REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF LEE,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 13, 1866.

DOVER:
PRINTED AT THE DOVER GAZETTE OFFICE.
1866.
REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF LEE,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 13, 1866.
DOVER:
PRINTED AT THE DOVER GAZETTE OFFICE.
1866.
The School Committee of Lee hereby respectfully submit to the Town their Annual Report.

Your Committee entered upon the performances of their duties with a deep sense of their importance, and with the earnest determination to act with strict justice and impartiality, under whatever circumstances they might be placed. And they have endeavored to discharge these duties to the best of their abilities, and with a strong desire to promote the prosperity and success of the Common Schools of our Town.

Attendance and Influence of Parents.

Irregularity of attendance is one of the most common as well as one of the greatest difficulties with which the teachers in this town have to contend. We doubt very much if the parents are aware of the magnitude of the evil, or realize its injurious effects. Children may undoubtedly be trained to love the occupation of the school-room as well as they love their sports. In training them thus, parental influence and parental efforts are indispensable. In order to contribute their share in producing such a result, parents should carefully watch the progress of their children day by day; they should give them aid in their studies in every proper way; they should counsel and encourage them; they should interest themselves in every thing that concerns the welfare of the schools and should make frequent visits to it. To this last suggestion the Committee wish to call special attention. If parents could be induced to go occasionally to the school-room, and see their children as they are engaged in their ordinary exercises, the character of the school would in this way, better than any other, become truly and fully understood, the interest of the parents themselves in it would be quickened, the scholars would be gratified and encouraged, and the teacher would feel additional induc-
ments to exertion. These it is fully believed, are some of the good effects which would result from frequent parental visitation.

In presenting a report of this character, it cannot be expected that either the merits or the defects of every teacher or of every school, will be presented with mathematical precision. There is neither time nor space for such a work. The Committee can only give their general impression of the labors of the Teacher and the character of the school. These impressions, we think, will not differ very widely from the actual state of things. They are the same probably that any other mind would have formed having the same means of information. At any rate, if they should assist to encourage and stimulate the teachers in the discharge of their responsible duties, incite the parents and citizens generally to feel a deeper interest in the subject of Common School Education, raise the schools of our town to a higher standard of excellence, and promote their future success and prosperity, then will the prominent purpose of this report have been attained.

District No. 1.--Turnpike.

This school commenced on the 16th of October, only one term. Length of term sixteen weeks. Whole number attending school, 33; average attendance, 21; instances of tardiness, 57; of dismissal, 18. Best record Martha A. Layn; Annie L. Layn, absent, 1; John P. Buzzell, tardy, 2, dismissed, 1; Georgianna M. Sewall and Emma E. D. Buzzell tardy, 2. Isabella F. Demeritt, of Lee, teacher. This school is one of that character in which the exertions and faithfulness of a teacher do not show to so good advantage as in some others. The irregularity of attendance retarded its success and prosperity. Parents cannot expect that their children will make any marked progress under the most perfect system of discipline and instruction so long as they are not sent to the school to receive its advantages. Although Miss Demeritt labored under these discouraging circumstances, yet the examination gave evidence that her labors were eminently successful.

A. G. Hoitt, Prudential Committee.

District No. 2,--Mast Head.

Summer Term, nine weeks. Number of scholars, 32; average attendance, 24; instances of tardiness, 57; of dismissal, 12. Best record Ellen M. Jones, Lavina D. Chesley, Theresa R. Chesley, I. Frank Bartlett, Addie Chesley. Arthur Chesley was neither late or absent.
Winter Term, nine weeks. Number of scholars, 32; average attendance, 23; instances of tardiness, 46; of dismissal 19. Best record Ellen Caverno, neither late, absent or dismissed. Teacher summer term, Evelyn Ober, of Haverhill, Mass. At the beginning of the school the teacher labored under some disadvantages arising mainly from the fact that she succeeded one who had been a successful and most acceptable teacher. Although herself a good teacher, she failed for a time to gain the confidence of her scholars, so necessary for success. But the labor of the teacher was not in vain for most of the school made very fair improvement.

Teacher of winter term, Dwight T. Bartlett. This was his first experience in teaching; he has not been able to arouse and keep alive among his pupils that active interest and earnest love for study and for school that are indispensable to rapid advancement. Only about half the school were present at its exhibition. There were some however who had made good progress.

JOHN BARTLETT, Prudential Committee.

District No. 3.--Wednesday Hill.

Length of school six and one-half weeks, only one term. Whole number attending, 11; average attendance, 10; instances of tardiness, 36; of dismissal 1. Emma A. Perkins, of Newmarket, teacher. Miss Perkins is a good scholar and has had considerable experience as a teacher. She seems to throw herself on a sense of honor and right in the minds of her scholars and take it for granted that they are willing to obey. But it was evident at the commencement that she had some discouraging elements to contend against. Many of the large boys were disposed to be idle and disorderly, but the teacher succeeded in a measure in overcoming this obstacle. Notwithstanding the unkind treatment that she received from some of the scholars, seldom does an examination give better evidence of a teachers interest and faithfulness than the one witnessed at the close of this school.

JOSEPH E. JENKINS, Prudential Committee.

District No. 4.--Hill.

Summer Term, nine weeks. Whole number attending, 27; average attendance, 25 1-2; instances of tardiness, 27; of dismissal, 6. Best record Frank P. Palmer, Daniel G. Buzzell, John S. Bartlett, Ezra Bartlett, Frank B. Comings, Amanda Thompson, Bessie McQuestion, neither late, dismissed or absent.
Winter Term, eight and four-fifths weeks. Whole number attending, 33; average attendance, 31; instances of tardiness, 32; of dismissal, 19. Best record John S. Bartlett, George J. Thompson, Ezra Bartlett, Freddie Comings, Samuel Bartlett, George Critcherson, Wm. Critcherson, Ernest Comings, neither absent, dismissed or late. Emily R. Bennett, of Northwood, teacher of both terms. The teacher seemed to possess, in an eminent degree, the faculty of inspiring her pupils with a love of study, and a regard for every thing pertaining to the advance of the school. Under her charge the school not only sustained its former state of discipline, but has improved in that respect, and will now compare favorably with any school in town. She seems to have been entirely successful in securing the confidence and good will of her pupils and the hearty co-operation and support of the parents. Every scholar was present at the examination. The good results of her labors were seen on examination, as the scholars indicated the progress they had made in their studies. The exercises performed were gratifying to the Committee, interesting to visitors and highly creditable to both teacher and scholars.

Israel Bartlett, Prudential Committee.

District No. 5.--Hook.

Length of school thirteen weeks, only one term. Whole number of scholars, 17; average attendance, 14 54-65; instances of tardiness 11; of dismissed 6. Best record Joseph Bennett, Ellen J. Smith, Ellen Burleigh. Mary True Scales, of Nottingham, teacher. We regard the career of Miss Scales as eminently successful. She appears to have fully recognized the importance of imparting thorough instruction to her pupils; avoiding the error, too common with teachers, of hurrying the pupil through or over the book at the expense of a complete understanding of the subject. She has, also, in an eminent degree won the respect and affection of her scholars. The writing-books in this school were distinguished for neatness and improvement.

District No. 6.--Wadley's Falls.

Summer Term, ten weeks. Whole number attending, 24; average attendance, 16; instances of tardiness, 25; of dismissal, 5. Best record Bennie G. Durgin, John W. Durgin, Annie J. Brown, Josephine Stilson, were neither absent, late or dismissed. Belinda S. Bunker, teacher. Perhaps it may appear superfluous to speak of Miss Bunker as a teacher here, as her name has so frequently
appeared in our previous reports. The irregularity of the attendance has retarded the success and prosperity of the school. The examination gave general satisfaction.

Winter Term. Whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 14; instances of tardiness, 46; of dismissal, 8. Best record John W. Durgin, neither late, absent or dismissed. Fannie A. Young, of Durham, teacher. Miss Young is a lady whose intellectual acquirements are good. In the summer, as in the winter, the school suffered greatly in consequence of being broken into different parts, by sickness of the scholars, the effects of which though unavailable are disastrous in a degree to any school, for the interest aroused at first naturally subsides, and that stimulus to action is lost which is so necessary to success. The teacher labored hard and faithfully to improve those committed to her trust.

Length of school eight and three-fifths weeks.

G. E. Durgin, Prudential Committee.

District No. 7.--North River.

Summer Term. Whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 18; instances of tardiness, 11; of dismissal, 5. Best record Willie Ryan, Emma B. Knight, Abby Ewer, neither absent, late or dismissed. Laura A. Kelsey, of Nottingham, teacher. Miss Kelsey seemed interested in her school and desirous of doing her duty to her pupils and the district. The school on the whole may be called a good one, without any marked excellencies or defects.

Length of school seven weeks.

Winter Term. Whole number of scholars, 29; average attendance, 25 1-2; instances of tardiness, 31; of dismissal, 10. Best record Susan Ryan, Abby Ewer, Abby Piper, Lizzie Allen, Nathaniel Ewer, Willie Ryan, Frank Davis, Ella G. Cox. George E. Durgin, of this town, teacher. This school is one of the most difficult to manage. The scholars in this school are huddled together in a small and badly ventilated room, which by a little expense might be enlarged and improved. During the winter term this school was under the care of a well known practical teacher and its improvement and progress were very good. Length of the school seven weeks.

B. F. Lang, Prudential Committee.

T. M. Thompson, G. W. Hoitt, H. M. Glidden, Committee.