

NEW MARKET HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STONE SCHOOL MUSEUM
NEWMARKET, N. H.

REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee

OF

NEWMARKET,

For the year ending March 8th, 1853.

In discharging our duties as Superintending School Committee, we proceed to lay before you a simple statement of facts, and to make such suggestions as may be needful for the future improvement of our schools.

DISTRICT, No. 1.

There are in this District four schools according to legal arrangements, two Primary, one Grammar and one High School, but by mutual consent, one of the Primaries "became twain," thus making five schools in all. One of the Primaries was taught in the "Company's School House," by Miss MARTHA S. TOWLE, 20 weeks. Total number of scholars 54; Boys 29, Girls 25, average attendance 40, wages of teacher per month, exclusive of board \$9.00. Miss Towle has had some experience in teaching prior to the present season; dignified in manner, and "ruling well her own household," she has been very successful in stimulating her pupils to "diligence and good behavior." We were particularly pleased with the progress made in Arithmetic and Reading.

The second Primary School has been taught 20 weeks in the Stone School House, by Miss CLARA B. KIMBALL. Whole number of pu-

pils 34; Boys 14, Girls 20, average attendance 30; wages of teacher per month, exclusive of board, \$9.00. This is Miss Kimball's first attempt at teaching among us, and we think she was quite successful. There was no abatement of interest on the part of the school; her pupils excelled in Reading and made pleasing improvement in Drawing, an exercise principally, we are sorry to say, confined to this School.

The third Primary School has been taught in the Brick School House, by Miss MARTHA S. BROOKS, Principal, and Miss MARY E. CHAPMAN, Assistant. This is the first time these teachers appear in our Report, and the first as teachers in Primary Schools. Their success has not been all that could be desired. Failing at first to secure and maintain good order, the natural train of evils followed. Whole number of pupils 93; Boys 36, Girls 57, average attendance 74; wages of the Principal \$9.00 per month, exclusive of board; wages of Assistant \$8.00. This is the largest School in town, and the most difficult to govern; and to fail here is no evidence that a teacher may not succeed elsewhere. No person, however, should attempt to teach this School who has not an indomitable will, and can maintain uniform and steady discipline, blend severity with gentleness and make the School-Room instinct with her presence and energy.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Much difficulty was experienced by the Prudential Committee in obtaining a suitable teacher for this School. Three candidates were examined and had "leave to withdraw." By repeated disappointments and delays in commencing the School, both scholars and parents became impatient and indisposed to be pleased with any teacher. Mr. GEORGE STICKNEY was found qualified to teach a School of even much higher attainments. Mr. Stickney was thorough and methodical in his instruction; and, though embarrassed at first by a want of interest in his pupils and a generous support of the parents, he won upon the confidence of both. The interest in his School increased even to its close, and the progress made by his pupils, renders it manifest, that with a fair chance, few would excel him as a teacher. We have seldom witnessed greater proficiency in Grammar and Arithmetic than in this School. His scholars, with few exceptions, deserve the highest commendation, several of whom are qualified to be advanced to the High School. Whole number of scholars 64; Boys 35, Girls 29, average attendance 47; continuance 20 weeks; wages of teacher \$23.00 per month, exclusive of board.

We would recommend to the District to employ a female teacher for this School the ensuing year. An energetic and well instructed woman would be fully competent to govern and instruct this School.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Boys 41, Girls 22, total 63, average attendance 40; wages of teacher \$38.00 per month, exclusive of board. This School, taught 20 weeks, by Mr. JOHN I. I. ADAMS, contains the more advanced scholars in the whole district, none but the highest branches being here taught. Mr. Adams has gained the deserved reputation of a thorough and successful educator. The order of his School is perfect and his method of teaching methodical; to make his pupils masters of what they study, he demands perfect recitations. Mr. Adams last year inspired an unbounded enthusiasm in both pupils and parents; and such an unnatural interest it was not in the power of man to perpetuate. We regret that a variety of causes have conspired to make this School less acceptable to some than it was last year.

The Committee feel assured that the present classification of the scholars in the district is such as will best meet the wants of our youth, and secure the continued approval of parents. All that is wanting is means of extending the operation of our schools through the entire year. We would here especially urge upon the attention of this district the importance of adopting the "Somersworth Act," thereby putting it into their power to raise a sufficient amount above what the law requires, to keep the High School in operation during the whole year. Two hundred dollars, in addition to what the law requires, would be sufficient for this purpose; and the amount would be so small as not to be found onerous to any. Of this sum a man taxed for his *Poll* would have to pay less than *twelve cents*; and for every *one hundred* dollars taxed, he would pay less than *five cents*, and less than *fifty cents* for every *one thousand* dollars of ratable property. For the securing of so important an advantage this is but a trifling expense; the poor cannot refuse it because it imposes no burden upon them; the rich will not refuse it because their interests will constrain them to bring the facilities of educating the young within the reach of all. The importance of this object cannot be exaggerated. It is absolutely necessary to our occupying an honorable position among neighboring towns as well as to our maintaining a laudable self respect among ourselves.

We would suggest that no little evil has resulted from the too length

recesses in the morning and evening sessions of the schools in this district, as well as from the irregularity in beginning and closing of some of them. A remedy to these evils should be applied. Would it not be well to have the vacation protracted through the months of August and September?

PLAINS DISTRICT.

Whole number of scholars 23; Boys 11, Girls 13, average attendance 19, wages of teacher \$10,00 per month, exclusive of board. This School, taught by Miss SUSAN A. SANBORN, 11 weeks, contained a less number of advanced scholars than last year; but such as did attend made commendable proficiency in their studies. The quiet and order of the School were very grateful to the Committee. Miss Sanborn is capable of teaching a larger and more advanced school; and with more energy and enthusiasm in the school-room would be second to few teachers.

PINE HILL.

Mr. C. P. HAINES taught this School 16 weeks. Whole number of scholars 28; Boys 13, Girls 15, average 23; wages, exclusive of board, per month, \$12,00.

GRANT DISTRICT.

Whole number of scholars 20; Boys 12, Girls 8, average 16; wages of teacher \$18,00 per month, exclusive of board. C. P. HAINES taught this School 9 weeks. These are the only Schools Mr Haines has ever taught, and his success has been highly gratifying. He is a young man of only eighteen years, and the Committee recommend him as a young man possessing talents and an aptitude at teaching which will render him a successful teacher.

CENTRE DISTRICT.

This School was taught 9 weeks by Mr. GEORGE B. BUZELL. Whole number of scholars 17; Boys 10, Girls 7, average attendance 14; wages of teacher \$14,00 per month, exclusive of board. This was Mr. Buzell's first attempt at teaching, being a young man of only some eighteen years. He is possessed of great energy and purity of character which, combined with many early advantages, qualify him to instruct a much larger and more advanced school.

While we congratulate the three last named districts upon the success of their schools the present year, we would nevertheless advise

them to employ women in future, by whom their schools would be, in all likelihood, quite as well taught, and very materially prolonged.

MORE MONEY.

It is well known that the towns about us have, with commendable liberality, raised by annual tax much more money for their schools than the statute requires, while this town has not exceeded the requisition of the law. We would recommend to the town to increase the amount raised by tax for schools by \$400, which would impose a tax of about *five cents* upon every one hundred dollars; or *fifty cents* for every one thousand. It should be our aim, as it would be our glory, to furnish every child in town, at public expense, "an education which will fit him adequately to discharge all the ordinary duties, both public and private, of a man and a citizen."

Some things requisite as a teacher.

1. He must have ample knowledge, able to explain principles, and teach the reason of things instead of dealing in the bare assertions of his text-book. It is not enough that he be capable of hearing rehearsed the abstract rules only or of solving problems as the book "directs." "He should be a scholar of some breadth as well as depth, knowing something more than the mere routine of daily study; and not a man whose half dozen thoughts rattle in his vacant head like shrunken kernels in a bean-pod."

2. The teacher should be able to infuse life and energy into his pupils, because he has life and energy in himself. Activity and cheerfulness should characterize the School-room.

3. The teacher should be able to *govern* his school. If order be the first law of heaven it ought not to be less the first law of the School-room. If whispering and talking, uneasiness *on* the seats or *under* the seats, throwing of paper-balls or cannon-balls, scuffling and boxing, and all the antics of a puppet-show, be tolerated, then studying will be a stranger to the School-room and progress unknown, unless it be progress to ruin. The teacher should be able to govern readily all the movements of his pupils if he will be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." It is not necessary that he be always flogging his pupils, yet he must not bear the rod in vain. He should employ a thousand expedients and reserve the terror of the rod for the last.

It should be remembered, in all our Primary Schools, knowledge of *books* is not more needed than knowledge of *children*, and means by which to restrain their passions and inspire self-respect, a reverence

for truth, and fear of God. "It is no child's play to take care of children. The mistaken and ruinous notion is sometimes entertained, that, while the highest order of talent and acquisition is requisite in the instructor of advanced scholars, any body will do for beginners. Wordsworth, throughout his huge octavo volume, has expressed no truer thought than that contained in the simple line, so often quoted,

'The child is father of the man.'

The teacher of the Primary School sweetens or embitters the waters at the fountain. An infusion which would poison the heart and the life of the child, might be poured into the man without especial harm. The dead horse, which would pollute the spring, might not seriously affect the flowing river. There is no grace however winning, no virtue however ennobling, no knowledge however profound, no wisdom however exalted, which may not find full scope for its highest exercise even in an Infant School.* Fearful is the responsibility which the teacher takes. The canvass on which he paints will never surrender the lines drawn. Too much care cannot be taken in selecting those whose province it is to trace images upon the immortal minds of our children. Yet, there is often a carelessness here which is nowhere else seen.

INFERENCES.

1. Prudential Committees should be men who know what kind of persons are needed to teach and will employ only such as afford ample evidence of qualification. They should be able to judge by personal appearance as well as by unequivocal testimony. It is not enough that they be assured that the man can drive a *coach* make a pair of *boots* or hold a *plough*; or that the woman can work *worsted* or dance a *quadrille* or that their kindred voted *right* at the last election; but they should know that those whom they are to employ understand how to *teach a School* and *govern* it, and that it will be safe to commit to them the developing and moulding of immortal minds. They would not employ a man to shoe a horse, or paint a house or drive a team; nor a woman to bake bread for their tables, or make dresses for their wives or children, unless they had ample evidence that they were qualified for these offices—able to *do* these things—not repeat a rule for doing them, but had good sense enough to *make* a rule or do them *without* a rule. Should they be less cautious in employing persons to train the plastic minds of their offspring?

* Report of S. S. Committee of Exeter for 1852.

2. It is in the power of Prudential Committees to render ineffectual for good the wisest arrangement of our Schools and the most faithful efforts of the Superintending Committee, by employing teachers who have no tact at governing nor aptitude at teaching.

3. Teachers should be *sought for*, not *picked up*—sought for because of their superior qualifications,—and not employed simply because they want to teach or it will be gratifying to friends; nor because of any favorite political or religious creed, but because they are *teachers* "worthy of their hire."

4. Parents should cordially sustain teachers in maintaining order, and in exacting perfect recitations; they should *know* that their children are at school every day and in due season. It is quite noticeable that those who complain most of their schools, are those parents whose children are the most inconstant in their attendance, and least in subjection at home. "There can be no system or method where classes are liable to be broken up every other day; there can be but little progress where the presence of the pupil at the recitation is not uniform and certain."

We subjoin the following General Table presenting some of the more important Statistics for the present year:

SCHOOLS.	Whole number of Scholars.		Wages of teachers per month exclusive of board.	Average attendance,	Number of scholars between 4 and 16 years of age.		Number of visits by Prudential Sch. Committee.	Number of visits by Prudential Sch. Committee.	Number of visits by Prudential Sch. Committee.	Number of visits by citizens.
	Boys.	Girls.			Number of scholars over 16 years of age.	Number of scholars under 16 years of age.				
Miss TOWLE'S,	54	20	9,00	40	54		7	2		6
Miss KIMBALL'S,	34	20	9,00	30	34		9	1		14
Miss BROOKS',	93	20	9,00	74	93		10	1		4
Mr. STICKNEY'S,	64	20	\$23	37	60	4	7	0		3
Mr. ADAMS',	63	20	\$38	40	32	31	8	1		0
Miss SANBORN'S,	23	11	\$10	19	23		2	1		2
Mr. HAINES', (Pine Hill,)	28	16	\$12	23	27	1	2	0		6
Mr. HAINES', (Grant,)	20	9	\$18	16	17	3	2	0		4
Mr. BUZELL'S,	17	9	\$14	14	16	1	2	0		0

Conscious that we have endeavored to discharge, faithfully and impartially, our duty, and knowing that very beneficial changes have been effected both in the classification of scholars and method of instruction, as well as in the enlargement of the branches of study, since we have had the charge of the Schools, we now commend them to your liberal support, trusting that our successors will perfect what has been begun.

E. C. COGSWELL, } *Superintending*
H. B. STEVENS, } *School*
J. B. CREIGHTON, } *Committee.*

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