

REPORTS  
OF THE  
**Selectmen of Acushnet,**  
ON THE  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,  
AND OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
For the year 1875-6.



NEW BEDFORD:  
E. ANTHONY & SONS, PRINTERS.  
1876.



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## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.



The Selectmen of the town of Acushnet respectfully submit the following report :

|   |          |         |
|---|----------|---------|
| George F. Glasse is charged with uncollected taxes of 1872, | \$215.40 |         |
| Amount collected,   | \$102.75 |         |
| Amount remitted,  | 15.15    |         |
| Commissions on taxes collected since 1872,                  | 3.76     | 121.66  |
| Due the town,   |          | \$93.74 |

|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| George P. Morse, collector of taxes, is charged with tax bills of 1875, | \$9,062.75 |            |
| Also with tax bills of 1871,  | 22.40      |            |
| “ “ “ 1873,   | 23.20      |            |
| “ “ “ 1874,   | 26.24      | \$9,354.59 |

### CREDIT.

|                                |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Paid State tax,                | \$1,000.00 |            |
| Paid County tax,               | 880.80     |            |
| Discount on taxes collected,   | 495.06     |            |
| Commission on taxes collected, | 88.83      |            |
| Taxes remitted,                | 71.95      |            |
| Uncollected taxes for 1871,    | 22.40      |            |
| “ “ “ 1873,                    | 23.20      |            |
| “ “ “ 1874,                    | 30.10      |            |
| “ “ “ 1875,                    | 390.00     |            |
| Amount paid town treasurer,    | 6,352.75   | \$9,354.59 |

### Treasurer's Account.

|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| George P. Morse, treasurer, is charged with receiving taxes collected by George F. Glasse, 1872, | \$102.75 |  |
| Received of collector,   | 6,352.75 |  |
| Received of State treasurer, bank tax, corporation tax, and reimbursement of State aid,          | 1,377.96 |  |
| Balance of last year's account,  | 830.57   |  |
| Received from State school fund,   | 244.51   |  |



|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Received from county treasurer, dog fund,       | 110.04 |            |
| For school books sold,                          | 20.47  |            |
| Benjamin White, auctioneer's license,           | 2.00   |            |
| Engine and fixtures,                            | 38.53  |            |
| Two hogs sold at Alms-house,                    | 29.00  |            |
| One twenty-eighth State tax from New Bedford,   | 67.15  |            |
| For use of school-house at Acushnet village,    | 12.00  |            |
| From town of Marion, for helping poor,          | 20.00  |            |
| For one cow sold at Alms-house,                 | 40.00  |            |
| From sale of burial lot,                        | 5.00   |            |
| From town of Rochester, for schooling children, | 79.95  |            |
| From sale of loam at gravel lot,                | 4.32   |            |
| From town of Mattapoisett, for helping poor,    | 8.00   |            |
| Of Benjamin White, guardian of Leonard Gammons, | 52.00  |            |
| Interest on taxes collected after abatement,    | 20.42  |            |
| From William Brightman, for schooling,          | 1.00   |            |
| From E. R. Ashley, for school-house,            | 47.00  | \$9,465.42 |

## CREDIT.

The treasurer is credited with the following amounts paid :

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Paid support of poor,                      | \$1,464.41 |            |
| Support of public schools,                 | 2,179.33   |            |
| Incidental expenses, and new school-house, | 4,262.47   |            |
| Repairs on highways,                       | 1,013.41   |            |
| Treasurer's commission,                    | 61.47      |            |
| Balance in treasury,                       | 484.33     | \$9,465.42 |

## Support of Schools.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Paid Miss Ida A. Omev,                        | \$224.50 |
| Mrs. Ann H. Snow,                             | 265.50   |
| Miss Sarah L. Snow,                           | 317.50   |
| Mr. Charles L. Russell,                       | 281.25   |
| Miss Lilia A. Hicks,                          | 70.00    |
| Miss Martha W. White,                         | 140.00   |
| Miss Clara T. Wing,                           | 278.00   |
| Mr. Caleb Slade,                              | 357.50   |
| Mrs. D. H. Gammons,                           | 90.00    |
| Edward R. Ashley, wood furnished for schools, | 28.50    |
| B. Y. Warner, wood furnished for schools,     | 17.75    |
| Geo. P. Morse, " " "                          | 41.76    |



|  |       |            |
|--|-------|------------|
| New Bedford, for tuition,                  | 9.50  |            |
| Cornelius Cummings, for making fires,      | .25   |            |
| B. F. Hathaway, for coal,                  | 17.32 |            |
| Dennis S. Mason, for making fires in 1875, | 2.25  |            |
| John W. Chace, making fires,               | 4.25  |            |
| F. Wright, making fires,                   | 3.75  |            |
| G. H. Manter,                              | .75   |            |
| Edward W. Ashley, making fires,            | 6.00  |            |
| Edwin P. Taber, making fires,              | 4.00  |            |
| Henry C. Churchill, making fires,          | 8.25  |            |
| George P. Morse, carting coal,             | 1.50  |            |
| Willie Wright, preparing fuel,             | 1.25  |            |
| Preparing fuel at school-houses,           | 8.00  | \$2,179.33 |

#### Highway Account.

|   |          |            |
|---|----------|------------|
| Paid amount expended by Andrew J. Wing, | \$507.14 |            |
| “ “ George W. Nye,                      | 245.96   |            |
| “ “ Samuel Wing,                        | 260.31   | \$1,013.41 |

#### Pauper Account.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Paid Sylvester Pratt, services as keeper of Alms-house,         | \$170.00 |
| Dr. D. H. Cannon, medical attendance for poor,                  | 18.75    |
| Treasurer of Taunton Lunatic Hospital, for support of B. Taber, | 211.35   |
| R. Davis & Son, supplies for Alms-house,                        | 273.06   |
| Aid to Ruth Cook,   | 26.00    |
| Aid to Betsey Oliver,   | 39.00    |
| Aid to Henry R. Swift, for New Bedford,                         | 78.00    |
| Aid to John Hammond, for Marion,                                | 20.00    |
| Aid to Ruth Brownell, for Mattapoisett,                         |          |
| Aid to Wm. H. Hathaway, for Rochester,                          | 20.00    |
| City of Taunton, support of pauper,                             | 29.26    |
| Joseph S. Tillinghast, insurance on Alms-house,                 | 8.00     |
| Town of Middleboro', support of paupers,                        | 46.32    |
| Sylvester Pratt, for hay,                                       | 15.00    |
| Mary Wallen, for work at Alms-house,                            | 10.00    |
| Elizabeth C. Jenney, support of Rosa Taber,                     | 80.00    |
| George S. Wilber, whitewashing, &c.,                            | 5.00     |
| Cornelius A. Howland, blacksmithing,                            | .47      |
| William W. Handy, 100 lbs. codfish,                             | 5.50     |
| Coggeshall & Co., coffins from 1861 to 1865,                    | 55.00    |



|  |         |            |
|--|---------|------------|
| George D. Whitney, wood to C. Shepherd,                            | 3.70    |            |
| Dr. Isaac Fairchilds, for medical attendance on P. Gifford's wife, | 58.00   |            |
| O. F. Braley, for work at Alms-house, carpentering,                | 12.50   |            |
| Aid to Deborah Wilcox,   | 36.00   |            |
| Aid to Isaac Weston, for New Bedford,                              | 13.00   |            |
| Baylies & Cannon, 1 bbl. beef,                                     | 13.00   |            |
| Town of Mattapoisett, support of paupers,                          | 78.00   |            |
| City of New Bedford, support of poor,                              | 74.17   |            |
| Frederick A. Sowle, for windows,                                   | 1.90    |            |
| Wm. H. Chappell, supplies to C. Shepherd,                          | 10.00   |            |
| Mrs. Pratt, making clothes for inmates,                            | 8.20    |            |
| Sylvester Pratt, wood, boots, coat, &c.,                           | 16.88   |            |
| Dr. George Atwood, medical attendance,                             | 6.00    |            |
| Wm. Washburn, wood to C. Shepherd,                                 | 3.35    |            |
| John R. Davis, supplies to W. C. Gifford,                          | 9.00    |            |
| Town of Fairhaven,   | 10.00   | \$1,464.41 |
| Deduct for helping New Bedford poor,                               | \$91.00 |            |
| "    "    Marion poor,   | 20.00   |            |
| "    "    Rochester poor,  | 20.00   |            |
| "    "    Falmouth poor,   | 7.00    |            |
| "    "    Mattapoisett poor,                                       | 8.00    | 146.00     |
|  |         | <hr/>      |
|  |         | \$1,318.41 |

#### Incidental Account.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Paid James Warren,                                 | \$1.74 |
| Philip A. Bradford, for gravel lot,                | 40.00  |
| Acushnet Saw Mill Co.,                             | 5.76   |
| Samuel B. Hamlin,                                  | 15.75  |
| Amelia F. Keen,                                    | .35    |
| William Maxfield,                                  | 8.64   |
| Mrs. Potter, cleaning school-house,                | 3.00   |
| B. Y. Warner, cleaning school-house,               | 5.00   |
| Thomas Hersom, expressage, &c.,                    | 1.90   |
| Julia Denham, cleaning school-house,               | 3.50   |
| E. Anthony & Sons, printing,                       | 63.00  |
| Nichols & Page, stove-pipe,                        | 2.70   |
| S. Hutchinson, school books, maps, &c.,            | 52.37  |
| Joshua Morse, seating and repairing school-houses, | 8.00   |
| Sullings & Kingman, for stove,                     | 14.00  |
| George A. Cobb, for stove-pipe, &c.,               | 14.27  |
| J. C. Small, for painting blackboards,             | 16.07  |
| Ida Omev, for books,                               | 1.34   |



|  |        |                   |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| George P. Morse, ink, &c.,   | 1.15   |                   |
| Benjamin White, auctioneer, and papers,                                      | 3.00   |                   |
| George P. Morse, books and furnishings,                                      | 8.61   |                   |
| “ “ recording births, deaths, &c.,   | 18.15  |                   |
| Interest on money borrowed before taxes<br>were due,                         | 28.20  |                   |
| State aid,   | 173.00 |                   |
| Pardon Taber, for expenses to Boston<br>adjusting bank and corporation tax,  | 4.20   |                   |
| George P. Morse, seating school-house,                                       | 3.00   |                   |
| Oliver Prescott, legal advice,   | 2.00   |                   |
| Pardon Taber, Jr., stationery and postage<br>stamps,                         | 4.71   |                   |
| James L. Ross, school-house furniture,                                       | 77.75  |                   |
| E. G. Dillingham,  | 6.50   |                   |
| Benjamin Robinson,   | 7.40   |                   |
| E. R. Ashley, walks at new school-house,                                     | 19.20  |                   |
| Wood, Brightman & Co., stove,  | 14.50  |                   |
| Charles Fuller, expressage,  | .35    |                   |
| Caleb Slade,   | 1.88   |                   |
| Jabez Taber, error in tax,   | 4.90   |                   |
| Pardon Taber, Jr., services as selectman,<br>assessor, and overseer of poor, | 90.00  |                   |
| Walter Spooner, services as selectman,<br>assessor, and overseer of poor,    | 70.00  |                   |
| Joshua Morse, services as selectman, as-<br>sessor, and overseer of poor,    | 18.00  |                   |
| E. R. Ashley, services as school committee,                                  | 35.00  |                   |
| G. P. Morse, “ “ “   | 30.00  |                   |
| B. Y. Warner, “ “ “  | 20.00  |                   |
| Walter R. Spooner, guide board,  | 1.20   | 900.09            |
| For building new school-house at Long Plain,                                 |        | 3,362.38          |
|  |        | <u>\$4,262.47</u> |



### New School-House Account.

The committee chosen by the town of Acushnet April 24th, 1875, to purchase a lot and build a school-house at Long Plain, respectfully submit the following report.

That they have bought a lot at Long Plain containing one acre, and have had a school-house built thereon, finished and furnished in time for the Winter school, at the following cost, viz. :

|   |          |            |
|---|----------|------------|
| Lot,  | \$201.00 |            |
| Fencing,                                    | 156.75   |            |
| Cellar and grading,                         | 324.30   |            |
| House above cellar, including privies, &c., | 2,363.38 |            |
| Furnishings,                                | 257.20   |            |
| Plans and specifications,                   | 25.00    |            |
| Committee's services,                       | 34.75    | \$3,362.38 |

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| S. B. HAMLIN, | } Building<br>Committee. |
| LEVI WING,    |                          |
| J. R. ALLEN,  |                          |

|  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| Cash in treasury,                                  | \$484.33 |          |
| Due from city of N. Bedford, for helping poor,     | 91.00    |          |
| Due from town of Rochester, " "                    | 20.00    |          |
| Due from town of Falmouth, " "                     | 7.00     |          |
| Due from L. T. Jennings, for Hammett school-house, | 40.00    |          |
| Due from Wm. Terrell, for use of gravel lot,       | 5.00     | \$547.33 |

All of which is respectfully submitted.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| PARDON TABER, JR., | } Selectmen of<br>the town<br>of Acushnet. |
| WALTER SPOONER,    |  |
| JOSHUA MORSE,      |  |



## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg leave to report that their organization was  
E. R. ASHLEY, Chairman, and GEORGE P. MORSE, Secretary.

### APPROPRIATIONS.

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount raised by town,               | \$1,800.00 |
| Received from the State school fund, | 245.51     |
| Received from dog fund,              | 110.04     |
|                                      | \$2,155.55 |

### DETAILED REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS.

The following tabular view will exhibit the names of teachers,  
wages, attendance, and other particulars of the schools.

TABLE I.

|   | SUMMER.         |                              |                     |                     |                   |                     | FALL.                        |                     |                     |                   |                     |                              | WINTER.             |                     |                   |                     |  |  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|--|
|   | No. of schools. | Attendance between 5 and 15. | Attendance over 15. | Attendance under 5. | Whole attendance. | Average attendance. | Attendance between 5 and 15. | Attendance over 15. | Attendance under 5. | Whole attendance. | Average attendance. | Attendance between 5 and 15. | Attendance over 15. | Attendance under 5. | Whole attendance. | Average attendance. |  |  |
| 1 | 18              | 1                            | 0                   | 19                  | 13.9              |                     | 19                           | 2                   | 0                   | 21                | 18.03               | 17                           | 1                   | 0                   | 18                | 16                  |  |  |
| 2 | 20              | 2                            | 0                   | 22                  | 17.5              |                     | 20                           | 3                   | 0                   | 23                | 20.3                | 24                           | 9                   | 0                   | 33                | 28.4                |  |  |
| 3 | 48              | 3                            | 0                   | 51                  | 41                |                     | 30                           | 3                   | 0                   | 32                | 23                  | 32                           | 9                   | 0                   | 32                | 26.43               |  |  |
| * |                 |                              |                     |                     |                   |                     | 34                           | 0                   | 0                   | 34                | 29                  | 30                           | 0                   | 0                   | 30                | 25.50               |  |  |
| 4 | 20              | 0                            | 0                   | 20                  | 15.6              |                     | 20                           | 0                   | 1                   | 21                | 18.03               | 21                           | 2                   | 0                   | 23                | 19.87               |  |  |
| 5 | 25              | 0                            | 0                   | 25                  | 16                |                     | 25                           | 0                   | 0                   | 25                | 16                  |                              |                     |                     |                   |                     |  |  |
| 6 | 21              | 3                            | 0                   | 24                  | 21                |                     | 19                           | 1                   | 0                   | 20                | 18.25               | 31                           | 4                   | 0                   | 35                | 32.75               |  |  |

\* Primary.



TABLE II.

| No.   | Name.       | Terms.  | Teachers.        | Wages.  | Length of School. |
|-------|-------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 1,    | Bog,        | Summer, | Martha W. White, | \$28.00 | 2.25 mos.         |
|       |             | Fall,   | Martha W. White, | 28.00   | 2.75 "            |
|       |             | Winter, | Ann H. Snow,     | 30.00   | 3.75 "            |
| 2,    | Whelden,    | Summer, | Lillie A. Hicks, | 28.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Fall,   | D. H. Gammons,   | 36.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Winter, | C. L. Russell,   | 45.00   | 3.75 "            |
| 3,    | New School, | Summer, | C. L. Russell,   | 50.00   | } 2.25            |
|       |             |         | and Ida Omev,    | 25.00   |                   |
|       |             | Fall,   | Caleb Slade,     | 55.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Winter, | Caleb Slade,     | 55.00   | 4 "               |
|       | Primary,    | Fall,   | Ida A. Omev,     | 25.00   | 2.25 "            |
|       |             | Winter, | Ida A. Omev,     | 28.00   | 4. "              |
| 4,    | Perry Hill, | Summer, | Clara T. Wing,   | 30.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Fall,   | Clara T. Wing,   | 30.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Winter, | Clara T. Wing,   | 32.00   | 4. "              |
| 5,    | Quaker,     | Summer, | Ann H. Snow,     | 29.00   | 2.50 "            |
|       |             | Fall,   | Ann H. Snow,     | 29.00   | 3 "               |
| 6,    | Hammett,    | Summer, | Sara L. Snow,    | 30.00   | 2½ "              |
|       |             | Fall,   | Sara L. Snow,    | 36.00   | 2.50 "            |
| 5 & 6 | Long Plain, | Winter, | Sara L. Snow,    | 40.00   | 4 "               |

The schools have been in session a fraction less than 9 months under efficient teachers, showing as much advancement as reasonably could be expected; also an interest manifested by the scholars that is noticeable in their punctual attendance, some of which are worthy of honorable mention for not having been absent during the term.

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Carrie L. Wing,   | Nellie A. Brightman, |
| Lulie Ashley,     | A. N. Wilson,        |
| Amanda Robinson,  | D. C. Pierce,        |
| Nancy M. Tripp,   | Geo. A. Robinson,    |
| Emma E. Westgate, | Eddie Ruckert,       |
| Laura Pittsley,   | Eddie W. Morse,      |
| Susie T. Wright,  | G. A. Ashley,        |
| Hattie L. Albro,  | H. Wright,           |

Geo. G. Parker.

And quite a number very close.

The school house built to accommodate schools Nos. 5 and 6, was located about midway between the two houses, and is a two-story building 25x36, with a frontal projection, with ample space in either room for the accommodation of 40 children. The enclosed ground of one acre is level and pleasant. The tower is fur-



nished with a bell, of unusual richness and clearness of tone, placed there by the private subscriptions of the friends of the scholars to the amount of \$151.00. The building, furniture and grounds cost \$3,362.38. We can justly say that the friends of education are proud of their new house, which was dedicated on the 29th of Nov., by an appropriate address from Abner J. Phipps, agent of the State Board of Education, and others.

School commenced by Miss Sarah L. Snow, and has been in session for four months, showing a marked advancement; also, making a school that was interesting to teacher and scholars.

At present the practical utility of the knowledge imparted is made to some extent the primary object of education, instead of the expansion of the various faculties of the mind.

Parents usually appear to think if they send their children to school and never visit it themselves, they are doing all that is necessary; and a general disposition prevails to throw all responsibility upon the teacher. Both instructor and pupils require sympathy much oftener than they receive it. I know of nothing which so animates and encourages the teacher as the frequent visits of parents and others. Nothing can inspire the pupils more than the presence of their parents, and nothing can supply the place of their zealous co-operation and frequent visits.

We believe that investigation has proved that the Free school system, is the only one consistent with the national character of our schools. This being so, neither the parsimony of the selfish, the prejudices of the ignorant, nor the insidious attacks of the enemies of liberty will endanger its permanency or impair its usefulness. It appears consistent that if the State has anything at all to do with education, if it has a right to impose a tax either directly or indirectly for the maintenance of schools, it must also have a right to prevent these means being ineffectual in educating the people. By adopting a system of national education we declare that it is not an individual or parental duty, but a state one; and government has undoubtedly the same right to compel the attendance of children, when they are not sent by parents, that it has to compel the payment of school tax when necessary. Nor would the rights of any parents be violated. No one can claim the unenviable right of keeping his children in ignorance, or the distinc-



tion of depriving them of the benefits of instruction provided by the State. Every person living in civilized society enjoys certain advantages as a social being, and society has the power of demanding that he be qualified to reciprocate those benefits. It therefore provides for his education not merely on the ground of benefit to the recipient individual, but to the country of which he is a citizen. The parent cannot demand to do that which is obviously wrong in itself, hurtful to his offspring, and opposed to the interests of the country. Rendering attendance compulsory would not at all effect those who are willing to send, and those who are not would only be prevented doing an injury to their children, and to the State. The right of the parent to direct every action of his child is not a natural one and should not therefore in this matter be made legal. The rights of the state are as natural as those of parents, and having the same origin cannot be incompatible, neither can there be a just claim to exemption from doing what is just. I should under existing circumstances recommend having a truant committee appointed.

I am confident notwithstanding the many defects here and there existing, that the school year just closed has been one of much improvement, not only in the management of the schools but also in methods of instruction.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

Whilst your committee would deprecate a lavish expenditure of the public moneys, they are decidedly and unanimously of the opinion that, to further reduce the school appropriation would be detrimental to the best interests of the town.

But says the unfortunate one who has no children to educate, or perhaps fails to discover the difference between an education, or its want, "you are paying too much wages." To such we would simply reply in the words of another. "If you don't, some one else will." We believe that teachers like other professors or mechanics, demand, and will obtain such prices as their services are worth. It has been the desire and purpose of your committee the past year to employ such teachers as were conscientiously alive to their calling, and competent to impart instruction. That we have been entirely successful would perhaps be assenting



too much, but that the schools taken as a whole, have been unusually profitable we fully believe. The value of education to a town is scarcely to be estimated. The wealth of a town does not consist merely in houses and lands, in stocks and bonds, but any town sadly overlooks its best investments, that fails to educate its children. Mental culture is mighty in its influence on society. A few well-trained young men or women, going forth from a place to other localities, add much to the good reputation of the place they came from. The value of a town at home and abroad, lies much in its educational advantages and resources, in its well-trained children going out from its borders. What act could the town have passed more creditable to itself than those of the past two years, when she has voted to erect the beautiful and convenient structures for the education of her children. What citizen does not feel the prouder of the town of his adoption or birth-place.

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| EDWARD R. ASHLEY, | } School<br>Committee. |
| B. Y. WARNER,     |                        |
| G. P. MORSE,      |                        |