note,	24 00
Geo. W. French, belts for Granite Engine Co.	3 00
Peter Beseyett, repairing sidewalk,	5 00
Jane F. Harvey, endorsement on note,	150 00
Nathaniel Bradley, turkeys killed by dogs,	10 00
Harrison G. Burley, note and interest,	141 40
Mary A. Wood, interest on 2 notes,	36 00
John E. Peavey, breaking roads in Ash Swamp district,	17 60
Rockingham Insurance Co. assessment,	9 12
Geo. H. Pike, repairing bridges,	6 50

Paid Andrew Jackson, keeping tramps from April 1, 1875 to Oct 1, 1875.	31 15
Tiger Engine Co. services to Oct. 1, 1875.	175 00
Granite " " " "	175 00
Hose Company for services to Oct. 1, 1875.	52 50
Wm. Barnes, as per bill rendered,	6 00
Wm. J. Channell, bal. school money, district 6,	31 36
Robert B. Stott, services as steward Granite Engine Co.	3 00
Elizabeth Eaton, note and interest.	156 44
Benj. F. Tuttle, endorsement on note,	100 00
Hannah Watson, interest on two notes,	54 72
Charles E. Winkley, school house tax, district 2,	65 00
Samuel B. Brackett, special police at election.	2 00
Insurance on town house.	30 00
John A. Robinson, balance school money, district 2,	101 39
Richard B. Alley, forty-five loads gravel.	4 50
Newmarket Manuf. Co. use of derrick,	20 00
Charles H. Whitehorn and others, as per bill,	201 92
Harrison G. Watson, cement for tomb,	38 75
Town of Durham, by act of Legislature.	300 00
John Mathes, note and interest.	424 00
Jane F. Harvey, interest on note.	42 00
Frank McDaniel as per bill rendered,	\$64 50
Smith Sauborn sheep killed by dogs,	7 00
C. Harry Tuttle, school money for Packers Falls District.	66 24
Richard Grant, as per bill.	7 25
Nelson Reed, Jr. " "	3 00
Susan E. W. Creighton, interest on note,	60 00
Davis Lang, note and interest.	1080 30
Albert J. Haines, repairing bridge.	6 00
Clarissa Doe, interest on note.	22 30

Paid Henry W. Norton, school money for District No. 3,	109 27
Fred W. Crawford, invoice record book.	13 00
Harrison G. Burley, breaking roads in Bald Hill District.	13 30
Nancy Thompson, note and interest.	447 61
Amanda M. Chapman, interest on note,	24 00
Clarissa Richardson, note and interest,	212 00
Charles W. Perkins, bal. school money for District No. 4.	56 91
Levi C. McDaniel, bal. school money for District No. 3.	71 38
Henry W. Norton, labor on bridge,	1 25
William F. Durell, drawing gravel,	36 00
William Reynolds, interest on six notes,	102 00
Robert Smart, drawing stone for tomb,	103 18
Pike H. Harvey, note and interest,	238 41
Charles H. Smart, as per bill rendered,	783 62
George K. Smart. “	7 00
Robert Smart, breaking roads &c.,	36 00
John W. Smart, as per bill rendered,	376 71
Enoch Robinson, lock for tomb door,	6 15
Treadwell & Davis, as per bill rendered,	112 65
George B. Wiggim, school money from Jona- than Sanborn's estate,	7 25
Charles Shute, as per bill rendered,	470 00
Aaron L. Mellows, “	79 00
George L. Dearborn, school books,	10 78
George E. Tuttle, services as Police, 1874, and heating hall election day,	13 00
Andrew Jackson, keeping tramps as per bill,	36 40
Josiah Hilton, note and interest,	416 30
Hollis Pinkham, as per bill rendered,	12 05
J. Low Elkins, services as Sup. School Com.	50 00

Paid J. Low Elkins, medical attendance,	26 00
" school books,	4 23
John P. Perkins, note and interest,	317 65
Swanscott Machine Co. for tomb door,	37 14
Frank E. Webster, as per bill,	2 00
T. McGuire & Co., supplies furnished Ellen Barrett,	161 00
William L. Caswell, clearing ice from bridge,	5 00
Henry H. Smith, services as Justice,	5 00
Joseph Watson, Painting fence at Cemetery,	20 00
Reuben Stackpole, as per bill rendered,	3 57
William B. Welch, two notes and interest,	931 23
Cyrus G. Smith, breaking roads,	22 50
William B. Small, as per bill,	18 00
James Monroe, abatement of taxes	
for the year 1872,	2 16
" abatement of taxes	
for the year 1873,	11 50
" abatement of taxes	
for the year 1874,	46 13
" abatement of taxes	
for the year 1875,	29 50
" on school house tax in	
Dis. No. 1, for 1874	1 28
" on school house tax in	
Dis. No. 1, for 1875,	4 79
	<hr/>
	95 36
Daniel W. McNeal, as per bill,	96 25
Benja. F. Haley, bal. school money in District No. 1,	1735 00
Samuel B. Brackett, note and interest,	448 20
William A. Shackford, services as Police Justice,	58 36



Paid Joseph D. Stott, clearing ice from bridge,	15 00
Charles D. Willey, as per bill rendered,	7 00
Elbridge N. Doe, adm'r estate of Benja. F. Tuttle, note and interest,	317 60
B. F. Tuttle, bill keeping poor person,	1 50
Charles H. Smith, services in police cases,	73 00
Moses O. Hodgdon, as per bill rendered,	12 00
David Murray, " " "	5 25
Jere. Keefe, bill for services, &c.	5 65
Garland & Locke, iron work,	14 62
Mathes, Wiggin & Co. as per bill,	19 71
Mathes & Lane, supplies furnished S. Herson,	92 74
" goods furnished Furbush family,	8 93
" grass seed for town farm,	19 14
James D. P. Wingate, as per bill,	28 00
Benja. F. Haley, as per bill rendered,	40 00
Charles E. Tasker, coffin for Mrs. Mendum,	9 00
stock used at pest house,	5 00
fares of sundry tramps,	12 00
fares of Furbush family,	5 00
labor and time on tomb,	36 00
Albert H. Bunker, note and interest,	552 14
Susan D. Mathes, " " "	364 61
Moses O. Hodgdon, bill for tramps, &c.	14 45
Fannie V. Kelley, two notes and interest,	349 94
Miriam Hazeltan, note and interest,	119 67
William Reynolds, two notes and interest,	567 05
James Munnroe, collecting taxes,	281 30
Lafayette Hall, iron work as per bill,	30 80

Paid John Bradford,

Twelve days appraising real estate,	36 00	
Examining road on petition of Charles H. Perkins and others.	1 50	
Money paid poor persons.	1 50	
Services as health officer.	3 00	
All other services as selectman	32 00	
	<hr/>	74 00

Paid George A. Bennett,

Half day's time at Hall's bridge,	1 50	
“ “ town farm,	1 50	
Making school house tax, district 1,	12 00	
Making school house tax, district 2.	5 00	
self and horse to Stratham,	3 00	
“ to Lee,	3 00	
“ to examine pauper case,	3 00	
12 day's time appraising real estate.	36 00	
Use of horse &c.,	10 00	
To Brentwood with County pauper,	3 00	
To Durham on pauper case,	1 50	
Examining road on petition of Charles H. Perkins and others.	1 50	
services as health officer.	3 00	
All other services as selectman,	32 00	
	<hr/>	116 00

Paid Charles E. Tasker,

One day's time and expenses to Exeter to settle County affairs,	3 00
Half day's time to Durham,	1 50
Time and expenses to Portsmouth to settle County affairs,	3 00
One day's time and expense to Concord to settle State tax.	6 00
12 day's time appraising real estate,	36 00
Stationery and postage for year,	4 00
Services as health officer,	3 00
" as treasurer,	60 00
All other services as selectman,	32 00
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	148 50

Paid Auditors.

4 00

\$20,097 45

Cash received of town treasurer,

20,097 45

Settled the foregoing account as above stated.

CHARLES E. TASKER,	} Selectmen of Newmarket.
GEORGE A. BENNETT.	
JOHN BRADFORD.	

MARCH 7, 1876.—We the subscribers, auditors of the town of Newmarket, have examined the foregoing account and find it correctly cast with corresponding vouchers.

HENRY H. SMITH,	} Auditors.
A. DANA WIGGIN,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Charles E. Tasker.

In account with the town of Newmarket,

Dr.

Borrowed of A.	\$141 40
" B.	1000 00
" C.	400 00
" D.	400 00
" E.	647 61
" F.	779 00
" G.	300 00
" H.	300 00
" I.	300 00
Amount in hands of Treasurer, March 1, 1875,	2,174 24
State bonds, " " 1875,	2,600 00
Savings Bank tax.	1,085 21
Railroad tax.	279 81
Literary fund,	206 40
Interest on State bonds,	78 00
Premium on State bonds,	12 75
Rent of pest house.	42 00
Use of Town Hall.	29 00
Lots sold in cemetery.	170 00
Insurance.	3 16
Balance from Charles Shute,	183 00
Rent of town farm.	325 00
Two cows sold from farm,	60 00
Difference in oxen,	10 00
Rate list committed to collector.	15,847 29

In hands of collector, March 1, 1875.	491 16
School house tax in District No. 1, committed to collector,	2,938 00
School house tax in District No. 2. committed to collector.	66 65
	<hr/>
	\$30,569 68

Cr.

Paid Sundry orders of Selectmen.	20,097 45
State tax.	2,740 00
County tax.	2,550 96
School house tax, District No. 1, to S. A. Haley, Treas. of building Com.	2,500 00
Benja. F. Haley, Treas. of Prudential Com. District No. 1,	300 00
Amount in hands of collector, March 1st 1876.	589 73
Amount in hands of Treasurer,	1,791 54
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	\$30,569 68

March 7, 1876.

Settled the foregoing account as above stated.

CHARLES E. TASKER, Treasurer.
 GEORGE A. BENNETT.)
 JOHN BRADFORD.) Selectmen.

March 7, 1876.

We, the undersigned, auditors of the town of Newmarket, have examined the foregoing account, and find it correctly cast, with corresponding vouchers.

HENRY H. SMITH,
 A. DANA WIGGIN.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Outstanding notes against the town, March 1, 1875,	\$29,566 83
Outstanding notes against the town, March 1, 1876,	21,623 68
Assets.—Cash in hands of Treasurer,	1,791 54
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Actual indebtedness.	\$22,832 14

TOWN FARM.

The Farm has been leased to Charles Shute, the last year, for	325 00
Balance due town, from Shute, March 1, 1875,	183 00
Amount " on cows,	60 00
" " for difference in oxen,	10 00
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	\$578 00

For which we credit him:—

Cash,	\$238 50
Discount on account of tramps, 1875,	100 00
2 weeks board Thompson girl,	3 00
Making two gates &c.	10 00
One pump,	14 55
Making clothes for Emerline Knowlton,	4 00
Board of Emerline Knowlton,	200 00
Cash,	7 95
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	\$578 00

CHARLES E. TASKER, Treasurer.

COST OF TOMB.

Newmarket Manufacturing Co, use of derrick.	\$20 00
Charles H. Whitehorn & others, labor.	201 92
Harrison G. Watson, cement.	38 75
Richard Grant, teaming.	6 00
Robert Smart, drawing stone.	103 18
John W. Smart, “	137 24
Charles H. Smart, as per bill.	663 00
Enoch W. Robinson, lock for door.	6 15
Swamscott Machine Co., for door.	37 14
Lafayette Hall, iron work.	30 80
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	\$1,244 18

CHARLES E. TASKER, Treasurer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF NEWMARKET :

The following report of the condition of the public schools for the year ending March 1, 1876, is respectfully submitted by the committee :

DISTRICT, NO. 1.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.—William B. Small, Benjamin F. Haley, Charles H. Smith.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Teacher, Martha S. Towle. *Assistant*, Helen A. Tasker.

1st. Term—Length of school, 11 weeks : wages of teacher, \$36 per month : wages of assistant, \$30 ; whole number of scholars 116 : average attendance, 93.

PRIMARY.—2D GRADE.

Teacher, Helen A. Tasker.

2d Term.—Length of school, 11 weeks ; wages of teacher, \$36 per month ; whole number of scholars, 56 ; average attendance, 47.

3d Term.—Length of school, 7 weeks : whole number of scholars, 67 ; average attendance, 52.

PRIMARY.—1ST. GRADE.

Teacher, Martha S. Towle.

2d Term—Length of school, 11 weeks : wages of teacher, \$36 per month ; whole number of scholars, 51 ; average attendance, 48.

3d Term—Length of school, 7 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 52 ; average attendance, 47.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Teacher, Sarah E. Leavitt.

1st Term.—Length of school 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$36 per month; whole number of scholars, 57; average attendance, 54.

2d Term.—Length of school, 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 48; average attendance, 45.

3d Term.—Length of school, 9 weeks; whole number of scholars, 47; average attendance, 43.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Teacher, Julia S. Smith.

1st Term.—Length of school, 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$40 per month; whole number of scholars 49; average attendance, 35.

2d GRAMMAR GRADE.

Teacher, Abbie Guild.

2d Term.—Length of school, 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$36 per month; whole number of scholars, 39; average attendance, 35.

3d Term—Length of school, 9 weeks; whole number of scholars, 37; average attendance, 33.

1ST GRAMMAR GRADE.

Teacher, Angie P. Smith.

2nd Term—Length of school, 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$40 per month; whole number of scholars, 39; average attendance, 37.

3d Term—Length of school, 9 weeks; wages of teacher, \$48 per month; whole number of scholars, 37; average attendance, 31.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Principal. J. L. Caverly. Salary \$1000 per year.

1st Term. Length of school 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 42; average attendance 32.

2d Term,—Length of school, 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 23; average attendance, 21.

3d Term,—Length of school, 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 27; average attendance, 24.

DURHAM SIDE SCHOOL.

Teacher. Zella A. Stevens.

1st Term.—Length of school, 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$36 per month; whole number of scholars, 48; average attendance, 39.

2 Term,—Length of school, 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 44; average attendance, 34.

3d Term,—Length of school, 7 weeks; whole number of scholars, 39; average attendance, 34.

DISTRICT, NO. 2. PINE HILL.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE. John A. Robinson.

Teacher. Annie E. Sanders.

1st Term—Length of school, 10 weeks; wages of teacher, \$26 per month; whole number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 8.

2d Term,—Length of school 10 weeks; wages of teacher, \$28 per month; whole number of scholars, 7; average attendance, 6.

DISTRICT NO. 3. FOUR CORNERS.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE. Henry W. Norton.

Teacher. Arianna G. Bartlett.

1st Term.—Length of school, 8 weeks; wages of teacher, \$29 per month; whole number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 10.

2d Term.—*Teacher.* Mary E. Odion; length of school, 11 weeks; wages of teacher, \$36; whole number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 16.

DISTRICT NO. 4. GRANT.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE. Charles W. Perkins.

Teacher, Nellie E. Sanborn.

1st Term. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages of teacher, \$26; whole number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 10.

2d Term. Length of school, 8 weeks; whole number of scholars, 9; average attendance, 8.

DISTRICT NO. 5. PLAINS.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE. Levi McDaniels.

Teacher, Mary V. Jenkins.

1st Term. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages of teacher, \$26 per month; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 14.

2d Term. *Teacher*, Mrs. Mary A. Haines. Length of school, 12 weeks; wages of teacher, \$28 per month; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 14

DISTRICT NO. 6. BAY SIDE.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE. William J. Channell.

Teacher, Mary E. Odion.

1st Term. Length of school, 8 weeks; wages of teacher, \$24 per month; whole number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 10.

2d Term. Length of school, 9 weeks; wages of teacher, \$25 per month; whole number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 13.

The school year just closed has been one of unusual interest, characterized as it has been by the absence of most of the disturbing elements which so frequently required the interference of the committee during former years, and by a

prosperity which has exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

The erection of a new school building with modern improvements; the departure from a course of study which had proved inadequate to meet the wants of an intelligent community; the introduction of a uniform set of text books, fully up with the times, and the adoption of a system of graded schools, which can not fail to secure to the children such school privileges as shall preclude the necessity of emigration to acquire a thorough education, and to remove one very fertile source of complaint against the efficiency of our schools—namely, want of system, are evidences of progress of which the citizens of District No. 1, may justly be proud.

Defects, doubtless will be discovered in the working of this system which will require correction as they shall become apparent, and no inconsiderable amount of firmness will be required on the part of the committee, and teachers, to resist the importunate entreaties of parents for the removal of those checks which the graded system opposes to the too rapid promotion of the unqualified pupil. It is our conviction that to the ambitious but ruinous haste of parents to force their children from the Primary, to the High school, regardless of qualifications, are to be attributed very many of the lamentable failures in scholarship.

We notice a marked difference in the capacities of children of the same parentage even, for acquiring knowledge; and the crowding of any child beyond its mental capacity to perfect it in scholarship, is more absurd than attempting to teach to swim by plunging beyond his depth, one who has not the remotest conception of the aquatic art.

The actual advantages gained by the grading of our schools, and the introduction of new methods of instruction are so apparent, and the improvement in discipline is so marked, that sometimes we have been inclined to doubt our own senses, and to query whether Rip Van Winkle like, we

have not been napping for a decade or two. In view of these facts, we think that every citizen has reason to be satisfied with the change which has been effected in our schools during the past year; nevertheless, we are aware that all reforms have their opponents, and possibly there may be found those in this community who will severely criticise the new system, and advocate a return to the old plan of mixed schools, as fully adequate to meet the necessities of the masses; while they gratuitously suggest private resources to those who wish to take deeper draughts from the "Pierian spring."

Let no one who has a child to educate heed such suggestions, unworthy as they are of a moment's consideration; rather let us raise the standard of education still higher by demanding that a satisfactory annual examination shall constitute the only passport from a lower to a higher grade, and that no considerations of a personal character shall have the slightest influence in determining the standing of any scholar.

In the present unsettled condition of stocks of every description, what investment can you make for a child that will be half so secure, or will yield such dividends as a good education? It matters not then how embarrassed business becomes, or how heavily taxation may bear upon us; retrenchment if demanded, must be sought in different channels, and generous appropriations must be made for the support of the public schools, not simply from a duty we owe to the children, but from a duty we owe to the community in which we live, and to the nation, for just in proportion to our liberality in making suitable provisions for the general diffusion of knowledge, will the prosperity, the morality, and the intelligence of our community, and our existence as a nation be enhanced, for

" 'Tis education forms the common mind,
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

Written monthly examinations were ordered during the fall and winter terms, and the reseating of the pupils according to rank, awakened a lively competition for the seat of honor. A rigid application of examinations, and promotions, will stimulate both teachers and pupils to more energetic efforts, and will ultimately elevate our schools to a higher grade of excellence.

Irregularity of attendance during the past year has cost more than one scholar his rank, and has sadly impeded the progress of classes, while failures at public examinations attest the fact that lessons learned by a class during the absence of a scholar are very seldom, if ever, made up by the absentee. In this connection we desire to call the attention of parents to another practice which prevails too extensively in this community. Many children are accustomed to attend school during one term, and to absent themselves one or more terms, in some instances doubtless from necessity, then they return to school with the expectation of entering the same classes of which they were formerly members. What is the result? A moment's reflection will convince any candid observer that such a course must be disastrous in the extreme; for the child having neglected to give any attention to books, utterly ignorant of the principles taught the class during its absence, which will be constantly cropping out during the advance, after repeated attempts and failures to keep up with its more fortunate classmates, either becomes a fixture at the foot of the class, or retires disheartened from school; while the parent or guardian charges the teacher with incompetency. What is the remedy? Any scholars absent for a term are required by our present system to pass a satisfactory examination in the studies pursued during the term, before being admitted as members; failing in this they are sent to a lower grade, with the promise of promotion held out as an inducement to study, and

any scholar who fails to maintain an average class rank is likewise sent to a lower grade.

Our views in relation to school government, have been so often expressed that it may be superfluous to refer to the subject again, but observation convinces us that unconditional submission to all the regulations which may be prescribed for the management of our schools, should be an indispensable condition of membership, and any scholar who persists in open violation should be denied the privilege of attendance.

Parents are sometimes apt to forget that the committee and the teachers are the legally constituted authorities, and from the very nature of their position, are best qualified to judge concerning all questions arising in the school-room; and they should remember that they have no right to dictate the teacher, relative to the instruction, or government of their children. If any misunderstandings arise, or wrongs—real or imaginary,—need to be redressed, confer privately with the teacher in relation to them, or lay them before the committee.

We regret exceedingly that the prudential committee were compelled to close some of the schools in Dist. No. 1, a little earlier than usual, in consequence of the appropriation of money being insufficient to meet the increased expenditures attendant upon the establishing of a new school, the furnishing of a new building, and the employing of a janitor.

We trust that the complaints which reach us relative to the continuance of the high school beyond the other schools, arise from misunderstandings, rather than from a disposition to find fault. The position of principal is a responsible position, requiring higher literary qualifications than were required under the old *regime*, and we doubt whether a competent teacher would subject himself to the uncertainties incident to engagements by the month, as some suggest, and as the principal was engaged at a stated salary for a year.

we know of no reason why he should not be allowed to fulfil his contract. The small number who were qualified to enter the high school rendered it necessary to send in a class from the Grammar school to make up a respectable number, and it is urged as an objection against the continuance of a High school, that there are so few scholars who are qualified to enter it. No one who is at all conversant with the system of grading can fail to detect the fallacy of all such objections, and we hope that all who do not feel sufficiently interested in our schools to even visit them, will spare themselves the painful duty of criticism.

A High school supported by the town, accessible to every scholar upon the attainment of certain qualifications, is very much needed, and we hope that it may be secured.

We are of the opinion that the election of an efficient prudential committee is absolutely requisite to the successful management of our schools, and we respectfully suggest that a suitable Article be introduced in the warrant for the next annual school meeting, in relation to the election of these officers, for a term of years, in Dist. No. 1.

The following is submitted as a proper form :

•• To see if the district will adopt this by-law to wit :

The prudential committee shall consist of three persons, the first member being chosen for one year, the second member for two years, and the third member for three years, and and at each subsequent election one member shall be chosen for a term of three years." The adoption of this principle will develop greater interest in the management of the schools, and will protect the school system, and the teachers from the uncertainties, and dangers incident to revolutions, political, or otherwise.

Most of the school rooms are deficient in globes, maps, charts, &c. We would as soon think of teaching a child to read, without an alphabet, as to attempt to teach it geography, without a globe, or charts. Private contributions in each district would readily supply the deficiency.

The labors required during the year have been unusually onerous, and it affords us pleasure to acknowledge the generous concurrence of our associate officers, and teachers, in all plans for improvement. The zeal, fidelity and prudence displayed by the prudential committee in the discharge of their difficult but gratuitous duties, prove them to be pre-eminently fitted for the position, and merit your commendation rather than censure.

In conclusion, fellow citizens, we most earnestly commend our school system to your favorable consideration, and we urge upon every one, and especially upon every parent, the importance of *personal* interest in the subject of education; upon you rests the responsibility of the success or failure of the system we have labored so zealously to introduce, for the amelioration of the condition of our free schools. The erection of costly buildings, and the introduction of new methods of instruction will avail but little, if you shall permit the love for the almighty dollar to beguile you into the belief that a parsimonious frugality which withholds all necessary support from our public schools, is economy.

“The stream cannot rise higher than its fountain;” therefore we say, let individual fitness for the position be the only consideration which shall influence you in the selection of your officers; employ none but experienced teachers, who are known to be good disciplinarians, and to possess the faculty of imparting instruction; avoid a too frequent change of teachers; visit the schools frequently, and judge by actual observation of their progress; attend the annual school meeting, make all necessary appropriations cheerfully, and encourage, and sustain by hearty co-operation your committees and teachers, in the impartial discharge of their arduous, but thankless duties.

J. LOW ELKINS,
School Committee.

Newmarket, March 1st. 1876.

