


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen  Overseers of the Poor

AND TREASURER

FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

AMHERST, MASS. :

H. M. McCLOUD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

William Buffum, outstanding order for 1875,	\$3 54
Asahel Gates,	60 94
William P. Montgomery,	85 16
Thomas W. Stratton,	24 25
J. M. Packard,	75 62
Henry Cook,	42 50
Arthur C. Jewett,	61 56
John W. Knight,	58 98
Richard Twohig,	50 39
James Fales,	50 00
John T. Nichols,	75 08
Henry Carroll,	48 20
Samuel R. Keith,	82 21
Russell Whipple,	70 55
Estus Barnes,	61 04
Thomas W. Stratton, Morse road,	11 25
Lyman Ward,	12 56
William B. Frost,	5 10
	<hr/>
	\$878 93

WINTER BILL FOR BREAKING ROADS.

Henry Cook,	\$32 34
Dennis Champion,	1 00
Justin Canterbury,	2 00

Israel Taylor,	\$28 54	
James Fales,	12 54	
Moses L. Ward,	55 59	
Estus Barnes,	19 64	
Samuel R. Keith,	16 47	
J. G. Ward,	4 25	
Asahel Gates,	4 65	
Henry Carroll,	13 44	
Richard Twohig,	23 00	
Russell Whipple,	4 24	
John Jones,	6 20	
J. M. Packard,	12 55	
Arthur C. Jewett,	9 04	
Thomas W. Stratton,	17 22	
John W. Knight,	12 58	
		<hr/> \$275 29

COST OF THE POOR.

Dwight Dunbar,	\$156 00	
Betsey Rider,	80 00	
Miranda Boynton,	60 00	
John Bolster,	60 00	
Charlie Davis,	52 90	
Willard Benson,	73 97	
Mrs. Julius Wright,	37 00	
Mrs. Jeremiah Armstrong,	17 25	
Alexander Brewster,	15 00	
Lucy Davis,	1 00	
Dr. Heed's bill for Mrs. Wright,	11 50	
		<hr/> 564 62
For Outside Poor,		352 38
		<hr/> \$917 00

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

S. Jewett, as trustee for A. Brewster,	\$57 71
John Jones, services as Moderator,	1 00
John Shaw, services G. Davis' funeral,	1 00

S. Jewett, money paid for Collector's book,	85
H. M. McCloud, posters,	1 25
Bond & Brothers, costs on suit of Seth Davis,	43 28
S. Jewett, costs on Wm. Newell suit,	20 00
George Shepard, repairing weight and measures,	65
Alfred Taylor, making returns of deaths,	75
James Thompson, work on watering trough,	1 00
A. C. Keith, recording marriages, births and deaths,	4 85
A. C. Keith and team, 1 day to refund Town debt,	3 00
A. C. Keith, stamps, expressage, postage and wood,	6 98
S. Jewett, stamps, envelopes and stationery,	2 71
S. Jewett, services as Selectman,	57 10
Thomas W. Stratton, services as Selectman,	25 91
James Hanks, " "	14 00
A. C. Keith, Clerk and Treasurer,	50 00
S. Jewett, Assessor.	10 00
Asahel Gates, "	10 50
Alonzo C. Randall "	9 00
Russell Whipple, sexton,	4 00
Samuel B. Davis, "	16 00
Wm. O. Buffum, "	2 00
Theodore F. Cook, posting up Town warrants,	5 00
Welcome J. Harris, outstanding of 1874,	3 00

 \$351 54

SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Teacher's wages and board, Spring term,	\$191 25
" " Fall term,	217 55
" " Winter term,	260 95
W. K. Vaill, Superintendent,	41 75
John Jones, School Committee,	2 25
James Hanks, School Committee,	75
John Jones, repairs on School Houses,	5 25
Fuel, West School,	14 50
" South School,	10 83
" Valley School,	10 00
" East School,	8 00

M. N. Spear, books and chalk,	\$36 73	
E. Nelson, books, &c.,	4 85	
W. K. Vaill, repairs and sundries,	4 89	
Outstanding orders of 1875,	42 00	
	<hr/>	\$851 55

RECAPITULATION.

Paupers' Expenses,	\$917 00	
Highways and Bridges,	1,154 22	
Town Debt, paid on principal,	3,030 00	
Interest on Town Debt,	469 18	
Schools,	851 55	
Contingent,	351 54	
Remits,	17 69	
State Tax,	180 00	
County Tax,	255 03	
In the Treasury,	212 21	
	<hr/>	\$7,438 42

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

In the Treasury, March 13, 1876,	\$805 77
Rec'd of Theodore F. Cook,	2,528 38
" A. C. Keith, Collector for 1874,	134 18
" George D. Jones, Collector for 1875,	668 72
" for support of Paupers from Springfield,	161 43
" " " " Deerfield,	191 25
" " " " Holyoke,	10 50
" " " " Palmer,	72 00
" " " " Shutesbury,	20 00
" " " " Leominster,	3 50
" " " " Ludlow,	12 00
" " " " Ware,	19 25
" from Marcus Grant funeral expenses,	4 00
" " E. Thornton, grass on S. Davis' land,	8 71
" " E. Endicott, Bank Tax,	6 11
" " Mass. School Fund,	219 35
" " County Treasury, Dog Fund,	45 88
" " Richard Twohig, interest on note,	7 30
" " Rent of Town Hall,	2 00
" " Sale of School Books,	10 59
" " Ann Kennedy Estate,	7 50
Borrowed Money,	2,500 00
	\$7,438 42

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid on Town Debt, borrowed money, notes,	\$2,500 00	
on Principal,	530 00	
Interest,	469 18	
on Highways and Bridges,	1,154 22	
Pauper Expenses,	917 00	
Schools,	851 55	
Contingent,	351 54	
State Tax,	180 00	
County Tax,	255 03	
Assessors' Abatements,	17 69	
Balance in Treasury,	212 21	
		\$7,438 42

A. C. KEITH, TREASURER.

TOWN LIABILITIES.

Notes,	\$8,200 00	
Interest to March 1st, 1877,	256 33	
Outstanding orders,	100 00	
		\$8,556 33

RESOURCES.

In the Treasury,	\$ 212 21
Due from G. D. Jones, Collector, 1875,	357 65
" T. F. Cook, Collector,	1,294 05
" T. F. Cook, " Interest on taxes,	77 64
" Town of Palmer, support pauper,	21 00
" " Hadley, " "	7 50
" " Ludlow, " "	9 50
" " Ware, " "	6 00
" A. C. Keith, Collector, 1874,	5 10
" sale of old School house,	12 00
" sale of School books,	30 99
" John Shaw, sale of grass,	8 00
" E. Thornton, sale of grass,	3 29
" Richard Twohig,	100 00

Value of Davis farm,	\$100 00	
Due from State, for support of pauper,	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$2,254 93
Debt reduced from last year,	\$422 95	
Present indebtedness,		\$6,301 40

Respectfully submitted,

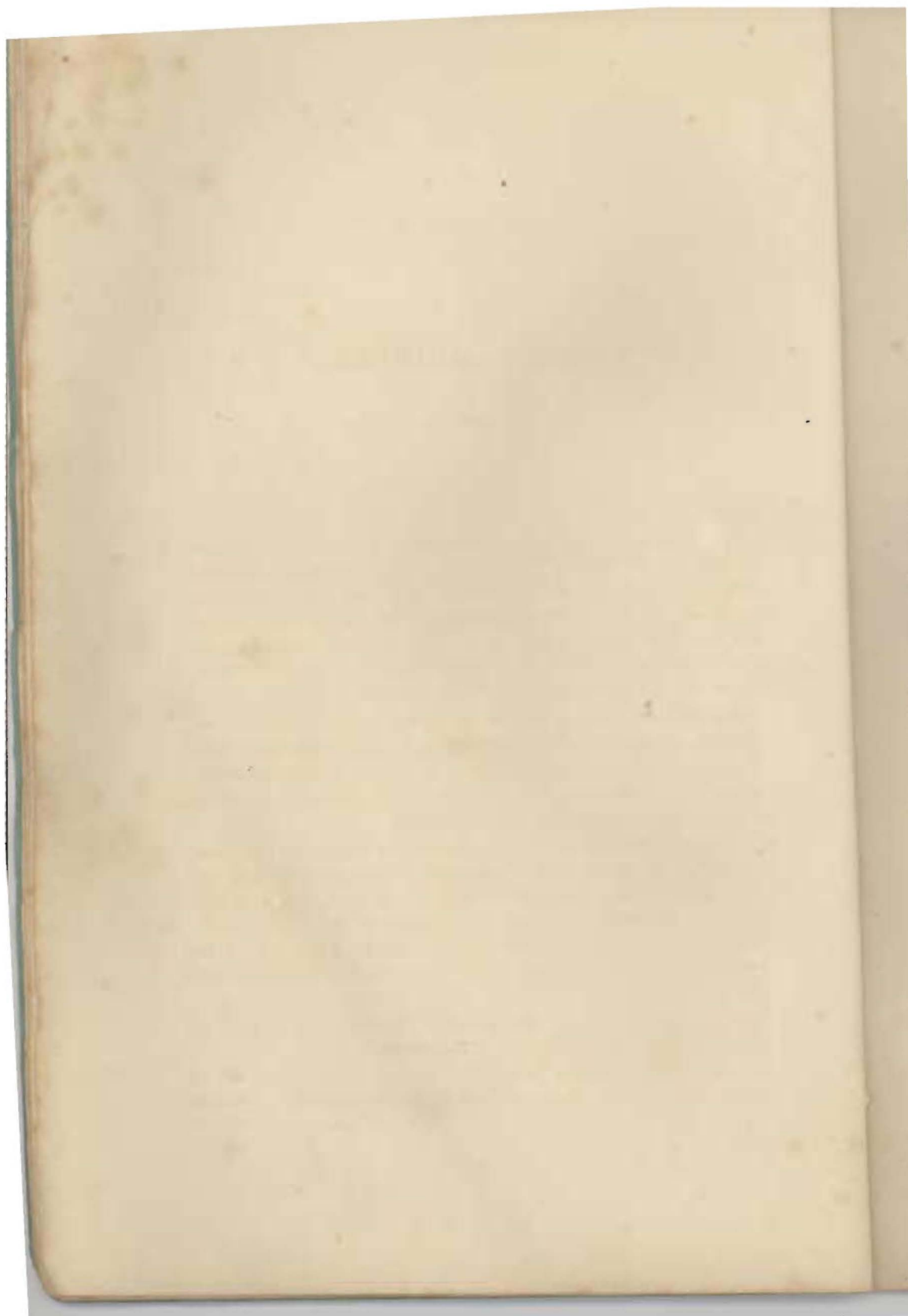
SYLVESTER JEWETT,	}	<i>Selectmen of Pelham.</i>
JAMES HANKS,		
THOMAS W. STRATTON,		

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

This is to certify that I have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Selectmen, Treasurer and Collector, and find them to be correct, and a balance of \$212.21 in the Treasury.

Pelham, March 8, 1877.

S. R. KEITH, AUDITOR.



SCHOOL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS :

The education of our children and youth is a matter of the greatest importance. Upon it will depend, in a great measure, the future prosperity and happiness, not only of each individual of the rising generation, but of the whole community. For more than two hundred years our public schools have been wisely and carefully cherished by the people of this State, and we hope that they will always receive the fostering care of this Commonwealth.

Our schools the past year have generally been instructed by well qualified and faithful teachers, and although the extraordinary depth of snow in the winter term has made some of our roads impassable, and greatly reduced the average attendance, they have on the whole, accomplished as much as in any former year.

Your Committee found the town burdened with a heavy debt, and, while they did not forget that every child had a right to the best education that the Town could afford, they felt it their duty to be prudent and economical in their expenditure of the public money. While we congratulate our fellow citizens on the prosperity of our schools, we would respectfully invite your attention to the following figures :

Money voted by the Town for support of Schools,	\$700 00
Money received from the sale of School Books,	8 91
Money received from Dog Fund,	45 88
Money received from Income of State Educational Fund,	219 35

Total Resources of the Schools,	\$974 14
Aggregate of School Expenses, as per table annexed,	827 05
	<hr/>
Balance of School Money unexpended,	\$147 09

The School expenses of the Town for the years 1874-5 and 1875-6, were respectively \$1,161.47 and \$1,191.76. It will thus be seen that our Schools for the last year, have cost the Town less by \$334.42, than in 1874, and less by \$364.71 than in 1875, a reduction of expense, compared with that of the former year, of nearly twenty-nine per cent., and compared with that of the latter year, of more than thirty per cent.

The records of attendance that have been kept by our teachers exhibit too many marks of absence and tardiness on the part of the pupils. "Without regular attendance the teacher is in no wise responsible for progress," for an irregular or inconstant pupil not only suffers himself, but is a damage to the whole school. Let us therefore be careful that our children are at school every day, in good season, and that, except in cases of absolute necessity, they remain until the close of each session. Our school registers show likewise that excepting at the closing examinations comparatively few of the parents have visited the schools. Every parent and guardian should, if possible, become acquainted with the instructor of his children. "They should visit the schools often, show a friendly interest in the work of the teachers, sympathize with them in their trials, confer with them in regard to their children, and point out any peculiarities of temperament each child may possess, that the teacher may understand the whole ground she has to work upon, and be enabled to prosecute her duties judiciously and efficiently."

Your Committee would very cordially endorse the recommendations of their predecessors for the last two years, that the West and Valley schools should be united. They believe that the best interests of the children in both districts would thereby be promoted without essentially increasing our taxes. Some repairs and improvements are needed, both for economy and the comfort of the children, in each of our school houses. It is therefore hoped that the town will make a liberal appropriation for the ensuing year.

Some profess to believe that corporal punishment should be prohibited, not only in all educational institutions, but also in the family. Although the wise man declared that, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him," and "He that spareth the rod hateth his son," they say that, "In this age of improvement the rod is a relic of the dark ages and quite out of place in the latter half of the nineteenth century." Undoubtedly this is an age of improvement, and of most wonderful discoveries in the arts and sciences, but not in the natural qualities of mankind. Human nature has not improved. It is the same now that it was in the days of Solomon, and it needs the same discipline and correction now that it needed then. We are far from advocating the indiscriminate or indiscreet use of the rod; we believe that the judicious teacher, as well as the judicious parent, will seldom use it, but until there is an entire change in human nature, it will never be possible entirely to dispense with it, either in the school or in the family. It will not be denied that some teachers use it too freely—this is its abuse—but the abuse of anything does not prove that it should never be used. If we would have less of it in our public schools, let us who are parents, see to it that our children are *early* and well subdued at home; let us there hold the reins of government with a steady hand; let us be kind without indulgence and strict without severity; let us insist on prompt and uniform obedience; let us train them up in the practice of courtesy, kindness, and good manners toward each other, and all with whom they are conversant; let us bring them up to habits of honesty, industry and frugality; especially let us "teach them the fear of the Lord," and then they will love and obey their teachers, and very seldom require correction or discipline at school; let us remember the injunction, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it; let us with a deep sense of our accountability to the Judge of all, endeavor to do our whole duty to our children, and then when we are sleeping in the dust shall they "rise up and call us blessed," and then in the future, as in the past, "shall the sun shine on no land more free, more virtuous, more happy than this our country."

WM. K. VAILL,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
JOHN JONES,		
JAMES HANKS,		

RESOURCES OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Town Appropriation,	\$700 00
Received from sale of School Books,	8 91
“ “ the Dog Fund,	45 88
“ “ income of the State Educational Fund,	219 35
	974 14

EXPENSES.

Sarah N. Ward, for Teaching 20 weeks, \$3,	\$60 00
“ “ “ 10 “ 3 50,	35 00
Florence L. E. Wells, “ 7 $\frac{4}{5}$ “ 3 00,	23 40
Helen L. Horton, “ 5 “ 3 00,	15 00
Flora J. King, “ 5 “ 3 00,	15 00
Annie M. Hastings, “ 10 “ 3 00,	30 00
Jessie Burnell, “ 10 “ 3 00,	30 00
Charles Hastings, “ 21 “ 3 00,	63 00
Sarah N. Kingman, “ 1 “ 3 00,	3 00
M. D. Gold, “ 10 “ 6 50,	65 00
A. T. Warner, “ 10 “ 3 00,	30 00
“ “ “ 10 “ 3 50,	35 00
	\$404 40

M. L. Ward, board of Teacher 30 weeks, \$2,	\$60 00	
Henry Carrol, " " 9 " 2 00,	18 00	
" " " " 11 " 2 25,	24 75	
A. C. Randall, " " 10 " 2 00,	20 00	
Russell Whipple, " " 10 " 2 00,	20 00	
" " " " 10 " 2 25,	22 50	
Johnathan Neale, " " 10 " 2 50,	25 00	
M. D. Gold, " " 10 " 2 00,	20 00	
W. K. Vaill, " " 10 " 1 75,	17 50	
" " " " 10 " 2 00,	20 00	247 75
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For making fires in West School House,	\$ 4 05	
" Valley "	2 75	
" East "	2 50	
" South "	4 05	
<hr/>		\$13 35
S. R. Keith, bringing out teacher,	50	
Cleaning West School House,	50	
" South "	25	
4 Thermometers,	2 00	
4 cases for Thermometers,	60	
Sundry repairs in West School House,	1 40	
1 box Crayons,	30	
1 lock for South School House,	88	
1 lock for Valley School House,	88	
Geo. Shepard, putting on lock,	25	
4 brooms,	1 33	
1 key for South School House,	25	
John Jones, repairs in West School House,	4 25	
John Brainard, " "	1 00	
<hr/>		14 39
T. W. Stratton, wood for East School,	8 00	
Warren Abercrombie, wood for West School,	10 50	
John Jones, wood for West School,	2 25	
Ed. Powell, cutting and piling wood,	1 75	
Henry Carroll, wood for Valley School,	10 00	
A. C. Randall, wood for South School,	10 83	
<hr/>		43 33

E. Nelson, school books and incidentals,	4 85	
M. N. Spear, " " "	36 73	
	<hr/>	41 58
Services of School Committee and Superintendent,		44 25
Estimated outstanding orders,		18 00
		<hr/>
		\$827 05
Balance of School money, unexpended,		147 09
		<hr/>
		\$974 14



$$\begin{array}{r}
 16 \\
 20 \\
 \hline
 320 \\
 10 \\
 \hline
 10 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 2
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 20 \\
 7 \frac{1}{2} \\
 \hline
 140 \\
 10 \\
 \hline
 150 \\
 5 \\
 \hline
 155 \\
 2 \\
 \hline
 310
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3 \quad 7 \frac{1}{2} \\
 4 \\
 \hline
 15 \quad 3 \\
 2 \quad 9
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10 \\
 7 \\
 \hline
 17
 \end{array}$$