

REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN,

AND
Supervisor of Schools,

OF THE
TOWN OF ALBION,
For the Year Ending March 1, 1878.

FAIRFIELD :
COLBY & SMALL, PRINTERS.
1878.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Albion, submit the following Report:

PRESENT FINANCIAL CONDITION.

Resources.		
In hands of B. F. Abbott, col. and treas.,		\$2,086.63
" " Francis Shorey, former col.,		290.00
" " Otis Meader, " "		11.29
Due for interest on State bonds,		120.90
		\$2,567.92
Liabilities.		
Due the several School Districts including the		
Mill Tax for 1878,	\$184.40	
" unpaid State tax,	1,134.60	
" " County tax,	322.24	
" for support of James Austin,	15.00	
" " Jane Austin,	30.00	
" outstanding orders,	203.18	\$2,188.43
Balance in favor of Town,		\$179.44

DETAILED REPORT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE TOWN.

Receipts.		
From Otis Meader, former col. and treas.,		\$130.78
" Francis Shorey		1,325.65
" tax bills for 1877,		6,900.29
" Bank School Fund and Mill Tax,		658.15
" South Thomas' on,		29.68
" Ellaworth,		23.00
" Mrs. H. B. Spencer,		31.00
" Dog licenses,		37.00
Interest on note against G. B. Shorey,		7.40
Stock sold from town farm,		88.00
		\$9,232.96
Expenditures.		
Paid County tax for 1876, balance,		\$419.11
" " " 1877, in part,		325.00
" Support of Schools,		1,782.23
" Support of Poor,		469.89
" Labor on Highway, Highway tax,		2,016.53
" Plank for Bridges,		25.70
" Repair of Roads and Bridges,		53.03
" Repair of Burying Ground Fences,		8.09
" Printing town reports for 1876,		12.00
" Abatement on tax bills of 1875,		9.55
" " " " 1876,		62.60
" " " " 1877,		8.00
" Blank Books and Stationery,		8.07
" Cash expenses of Selectmen,		17.15
" B. F. Abbott, for paying State Pensions,		3.00
" " for notifying extra town meetings,		3.00
" Town Officer's Bills,		330.69
" M. Rollins, for running town line,		2.50
" Geo. Works, for erecting monument,		.50
" Counsel fees,		2.04
" Costs in injunction case, School dist. No. 8,		37.73
" School Books for Brown & Robinson children,		1.65

" G. B. Wood, for use of pound, '76 and '77.	4.00	
" School District tax on town farm.	39.88	
" Sheep killed by dogs.	25.50	
In hands of Old Leader, former collector,	11.29	
Francis Shorey, " "	200.00	
Benj. Abbott, collector and treas.,	2,036.63	
		<u>\$9,406.14</u>
From which deduct outstanding orders not paid and included in the above expenditures,		183.18
		<u>\$9,222.96</u>

TOWN OFFICER'S BILLS.

A. H. Hammond, First Selectman,	\$80.85	
same for horse and carriage out of town.	18.75	
Francis Shorey, Second Selectman,	39.50	
D. G. Mudgett, Third " "	30.50	
M. B. Hammond, Supervisor of Schools,	69.00	
Benj. F. Abbott, collector and treasurer,	68.00	
W. R. Skillin, Town Clerk,	10.00	
N. R. Wellington, Town Agent,	13.00	
Genl. B. Pray, Auditor,	1.00	
		<u>\$330.60</u>
SUPPORT OF POOR FROM MARCH 1, 1877, TO MARCH 1, 1878.		

Expenditures on Town Farm.

Paid J. J. Roberts, balance of salary for 1877,	\$20.17	
" " salary to March 1, 1878.	340.00	
" Store Bills.	235.90	
Blacksmith's bills: \$13.50; plow points, \$1.00.	15.19	
1 cow, \$16; 2 pigs, \$8; use of bull, \$1.50.	25.50	
Grass seed, \$4.80; lumber, \$1.95; 2 chairs, \$1.75.	7.00	
Saw bill, \$2.50; repairs on tin ware, 80 cts.,	3.30	
Gripstone and crank, \$3.88; drag rake, 50 cts.,	4.38	
Woodsaw and frame, \$1.25; tubing, 65 cts.,	1.90	
1 coffin, \$8.00; funeral ex. of Mrs. Marden, \$6.75.	14.75	
		<u>\$675.63</u>

Receipts from Farm.

One pair oxen, \$90.00; 1 calf, \$5.	\$95.00	
65 lbs. wool, 29.47; 4 1-4 cords of wood, 12.62.	33.09	
22 1-2 lbs. of butter, 5.41; 45 1-2 doz. eggs, \$6.78	12.19	
58 lbs. beef, 3.77; 1 hide, 4.42.	8.19	
52 skeins yarn, 9.86; 4 prs. mittens, 300,	12.86	
32 bu. oats, 17.44; 1 1/3 bu. barley, 1.61.	19.08	
20 bu. of potatoes, 23.00; hemlock boards, 2.40,	22.40	
2 pelts 95 cts.; poultry, 4.05.	5.00	
Vinegar, 30 cts.; squash, 40 cts.,	.70	
1 trunk, 2.00; 1 clock, 1.00,	3.00	
1 wagon, 1.50; rent of pasture, 13.00,	14.50	
1 load bedding,	3.50	
		<u>\$229.51</u>

Expense of poor on town farm.

\$446.18

SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF POOR HOUSE.

Paid for James Austin,	\$106.00
" Job Richards,	137.08
" Daniel Lancaster and wife,	56.33
" Benson Higgins and family,	61.50
" Hattie E. Spencer,	55.40
" Abram Morrison,	13.12
" William Robinson and family,	12.38

" Sarah A. Mosely.	1.50	
Due at Augusta for James Austin,	15.00	
" " Jane Austin,	30.00	
	<hr/>	\$488.06
Received of the above from South Thomaston and Ellsworth,		\$13.73
From Mrs. H. B. Spencer,		26.00
		<hr/>
		\$39.73
Leaving cost of poor out of poor house,		<hr/>
		448.33
Total expense of poor,		\$894.51
INVENTORY OF STOCK AND PROVISIONS ON TOWN FARM.		
2 oxen, \$90; 3 cows, 70; 20 sheep, 80; 1 pig, 7,		\$247.00
14 tons hay, 1.40; 16 hens, 6; 10 bu. oats, 5;		
7 bu. barley, 5.25		156.25
1-3 bu. beans, 1; 1-2 bu. pease, 50; 60 bu. po., 12		13.50
300 lbs. pork, 33; 200 lbs. beef, 16; 32 lbs. lard, 4;		
34 lbs. candles, 4.25,		57.25
12 lbs. butter, 2.40; 4 lbs. coffee, 1.20; 2 lbs.		
sugar, 22; 3 lbs. soda, 15,		3.97
1 bbl. soap, 3.50; 3-4 bbl. flour, 5.62; 1 bu. meal, 75,		9.87
		<hr/>
		\$487.84

There is in the hands of the Treasurer a State bond amounting to \$2,000.

There is an action pending in the Supreme Judicial Court against West Waterville for the support of the Brown children.

A. H. HAMMOND,	} Selectmen of Albion.
FRANCIS SHOREY,	
D. G. MUDGETT.	

I have examined the bills of the Selectmen for 1877-8. and find them properly vouched and correctly cast.

G. B. PRAY, Auditor.

Supervisor's Report.

Herewith we give you our second annual report of the condition of our schools. The form of this report will essentially differ from all former reports, and may from what is expected; as we prefer to consider the schools, excepting statistical information which is given in the annexed tables, in the aggregate, rather than attempt a minute description of each, thereby avoiding much useless repetition, and yet accomplishing the ultimate object of a report in conveying to the citizens of the town such information in regard to their schools as is suited to promote future usefulness.

The summer schools taken as a whole were, we think, better than those of the preceding year. All were profitable, though some in a greater degree than others. Several of them were excellent, while two or three taught by inexperienced teachers, although showing commendable improvement, did not reach that degree of excellence where we should have been glad to have found them.

Of our winter schools—by turning to the annexed tables you will see that quite a number of them have been taught by beginners, and, under the circumstances, the progress was, perhaps, as good as could be expected. The intellectual qualifications of our teachers have been very good: the qualities lacking have been judgment, and executive abilities. Several of our teachers have been especially adapted to the calling. They have been energetic and have produced good results. Only one change of teachers has been made during the winter, that, in No. 5. The school in No. 8, was divided at the commencement of the winter term, making two good sized schools.

Two thirds of our winter schools have been taught by female teachers. Females as a class are better adapted to teach than males, their perceptive faculties are quicker, making them quick to learn the dispositions of their pupils; they are more communicative, and with the same advantages for self culture they can more readily impart knowledge to others. We have no school in town but what could be successfully taught by a female.

Several of our schools have not received a single visit from the parents the past year. There seems to be too much indifference on their part. Many will send their children to school and if they learn it is all right, and if not it is all the same. Should you ask them about their school, the answer you get is something like this; "I guess we are having a good school, I don't hear any complaint." Would it not be better to be able to say, "We are having a good school, I know, for I have been there to see."

Irregularity of attendance is one great hindrance to success in our schools. By referring to the annexed tables you will see that the average attendance in nearly all of our schools is much below what it should be. Tardiness is another nuisance. Coming into school late greatly disturbs the school and ought not to be allowed. Late at school may be a little better than never, but it is only a little. Who so well as parents can suppress this evil?

The character of our schools depends chiefly of course, on the private character of the pupils, and since this is formed mainly at home, the

success or failure of these schools depends very much on the parents of the pupils. Well ordered and virtuous homes are very sure to produce well ordered and happy schools.

Many parents seem to think that almost any one is qualified to teach a school composed of small scholars. On the contrary the highest attainments are absolutely necessary. Not only the mental but the moral qualifications should be of the same high tone. Their language should be pure and chaste, free from slang phrases, and in short their whole example should be such as may be safely copied by children to practice in after-life.

A good teacher must not only know what is to be taught but also how to teach it. He must have tact, judgment and common sense; he must study his pupils, bring himself into sympathy with them, and adapt his explanations and illustrations to their capacities; he must be diligent, patient, earnest and zealous.

Good or ill success does not wholly depend upon the teacher. In some schools the scholars are inclined to study and almost any teacher will succeed, while in others almost no one can succeed. Neither must it be understood that where a teacher fails there is a lack of effort, or moral delinquency. A teacher may do well in one school and yet fail in another.

The frequent changing of teachers is to be deplored. It breaks up all connection between one term and another. Teachers have different ways and it necessarily takes some time to get accustomed to every change. When a good teacher is once secured he should be retained as long as possible, not minding a few dollars on a month. Remember that six weeks of school taught by a good teacher is worth twelve by a second rate one.

We can note some improvements that have been made in our school-houses the past year. The members of district No. 6, have erected a neat and commodious house and they are entitled to credit for their liberality. In district No. 8, a room has been finished in the upper story, thus affording means of accommodating two schools at the same time. The remainder of the school-houses remain in the same condition as at the commencement of the year.

A set of Watson's School Maps has been placed in each of the schools in town the present winter at a cost of five dollars a set. Where they have been properly used we think they have proved to be of much benefit. About one hundred dollars would supply all of our schools with Webster's Unabridged Dictionaries, and the money could not be invested to better advantage. To have our teachers work well we must supply them with good working tools. A farmer hiring a man does not expect him to provide his own implements, neither must we expect a teacher to do it. Several school-rooms are not provided with suitable black-boards, and one is wholly without. Agents can supply this defect at a trifling cost and we hope they will make some improvement in this direction the coming year. Three school-rooms are not provided with chairs for either teacher or visitors, and in one or two others it is dangerous to sit in those provided.

For the benefit of school agents we give the following extract from the school laws, Sect. 69, item sixth of the duties of school agents reads as follows:—"When empowered by the town to employ teachers, he shall, before the commencement of a term of school give written notice to some member of the superintending school committee, or to the supervisor, when it is to commence, whether to be taught by a master or mistress, and how long it is expected to continue." Have all of our agents the past year come up to this requirement?

Tables are annexed showing at a glance the several teachers in the summer and winter schools, their experience in teaching, the length of each school, the number of scholars in each district, the number registered, the average attendance, a list of studies pursued, the number of scholars in each study, and also a brief financial statement.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Dist.	Teacher.	Residence.	Taught how many Schools before.	Length of School in weeks.	No. of Scholars in District.	No. of Scholars regis e d.	Average Atten- ance.
2.	Caddie O. Fall,	Albion.....	4	9 2-3	43	18	17
3.	Emma I. Spencer,	".....	14	8	24	13	11
4.	Carrie D. Webb,	".....	3	10	41	17	13
5.	Emma F. Webb,	".....	1	12	45	29	23
6.	Julia F. Worthing,	Palermo.....	3	13 1-2	23	19	17
8.	Mrs. N. E. C. McGray,	Unity.....	33	11	85	55	48
9.	Sarah J. Whitney,	Albion.....	16	7	21	10	9
10.	Mary F. Ewer,	".....	3	10	38	23	19
11.	S. Lettie Smiley,	Benton.....	1	7	16	11	9
12.	Lizzie A. Farrah,	Albion.....	0	7.	17	15	13
13.	Sarah F. Shorey,	".....	0	6	14	10	7
14.	Olive A. Gould,	".....	6	5	25	9	7

WINTER SCHOOLS.

Dist.	Teacher.	Residence.	Taught how many Schools before.	Length of School in weeks.	No. of Scholars in District.	No. of Scholars Registered.	Average Attend- ance.	No. of different Scholars registered during the year.
2.	W. A. Lancaster,	Benton.....	0	12	43	22	21	24
3.	Edith E. Crosby,	Manchester, N.H.	2	12	24	19	17	22
4.	Olive A. Gould,	Albion.....	7	12	41	34	27	34
	Fred B. Hussey,	".....	0	10	45	32	24	30
5.	W. M. Wyman,	Freedom.....	4	5	27	27	21	21
6.	Julia F. Worthing,	Palermo.....	9	12	25	21	15	25
	Grammar Dept. }							
8.	Lillie V. Dilling,	Albion.....	13	12	85	28	23	75
	Primary Dept. }							
	Mrs. Myra F. Bryant,	Albion.....	10	12	23	23	29	29
9.	Abbie F. Rowe,	Palermo.....	8	10	21	23	18	24
10.	Mary F. Ewer,	Albion.....	4	14	38	22	19	23
11.	W. I. Farnsworth,	China.....	0	10	16	15	11	15
12.	Frank Rackliff,	Albion.....	0	12	17	15	11	18
13.	Sarah F. Shorey,	".....	1	13	14	12	9	12
14.	Fannie L. Brackett,	Dexter.....	3	13	25	18	16	19

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

List of Studies pursued and number of Scholars in each study.

STUDIES.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	No. 8.	No. 9.	No. 10.	No. 11.	No. 12.	No. 13.	No. 14.	Total
Reading.....	14	13	17	27	29	19	55	10	23	11	15	10	9	225
Spelling.....	14	13	17	27	27	19	55	10	23	11	13	9	9	222
Penmanship.....	5	7	13	9	8	8	23	8	9	6	0	6	7	201
Arithmetic.....	12	10	14	19	12	40	7	10	9	8	4	4	7	152
Grammar.....	6	3	5	4	3	15	1	2	5	2	1	1	1	47
Geography.....	10	7	1	4	6	13	4	6	5	1	1	1	6	64
History.....	1							2						5
Physiology.....						1								1
Algebra.....	1						5							7

WINTER SCHOOLS.

List of Studies pursued and number of Scholars in each study.

STUDIES.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	No. *8.	No. 8.	No. 9.	No. 10.	No. 11.	No. 12.	No. 13.	No. 14.	Total
Reading.....	20	19	31	32	21	36	16	23	22	13	14	12	18	18	282
Spelling.....	20	19	34	22	21	36	28	23	22	13	14	12	15	15	286
Pennmanship.....	13	16	30	12	12	18	18	19	8	8	11	2	8	15	177
Arithmetic.....	10	17	28	27	15	32	23	19	11	11	11	7	7	15	216
Grammar.....	10	8	9	11	5	18	18	1	1	8	5	5	3	4	80
Geography.....	11	6	1	7	2	6	9	15	8	5	8			8	111
History.....	3							10							14
Physiology.....	2		1					2			1				6
Book-keeping.....				2				4							7
Algebra.....		4	4	4	2			10			3				29
Composition.....								6							11
Geometry.....								1							1

*Primary School.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance unexpended, March 1, 1877,	\$129.40
Amount raised by the town,	1,084.89
" of School Mill fund,	306.34
" Savings Bank Tax	252.56
Total amount available, 1877.	\$1,863.10
Expenditures.	
Paid for teaching Summer Schools,	\$364.17
" " Winter	658.78
" boarding Summer teachers,	167.30
" " Winter	300.63
" Watson's School Maps,	60.00
" Fuel,	96.70
" Insurance, repairs, furniture, &c.,	134.65
Total Expenditures,	\$1,782.23
Balance unexpended, March 1, 1878,	\$80.87
Average length of Summer Schools, 8 weeks and 4-6 days.	
" " Winter	12 weeks and 1-3 days.
" wages of female teachers per week, \$3.60.	
" " male	" " month, \$18.00
" price of board during the year, \$1.74.	

We have endeavored to discharge our duties for the past two years faithfully and impartially, and trust we have performed them satisfactorily to our fellow townsmen. If we have in any instances erred, and all are liable to, it must be attributed to an erroneous judgment on our part.

And now, fellow townsmen, thanking you for your courtesy in twice electing me to this office, I respectfully decline being a candidate for reelection the present year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. B. HAMMOND,
Supervisor of Schools, Town of Albion.