REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF ACUSHNET,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN;

AND OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

For the Year 1868-9.

NEW BEDFORD:
E. ANTHONY & SONS, PRINTERS, 67 UNION STREET.
1869.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF ACUSHNET,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

For the Year 1868-69.

REPORT.

The Selectmen of Acushnet respectfully submit the following report:

Benjamin White, Collector of Acushnet, is charged with the uncollected taxes of 1866,	$44 36
With uncollected taxes of 1867,	329 77
With tax bills for 1868,	9,392 51
	$9,766 64

Cr.

By amount paid State Treasurer,	$1,400 00
Amount paid County Treasurer,	746 52
Amount paid Town Treasurer,	6,753 34
Taxes remitted for 1866,	14 00
Taxes remitted for 1867,	12 77
Taxes remitted for 1868,	15 97
Commissions on taxes collected,	71 27
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,	489 17
Uncollected taxes for 1867,	80 28
Uncollected taxes for 1868,	183 32
	$9,766 64

Benjamin White, Treasurer, is charged with the balance of last year's account,	$3,068 91
The amount received of Collector,	6,753 34
Received from sale of maps,	1 00
From sale of calf,	9 24
Dividends on Fairhaven bank stock,	40 00
By collection of note held by the town,	104 25
Of Charles Pierce for peddler's license,	6 00
From State Treasurer for support of State paupers,	81 50
State corporation tax,	210 29
Reimbursement for State aid advanced,	325 81
From State School Fund,	126 14
From school books sold,	14 50
From town of Middleborough for supplies furnished Jane Wallen and family,	54 00
	$10,794 98

The Treasurer is credited with the following :

By amount paid schools,	$2,478 03
Amount paid support of poor,	1,874 55
Amount paid incidentals,	1,529 03
Amount paid repairs of highways,	845 89
Paid toward relinquishing town debt,	500 00
By amount paid William H. Davis for a place for an alms-house,	1,500 00
Treasurer's commissions,	21 82
Balance carried to new account,	2,045 66
	$10,794 98

EXPENDED ON THE HIGHWAYS.

Paid to the order of Seth M. Blackmer,	$391 15
Paid to the order of Joshua Morse,	433 50
Paid snow bills for 1867,	21 24
	$845 89

SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid Richard Davis & Son for provisions, &c.,	$254 36
S. T. Patterson, groceries,	34 48
Frank B. Fay, Treasurer of State Industrial School for Girls at Lancaster, for Sarah R. Taber,	21 71
Bradford O. Braley, for hay,	14 95
Job M. Terry, supplies to Mrs. Hathaway,	53 53
City of New Bedford, paupers relieved,	102 55
For wood for Mrs. Weaver, Hathaway, and Shepherd,	12 52
William F. Chase, groceries,	6 36
William H. Chappel, supplies to Mrs. Shepherd,	5 00
William H. Chappel, supplies to Mrs. Weaver,	5 00
John Hammond, repairing shoes,	3 52
Hannah Horr, rent,	50 00
Charles H. Burgess, supplies to Jane F. Skiff and family, Sandwich,	66 85
Dr. Choate, Tr. of Lunatic Hospital, Taunton, for Benjamin Taber,	211 10
Dr. Webster, medical attendance, 1867,	20 00
Charles H. Clark, for potatoes,	11 25
Charles M. Morse, for moving goods at alms-house, and hauling dressing,	33 00
J. M. Leach, for wood,	12 25
For support of Betsey Oliver, Fairhaven,	41 25
Gideon A. Harding, support of Abby Voteau,	82 50
Town of Middleborough, for Phebe Skiff,	2 00
John C. Peckham, for potatoes,	2 50

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Paid Town of Sandwich, relief of Skiff family,	30 99
Town of Tisbury, support of Foster Skiff, 1867,	63 02
Mrs. H. Davis, for support of Ruth Cook,	26 00
Coggeshall & Co., coffins, &c.,	23 00
Baylies & Cannon, provisions,	80 25
Abram Skiff, wood to Mrs. Hathaway,	6 57
John R. Davis, supplies at alms-house,	11 17
Rose Taber, aid,	5 00
Joseph R. Davis, for supplies at alms-house,	6 25
Pardon Taber, Jr., for supplies at alms-house,	5 20
Charles M. Wilde, dry goods and shoes,	33 77
Reuben Mason, teaming,	7 98
Alexander Howland, groceries,	73 15
Augustus White, straw,	1 00
Alfred Morse, farm work,	5 00
Parkman M. Lund, repairing stove,	2 10
Benjamin White, labor and supplies at alms-house,	8 23
Walter Spooner, for pig, and expenses to Boston, Sandwich, &c.,	19 88
I. D. Hall & Co., pork,	32 00
City of Taunton, support of Eunice Pierce,	45 87
James E. Chamberlain, blacksmithing,	65
B. F. Pittsley, carting,	75
Simeon Macomber, services,	75 00
Edward Sears, carpentering,	2 80
R. P. Harwood, fish,	3 50
City of Fall River, (Dr. Dwelley's bill included,) support of Hiram Pierce and family,	94 00
Town of Sandwich,	2 00
Charles Shepherd's family supplies,	5 00
Town of Fairhaven, aid to paupers,	9 50
Charles L. Kenyon, meat,	9 03
Freeman Hathaway, wood,	6 75
Humphrey Taber, expense on cow,	1 00
Walter Spooner, straw, and expense moving Jane Skiff and family,	3 25
Jabez Taber, cow,	50 00
Town of Edgartown, aid to Foster Skiff and wife, 1868,	24 21
Supplies to Jane Wallin and family,	54 00
	$1,874 55

1,822 65
55 90

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid Samuel B. Hamlin, plank and lumber for bridges, 1867,	$38 73
F. W. Wing, school books, 1867,	4 68

Paid E. Anthony & Sons, printing,	29 00
S. Hutchinson, stationery,	2 90
Nathan N. Bennett, building fence,	1 50
E. Anthony & Sons, printing,	1 25
J. L. Fairbanks, blank book,	6 00
Expenses of witnesses at Probate on H. B. Walker case,	3 14
E. Anthony & Sons, printing,	10 25
Taxes remitted to J. Wood for years 1860–61–62–63,	97 46
E. Anthony & Sons, printing,	6 50
Benjamin White, recording births, deaths, and marriages,	12 60
Postage and express,	7 15
William H. Davis, farming tools, &c.,	18 93
Interest on town debt,	662 24
Collector, on Emeline Hammond's tax, 1868,	21 20
For insurance, alms-house and out-buildings,	8 00
State aid,	311 00
Town Clerk, recording lay-out of highways,	10 00
Repairing guide boards,	50
Walter A. Davis, services as school committee,	35 00
Augustus White, services as school committee,	25 00
Charles L. Russell, services as school committee,	25 00
Benjamin White, service as selectman,	30 00
Walter Spooner, service as selectman,	12 00
Pardon Taber, Jr., service as selectman,	15 00
Benjamin White, service as assessor,	25 00
Walter Spooner, service as assessor,	25 00
Pardon Taber, Jr., service as assessor,	28 00
Benjamin White, service as overseer of poor,	25 00
Walter Spooner, service as overseer of poor,	19 00
Pardon Taber, Jr., service as overseer of poor,	12 00
	$1,529 03

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid John Lumbard for fuel,	District No. 8,	1867,	$11 80
Miss M. E. Morton, teaching,	" 8,	1867,	66 00
Miss Angie M. White, teaching,	" 3,	1867,	77 00
Joshua Morse for fuel,	" 3,	1867,	8 50
Charles L. Russell, teaching,	" 4,	1867,	81 25
Miss Martha M. Ellis, teaching,	" 2,	1867,	80 00
Miss Amelia F. Keen, teaching,	" 6,	1867,	91 00
Latham T. Jennings, fuel,	" 6,	1867,	5 60
School district No. 1, of Fairhaven,		1867,	20 75
Miss Martha M. Ellis, teaching,	" 8,	1868,	66 00
Miss Susan Durfee, teaching,	" 4,	1868,	40 00

Paid John E. Little, fuel,	District No.	4,	1868,	20 00
Miss Lydia P. Robinson, teaching,	"	7,	1868,	55 00
Miss Addie W. Tinkham, teaching,	"	9,	1868,	60 50
Mrs. Sarah D. Wing, fuel,	"	9,	1868,	2 50
Miss Angie M. White, teaching,	"	3,	1868,	66 00
Mrs. Ann H. Snow, teaching,	"	2,	1868,	62 50
Benjamin Braley, preparing fuel,	"	9,	1868,	1 00
Miss Rebecca F. Clark, teaching,	"	5,	1868,	102 00
Mrs. Addie W. Ricketson, teaching,	"	9,	1868,	49 50
Miss Angie M. White, teaching,	"	3,	1868,	55 00
John Gifford, preparing fuel,	"	5,	1868,	3 75
Miss Lydia P. Robinson, teaching,	"	7,	1868,	55 00
Miss Paulena C. Wilson, teaching,	"	6,	1868,	142 50
Miss Martha W. White, teaching,	"	1,	1868,	100 00
Miss Martha M. Ellis, teaching,	"	8,	1868,	44 00
Charles L. Russell, teaching,	"	4,	1868,	82 50
H. C. Wing, fuel,	"	9,	1868,	13 75
Daniel H. Spooner, fuel,	"	2,	1868,	8 75
Mrs. Ann H. Snow, teaching,	"	2,	1868,	168 75
Miss Addie R. Lawrence, teaching,	"	5,	1868,	32 50
Joshua Morse, fuel,	"	3,	1868,	15 62
John C. Hervey, fuel,	"	1,	1868,	8 12
H. C. Wing, fuel,	"	9,	1868,	3 50
Pardon Taber, Jr., fuel,	"	8,	1868,	13 00
Emery Cushman, fuel,	"	8,	1868,	7 76
Freeman Hathaway, fuel,	"	5,	1868,	10 50
Charles L. Russell, teaching,	"	4,	1868,	97 50
Mrs. Addie W. Ricketson, teaching,	"	9,	1868,	100 00
District No. 1, of Fairhaven, tuition,			1868,	21 00
Sarah J. Braley, teaching,	"	3,		102 90
Miss Martha M. Ellis, teaching,	"	8,		93 75
Miss Martha W. White, teaching,	"	1,		96 88
Miss Lydia P. Robinson, teaching,	"	7,		100 00
Benjamin Robinson, fuel,	"	7,		18 60
Miss Paulena C. Wilson, teaching,	"	6,		96 00
Edward R. Ashley, fuel,	"	6,		12 00
				$2,478 03
				185639
				12164
Amount of notes held against the town,				$9,406 00
				8906
				500.00
Amount of Bank Stock held by the town, (five shares Fairhaven Bank, par value $80.00,)				$400 00
Cash in the treasury,				2,045 66
Town farm,				1,500 00

Amount of produce raised:

Hay, five tons,	100 00
Potatoes, forty bushels,	40 00
Corn, turnips, beans, &c.,	50 00
Wood cut, ten cords,	40 00
Two cows,	120 00
Pork fatted,	50 00
Amount of school books held by school committee unsold,	34 41
	$4,380 07

By the General Statutes it is made the duty of the Selectmen to report to the town, annually, the condition of the Guide Boards in the town. We therefore report that the Guide Boards are in good repair so far as we have notice.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN WHITE,
WALTER SPOONER,
PARDON TABER, Jr., } *Selectmen of Acushnet.*

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF ACUSHNET,

For the Year 1868-69.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN, — In accordance with the usages and requirements of the law, your Committee beg leave to present the following report of their proceedings. After being legally notified of their election, your Committee met and organized by choosing Walter A. Davis as Chairman, and Augustus White Secretary.

The special supervision of the schools was assigned to the members of the Committee as follows:

Walter A. Davis, Districts Nos. 3, 5, 7.
Augustus White, Districts Nos. 1, 2, 6.
Charles L. Russell, Districts Nos. 4, 8, 9.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The apportionment of money to the several schools the past year was as follows:

District No. 1,	$205.00
" No. 2,	240.00
" No. 3,	240.00
" No. 4,	240.00
" No. 5,	240.00
" No. 6,	250.00
" No. 7,	235.00
" No. 8,	245.00
" No. 9,	231.00
Total,	$2,126.00

Amount raised by the town,	$2,000.00
Received from State School Fund,	126.14
Total,	$2,126.14

DETAILED REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS.

The following tabular view will exhibit what has been accomplished the past year in the districts of the town:

TABLE I.

		SUMMER.					WINTER.				
Districts.	Whole No. between 5 and 15 May 1st.	Attend'ce between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Average attendance.	Attend'ce between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Average attendance.
1	19	16	0	0	16	10.72	10	2	0	12	9.65
2	26	16	2	0	18	14	15	4	0	19	14
3	32	36	2	0	38	23.46	31	4	0	35	25.79
4	27	12	0	2	14	10	12	2	1	15	9.8
5	20	21	1	1	23	14.1	16	4	0	20	14
6	27	17	1	1	19	14.75	22	7	0	29	23
7	39	32	3	0	35	23.62	26	5	0	31	23.34
8	47	37	2	1	40	29.64	32	5	0	37	29.05
9	24	19	2	1	22	14	18	1	0	19	14.3

TABLE II.

Districts.		Terms.	Teachers.	Wages.	Lgth.
No. 1,	Bisbee.	Summer,	Martha W. White.	$20.00	5
" 1,	Bisbee.	Winter,	Martha W. White.	25.00	3.8
" 2,	County Road.	Summer,	Ann H. Snow.	25.00	2.5
" 2,	County Road.	Winter,	Ann H. Snow.	30.00	5.5
" 3,	Whelden.	Summer,	Angie M. White.	22.00	5.5
" 3,	Whelden.	Winter,	Sarah J. Braley.	28.00	3.67
" 4,	Acushnet.	Summer,	Susan Durfee.	20.00	2
" 4,	Acushnet.	Winter,	Charles L. Russell.	30.00	6
" 5,	Long Plain.	Summer,	Rebecca F. Clarke.	24.00	4.25
" 5,	Long Plain.	Winter,	Addie Lawrence.	26.00	4
			Cornelia Rounseville.	32.00	
" 6,	Hammet.	Summer,	Paulena C. Wilson.	28.50	5
" 6,	Hammet.	Winter,	Paulena C. Wilson.	32.00	3
" 7,	Perry Hill.	Summer,	Lydia P. Robinson.	22.00	5
" 7,	Perry Hill.	Winter,	Lydia P. Robinson.	25.00	4
" 8,	Packard.	Summer,	Martha M. Ellis.	22.00	5
" 8,	Packard.	Winter,	Martha M. Ellis.	25.00	3.75
" 9,	Wing.	Summer,	Addie W. Tinkham.	22.00	5
" 9,	Wing.	Winter,	Addie W. Ricketson.	25.00	4

STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Without claiming much space in speaking of the teachers employed during the past year, we are happy to say that most of them have manifested a praiseworthy zeal in their vocation, and that in most cases their efforts have been crowned with success. Some have exceeded while others have disappointed our hopes of their efficiency. Some have exhibited a capacity to govern, but have manifested but little interest in the art of teaching. Some have displayed ability to teach, but have not shown a corresponding capacity to govern. Your Committee are fully persuaded that nothing is gained by attending to recitations or obliging scholars to remain in the school-room to learn lessons during the few minutes allotted to recess. We would therefore suggest that none be deprived of recess, that the door and windows be opened,—that all, both teachers and scholars, walk in the open air, and that every means for the promotion of health and comfort be encouraged. We would further state that in most of our school-houses the means for thorough ventilation are very far from what they should be.

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

We are satisfied that the standard of qualifications adopted in the past has been far too low. Having a very thorough knowledge of the text-book is not enough. Teachers should not be confined to them, but should look upon them as the ground-work on which to build a superstructure whose beautiful proportions shall reveal their own individual method of imparting instruction. More than this, they need a large supply of general knowledge, that they may so adorn and enrich all their instructions with such apt illustrations as shall lead their pupils to engage in all the exercises of the school-room, with pleas-

ure and delight. Still more, they should be able to teach their pupils to think, to act and to reason for themselves, to acquire the habit of studying carefully, diligently and perseveringly, and thus be prepared to solve whatever is difficult. The true, the real educator, is the one that can teach scholars to educate themselves.

SCHOOL GOVERNMENT.

One very important element in the character of a successful teacher is decision. If a scholar is unruly, the sooner he is attended to, the better it will be for all interested in the school. Tell him plainly that the course he is pursuing cannot be tolerated, even for a day. Inform him that he must submit to wholesome regulation or be expelled from the school. All delay in affairs of this kind serves to convince the school of your weakness. Let the decision that characterizes your course not only be a warning to the vicious, but an example for all to imitate. And in all that pertains to school government, being satisfied that you are right, be firm and unyielding to the last. But while we thus urge you to be firm and decided, we would encourage a spirit of politeness in all your intercourse with those in your charge. Upon this subject, we find in a former report the following most excellent remarks: "We believe that scholars should be treated in their intercourse with teachers in a gentlemanly and ladylike way. We use these words in their highest and true sense, as expressive of nobleness, generosity, kindness, and dignity. There is a silent but resistless influence going out from the teacher in whom these qualities stand forth prominently, that will not fail to mould the character, the mind and manners of the school, to the same noble fashionings." By what we have noticed in passing from school to school during the past year, we are more than ever convinced of the importance of these truths, and that in the choice of

teachers these considerations should never be lost sight of. In view of what we have here said, we suggest that the only discipline worthy of the name is that which encourages pupils to discipline themselves, and which is constantly tending towards self-respect and self-government. No one can expect to see this state of things take place at once, but this should be the tendency, and that discipline alone is to be praised as good which has this end in view.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE.

Much has been said and much more might be said on the importance of prompt and regular attendance at school. The conviction has continually strengthened in the minds of your Committee that parents and guardians do not really consider these things. Upon the great pecuniary loss sustained, you have had line upon line, and "precept upon precept." But this is not all. The loss is not reckoned in dollars and cents. Suppose a boy attending school is in a class of eight or ten scholars. In him, as in the rest of the class, is aroused a laudable ambition, and they are making fair progress, but to save a little expense he is kept out of school for a few days to work on the farm. On his return he finds his class advanced, he feels perplexed, perhaps disheartened in regard to his standing, and as he attempts to go on with them he finds himself wanting in the information that would enable him to pursue his studies successfully. Now when will the loss be repaired? Will it be the next term or the next year? "Time once past never returns." "The moment which is lost, is lost forever."

In conclusion we offer the following:

As we expect the district system soon to be abolished and a new order of things dawn upon us, we forbear offering any remarks either on the evils attending the one, or the excellences that may accompany the other. But by

whatever system our schools may hereafter be managed, your Committee would urge upon your attention the vital importance of intrusting our educational interests to none but competent and judicious persons. No one is fitted to select a teacher for the public who has not a heart of warmest interest in the welfare of the young, and a mind capable of appreciating the qualities requisite for a public instructor.

All of which is submitted by

WALTER A. DAVIS,
AUGUSTUS WHITE,
CHARLES L. RUSSELL,
} *School Committee of Acushnet.*

ACUSHNET, March 26, 1869.

For Town Clerk, Treasurer and Collector,
Benjamin White.

For Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor,
Benjamin White,
Pardon Taber, Jr.,
Walter Spooner.

For School Committee for three years,
Mary J. Wing.

For Surveyors of Highways,
Benjamin Wilson,
Joshua Morse,
William A. Spooner.

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For Constables,
James Warren,
Loring Potter.

For Fence Viewers,
Elihu Pope,
James Hammett,
Leonard Keen.

For Field Drivers,
Clark E. Morse,
Nathan Bennett,
Albert Morse.

For Pound Keepers,
James Burt,
John Vincent.

For Health Committee,
George T. Russell,
Abial P. Robinson,
Gardner Hall.

For Surveyors of Lumber,
Cyrus E. Clark,
Walter A. Davis,
William F. Andrews.