

PROCEEDINGS
 OF THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
IN CONCORD,
March 11, 12 and 13,
1845.

At a legal town meeting, duly notified and holden at Concord, in the county of Merrimack, on the second Tuesday of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, the following votes were given in.

FOR MODERATOR.

Ezra Carter had 10 votes.

Ezra Carter, having all the votes given in, was declared duly elected, and took the oath by law prescribed.

FOR GOVERNOR.

John H. Steele	had	420	votes.
Anthony Colby	"	340	
Daniel Hoit	"	124	
John H. White	"	42	
Abel Baker	"	2	
N. Dunlap	"	2	
William Badger	"	2	
H. Dow	"	1	
C. F. Gove	"	1	
Matthew H. Smith	"	1	
A. Colby	"	1	

FOR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

John Woodbury	had	438	votes.
Moses Norris, Jr.	"	473	
Mace Moulton	"	478	

James H. Johnson	had	484	votes.
Ichabod Goodwin	"	340	
George W. Nesmith	"	323	
Thomas M. Edwards	"	343	
Joseph Sawyer	"	332	
John P. Hale	"	169	
James Clark	"	30	
John Page	"	31	
Israel Hunt, Jr.	"	30	
Joseph Cilley	"	100	
Reuben Porter	"	111	
Humphrey Moore	"	112	
Jared Perkins	"	84	
J. P. Hale	"	5	
J. H. Johnson,	"	2	
John C. Wilson	"	1	
Daniel Littlefield	"	1	
Joseph Low	"	1	
Nathaniel Rogers	"	1	
Jon Gass	"	1	
Peter Griffin	"	1	
Matthew H. Smith	"	1	

FOR COUNSELLOR.

Benjamin Jenness	had	508	votes.
William Choate	"	347	
Noah Piper,	"	117	
Lewis W. Downing	"	1	
William H. Gage	"	1	

FOR SENATOR.

Asa P. Cate	had	475	votes.
Samuel C. Bartlett	"	312	
Andrew Taylor	"	116	
James Clark	"	28	
Benjamin Wiggin	"	34	
Joseph E Hood	"	1	
Abel Baker	"	1	

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Reuben T. Leavitt	had	466	votes.
John P. Johnson	"	409	

Nathan Stickney	had	92 votes.
J. P. Johnson	"	1
Mitchel Gilmore, Jr.	"	1
M. Gilmore	"	1

FOR COUNTY TREASURER.

George Minot	had	484 votes.
Moses Colby	"	343
Moses Martin	"	117
Abraham Bean	"	25
G. Minot	"	2
Stephen Brown	"	1

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

Enoch Page	"	513 votes.
Isaac Whittier	"	484
Hosea C. Knowlton	"	484
Simeon B. Little	"	347
Cyrus Tucker	"	346
Benjamin Whipple	"	346
Moody A. Pillsbury	"	117
John D. Wadleigh	"	117
Nathaniel Seavey	"	117
Nicholas Quimby	"	28
John L. French	"	29
William Hoit	"	1
John Sanborn	"	1
Matthew Harvey	"	1
A. G. Allen	"	1

First ballot for Representatives to the General Court.

Whole number of votes cast,		981
Necessary to a choice		491
Jacob Carter	had	491 votes.
Asa Fowler	"	452
Nathaniel Rolfe	"	470
William Page	"	460
Jeremiah S. Noyes	"	468
Ira Perley	"	337
Lewis Downing	"	342
Henry Rolfe	"	338
Samuel Coffin	"	331

John Eastman	had	338	votes.
Cyrus Robinson	"	121	
Caleb Parker	"	120	
Harvey Rice	"	111	
David M. Dearborn	"	116	
Isaac Emery, Jr.	"	109	
Isaac Dow	"	28	
William Low	"	24	
Luther Roby	"	36	
Abraham Prescott	"	29	
Laban Page	"	30	
J. S. Noyes	"	1	
Elijah Mansur	"	4	
William Roby	"	1	
C. H. Peaslee	"	1	
George H. H. Silsby	"	3	
Henry L. Elliot	"	1	
David Elliot	"	1	
Samuel B. Larkin	"	1	
Ezra Carter	"	3	
James Frye	"	2	
Henry Downing	"	3	
Albert Herbert	"	1	
E. Symmes	"	1	
Eben. Symmes	"	1	
J. Fowler	"	1	
J. Sawyer	"	2	
J. Willey	"	2	
J. Stevens	"	1	
J. Robinson	"	1	
J. L. Tallant	"	2	
Abel Baker	"	1	
A. Baker	"	4	
William Dow	"	2	
Thomas Eastman	"	1	
T. P. Hill	"	1	
Enoch H. Dow	"	1	
William M. Carter	"	1	
D. Dunlap	"	1	
John Abbot	"	2	
Curtis Fulton	"	1	

Joseph Low	had	1 vote.
M. H. Smith	"	1
Joseph Eastman, Jr.	"	1
H. Houston	"	1
E. Burgess	"	1
Daniel Davis	"	1
H. B. Foster	"	1

And Jacob Carter having a majority of all the votes given in, was declared by the moderator duly elected.

Voted, to adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1845.

Met according to adjournment.

Second ballot for Representatives.

Whole number of votes cast,		999
Necessary to a choice,		500
Asa Fowler	had	474 votes.
Nathaniel Rolfe	"	500
William Page	"	488
Jeremiah S. Noyes	"	495
Lewis Downing	"	340
John Eastman	"	337
Henry Rolfe	"	340
Samuel Coffin	"	322
Cyrus Robinson	"	112
Caleb Parker	"	108
Harvey Rice	"	103
David M. Dearborn	"	109
Isaac Dow	"	20
Luther Roby	"	18
Abraham Prescott	"	18
Laban Page	"	23
Ira Perley	"	1
Benjamin F. Watson	"	3
Frank S. West	"	3
Charles H. Peaslee	"	2
D. M. Dearborn	"	1
Enoch H. Dow	"	2
Isaac Virgin	"	1
N. S. Chandler	"	3

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John Abbot	had	2 votes.
J. Fowler	"	2
Abel Baker	"	1
Samuel Larkin	"	2
Ebenezer Symmes	"	1
D. Dunlap	"	1
N. Dunlap	"	2
Eben. Elliot	"	1
John Page	"	1
J. Page	"	1
Henry Elliot	"	1
George F. Sanborn	"	1
William M. Carter	"	1
Joseph Low	"	1
Elijah Mansur	"	1
John Arlin	"	1
Bill Wyman	"	1
Nicholas Fowler	"	1
Peter F. Elliot	"	1
Samuel E. Scales	"	1
J. S. Noyes	"	1
Isaac Emery	"	1
J. L. Tallant	"	1
J. Willey	"	1
J. Robinson	"	1
Satchel Clark	"	1
T. Dow	"	1
Eli Elliot	"	1

And Nathaniel Rolfe having a majority of all the votes given in, was declared by the moderator duly elected.

Third ballot for Representatives.

Whole number of votes cast,		958
Necessary to a choice,		480
Asa Fowler	had	462 votes.
William Page	"	479
Jeremiah S. Noyes	"	485
Lewis Downing	"	305
John Eastman	"	315
Henry Rolfe	"	280
Cyrus Robinson	"	110

Caleb Parker	had	112	votes.
David M. Dearborn	“	97	
Isaac Dow	“	12	
Luther Roby	“	21	
Abraham Prescott	“	14	
Laban Page	“	18	
Samuel Coffin	“	98	
Harvey Rice	“	16	
Ira Perley	“	1	
N. S. Chandler	“	1	
John L. Tallant	“	1	
Jack Downing	“	3	
Daniel Tucker	“	3	
Joe Carter	“	3	
Gilman C. Stone	“	1	
Frank S. West	“	3	
R. G. Cutting	“	1	
Joseph Low	“	1	
Benjamin F. Watson	“	2	
John Weeks	“	1	
Satchel Clark	“	1	
John Sawyer	“	3	
John W. Powell	“	1	
Abel Baker	“	2	
William M. Carter	“	1	
Theodore Elliot	“	1	
Chandler Eastman	“	1	
John Arlin	“	1	
Enoch H. Dow	“	2	
Joseph Carter	“	1	
Aaron Elliot	“	1	
Peter Elliot	“	1	
Amos Sawyer	“	1	
Jere. Fowler	“	1	
Henry F. Elliot	“	1	
Eben. F. Elliot	“	1	
A. Parker	“	1	
A. Baker	“	1	

And Jeremiah S. Noyes having a majority of all the votes given in, was declared by the moderator duly elected.

Fourth ballot for Representatives.

Whole number of votes cast,		733	
Necessary to a choice,		367	
Asa Fowler	had	406	votes.
William Page	"	406	
Lewis Downing	"	210	
John Eastman	"	182	
Cyrus Robinson	"	76	
Caleb Parker	"	70	
Henry Rolfe	"	56	
Jeremiah S. Noyes	"	2	
Samuel Coffin	"	22	
David M. Dearborn	"	4	
Isaac Dow	"	6	
Luther Roby	"	6	
Abraham Prescott	"	7	
Laban Page	"	9	
F. S. West,	"	4	
Theodore Elliot,	"	1	
A. Baker	"	1	
John Page	"	1	
Enoch H. Dow	"	1	
Henry Elliot	"	1	
William Walker, Jr.	"	1	

And Asa Fowler and William Page having a majority of all the votes given in, were declared by the moderator duly elected.

Voted, to adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1845.

Met according to adjournment.

Proceeded to ballot for Town Clerk.

John P. Johnson	had	14	votes.
Enoch B. Elliot	"	1	

John P. Johnson having a majority of all the votes given in, was declared by the moderator duly elected, and took the oath by law prescribed.

Ballot for Selectmen.

Whole number of votes cast,		1056	
Necessary to a choice,		529	
Nathan Stickney	had	617	votes.
Jeremiah S. Noyes	"	541	
Jeremiah Fowler	"	535	
William M. Carter	"	423	
John L. Tallant	"	413	
William Walker, Jr.	"	383	
Joseph Graham	"	110	
Joseph Eastman, Jr.	"	90	
Enoch H. Dow	"	5	
George F. Sanborn	"	2	
Henry L. Elliot	"	1	
J. Noyes	"	1	
Rufus D. Scales,	"	1	
Asa Fowler	"	1	
John McDaniel	"	1	
Abel Baker	"	1	
Cosmer Lund	"	1	
George Arlin	"	1	
A. Bean	"	1	

Nathan Stickney, Jeremiah S. Noyes and Jeremiah Fowler having a majority of all the votes given in, were declared by the moderator duly elected, and took the oath by law prescribed.

For Highway Surveyors.

Chose Abner Colby, Thomas Potter, Rufus Virgin, Sherman D. Colby, Ara Morrill, Heman Sanborn, Elbridge Dimond, Benjamin Abbot, Nathan Stickney, Reuben Goodwin, Jr., Alfred C. Abbot, Hazen K. Farnum, Daniel Knowlton—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Abraham Dunklee, James Blake, Moses Davis, Isaac F. Ferrin, Abira Fisk, Moses O. Seavey, Ira Abbot, Edward Gould, Samuel Clifford, Henry Martin, Ephraim F. Swett, Charles Smart, John Hall, Ezekiel F. Elliot, Levi Abbot, Andrew A. Dow.

For Constables.

Chose Isaac Eastman, John Abbot, Harry Houston, Richard Bradley, Nathaniel Rolfe, Charles Smart, Beniah Colby,—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Abraham Bean, Abel Baker, Nathan Call, Rufus E. Scales, William Walker, Jr.

For Fence Viewers.

Chose Moses Shute—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Isaac Farnum, Abiel Walker.

For Auditors of Accounts.

Chose Samuel Coffin, Seth Eastman, John Whipple.

For Cullers of Staves.

Chose Gilbert Perkins—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose William Hayward, Samuel Curtis, Joseph M. Bradley, Leonard Bell, Ezra Hoit.

For Surveyors of Lumber.

Chose Samuel Shute, Philip Sargent, Henry M. Moore, Shadrach Seavey, Abel Baker, Nathl. Rolfe, Charles Graham, Ebenezer Eastman, Eben. F. Elliot, George Wilkins, John Abbot, Nathaniel C. Elliot, Jeremiah S. Noyes—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose David Abbot, Timothy Colby, Philip Watson, John Eastman, Joseph Eastman, Jr., John Putney, Daniel Dunlap, Asa H. Morrill, David Farnum, John Titcomb, Sewell Hoit, Aaron Morse, Nicholas Fowler, Daniel Rand, Russell Hills, Perley Cleaves, Charles P. Crockett, Hazen Walker, Reuben Goodwin, Jr., Elbridge Dimond, Aaron Carter, Abel B. Holt, Joseph Moody, Lowell Eastman.

For Corders of Wood.

Chose Philip Sargent, James H. Powell, William Gault, Cyrus Robinson, Seth Eastman, Enos Blake, Heman Sanborn—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Jeremiah Pecker, George F. Sanborn, Cyrus Hill, Elliot Chickering, Daniel N. Hoyt, Albert Herbert, Albert Webster, Nathl. H. Sanborn, Rodney G. Cutting, Joel C. Danforth, John Goss, Jonathan E. Lang, Joseph D. Godfrey.

Weighers of Hay.

Chose Isaac Eastman, Cyrus Robinson, who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose John Pettingill, Jeremiah P. Whipple, James Moore, John P. Johnson, George W. Brown, Francis A. Fisk, Nathl. H. Sanborn, Daniel N. Hoyt, Robert N. Corning, Ara Morrill.

Sea'ers of Leather.

Chose Cyrus Robinson, Enos Blake, who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Benjamin Parker, Chase Hill.

Sealers of Weights and Measures.

Chose Seth Eastman, who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose Jacob Carter, Ivory Hall, Oscar Knox.

Pound Keepers.

Chose Hiram Farnum, Simeon Abbot.

Clerk of the Market.

Chose Seth Eastman.

Haywards.

Chose Samuel Coffin.

Hogreeves.

Chose John D. Carswell—who being present took the oath by law prescribed.

Also, chose David L. Marden, Philip Brown, Thomas B. Parsons, John L. Coffin, Timothy E. Hoyt, William W. Eastman, Samuel G. Clark, John Knights, L. R. Handerson, George H. H. Silsby, Timothy C. Rolfe, Thomas Chase, Nathl. P. M. Clough, L. D. Brown, John Tarlton, Moses C. P. Lynn, Nathaniel Evans, Jr., Daniel Davis, 3d, Jeremiah B. Clough, Joseph R. Sanborn, Geo. W. Safford, Moses H. Farnum, Asa Ducet, James G.

Sargent, Peter Morrisey, Newell R. Brown, John Priest, Caleb Austin, Jacob C. Carter, Augustus Foss, Jonathan C. Walker, Samuel Alexander, John S. Russ, Isaac E. Morse, Z. S. Packard, Henry B. Foster, Ira E. Brown, John Stokes, Frederick C. Edmunds, William Damon, Langdon S. Flanders, Benjamin W. Robins, Jonathan Snow, Enoch F. Scales, John D. A. West, David L. Saunders, Remi Nadeau, Samuel G. Bradbury, Nathan D. Dunlap, Nathan Wiser, George C. Pratt, James C. Jones, Moses F. Clough, Odelion Manseur, Curtis D. Drew, Ezra W. Merrill, Samuel P. Hoyt, Lorenzo K. Peacock, Henry S. Gleason, James Cogswell, Jr., Jesse F. Bickford.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The undersigned, Auditors of Accounts for the year 1844, have attended to the duty assigned them, and have found the accounts of the Selectmen and acting Treasurer well vouched and correctly cast, and present the following as a true statement of the finances of the town.

1844. March 9. Cash on hand,		\$149-85
Taxes assessed, 1844, and committed to the collector:		
Resident,	\$8163-60	
Non-resident,	214-31	
" Highway Taxes,	108-43	
School House Tax in Dist. No. 9,	258-11	
" " " No. 12,	15-72	
" " " No. 19,	26-25	8-786-42
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Cash of conditional exempt		2-00
Cash of State Treasurer:		
for Literary Fund,	170-82	
Rail Road Tax,	927,95	1098-77
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Cash for support of Paupers:		
from the County Treasurer, due in 1843,		485-50

From the County Treasurer, due in 1844,	553·70	
From town of Northwood,	3·67	
“ “ of Epsom,	17·39	
“ “ R. Tay,	67	1060·93
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Cash for Licenses,		30·00
Cash of A. Walker and others for land sold from the Poor farm,		122·12
Cash from the Committee having in charge the town funds,		954·27
Cash for rent of the B. Green house,		20·50
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		\$12·224·86
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Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid State Treasurer,	\$1200·00
“ County Treasurer,	1285·14
“ School Orders,	2159·41
“ Nonresident receipts,	92·54
“ repairs of roads, bridges and compensation for land,	1461·28
“ superintending school committee,	75·00
“ rations for the militia,	183·00
“ services of the militia in 1844,	273·00
“ “ “ 1843,	23·00
“ printing and stationery,	78·88
“ bills of cost & professional services,	129·27
“ burying ground,	12·00
“ ringing bells,	65·00
“ repairs of town hall,	72·30
“ office rent and fuel,	12·00
“ tax in school district No. 9,	250·00
“ tax in school district No. 12,	15·00
“ tax in school district No. 19,	25·00
“ repairing engines and engine houses,	461·64
“ repairing the Benj. Green house,	10·50
“ damages from defects in roads,	57·00
“ repairs of pumps and reservoirs,	117·90
“ support of paupers,	978·56

Paid commission to A. Bean for collection of taxes,	121.75	
“ selectmen and town clerk for services and expenses,	527.75	
“ auditors and expenses,	7.75	
“ abatement of taxes,	126.59	
“ note and interest to Jos. B. Walker,	1023.94	
“ note and interest to Merrimack County Bank,	519.86	
“ interest on note to F. N. Fisk,	60.00	
“ interest on parsonage fund paid S. Coffin,	86.63	
“ assessments paid insurance companies,	13.10	11,526.79
Leaving a balance unexpended of		698.07
As follows:		
In the Treasurer's hands,	239.77	
In the Collector's hands,	458.30	

\$698.07 \$12,224.86

There is now due from the town, according to the statement of the Selectmen:

To Timothy Walker, note for Int. from May 31, 1842,	\$1.000
Maria Ridgeway, Int. from July 7, 1842.	2.000
Francis N. Fisk, Int. from Oct. 5, 1844.	1.000
Jos. B. Walker, Int. from April 19, 1841.	1.000
Timothy Walker, note given for Poor farm,	4.000
The town Committee—	
on acc't of the Parsonage fund,	1646.84
“ of the School fund,	2018.14
“ of the Surplus revenue,	972.64
with interest thereon.	

The Auditors are satisfied that the affairs of our Poor farm, under the management of our present overseer, Mr.

Hiram Farnum, has been very judiciously and well managed—that the income of the farm has been very much increased since he was appointed its overseer.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

March 7, 1845.

JNO. WHIPPLE,
GEO. MINOT,
SAM'L. COFFIN.

Report of the Committee on Town Funds.

The committee having in charge the various funds of the town of Concord ask leave to make the following statement in relation thereto :

PARSONAGE FUND.

The original amount of which was	\$5335·51
an additional piece of land was sold during the past year, by a committee appointed for that purpose, for	237·50
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	\$5573·01

And is now invested as follows:

13 shares in Concord Bank, cost	\$1326·25
10 shares in Merrimack Co. Bank, cost	1050·00
4 shares in Mechanicks Bank, cost	400·00
Note, March 3, 1843. R. E. Pecker, Jona. E. Lang, Wm. Pecker,	964·77
Loaned to the town on certificate of selectmen,	1594·49
Cash in hands of committee for land sold,	237·50
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	\$5573·01

Int. on the same, in hands of com. 3·36

The interest arising from this fund to January 1, 1845, was as follows :

Dividend from Mechanicks Bank,	24·00
“ “ Merrimack County Bank,	60·00
Interest from Pecker & Lang's note,	57·89
“ “ loan to town,	86·63
“ “ Abraham Prescott's note,	8·17
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	\$236·69

which sum was appropriated by the Selectmen, and has

been paid to the several religious societies, agreeable to a vote of the town, as follows :

North Society,	\$44.44	Methodist Society,	13 31
West, “	22.97	Episcopal “	12.31
South, “	33 88	Christian Baptist,	8.78
East, “	18.40	Freewill Baptist,	2.41
Unitarian, “	30 40	Universalist,	25.91
Baptist, “	23.88		
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			\$236.69

SCHOOL FUND.

This fund is invested as follows :

10 shares in Concord Bank, cost	\$1020.25
3 shares in Mechanicks Bank,	300.00
Note, March 3, 1843, Isaac Hill, R. H. Ayer, Amos G. Gale,	738.51
Interest to March 3, 1845,	91.28
Note, March 3, 1843, R. H. Ayer, Amos G. Gale, Isaac Hill,	711.87
Int. to March 3, 1845,	87.98
Note, June 6, 1839, Geo. W. Moulton, Jos. Eastman, Jr., Alpheus W. Clough,	200.00
Loaned to town at various times, on certificate of selectmen,	2818.14
Interest from the town,	390.97
Rec'd dividends from Mechanicks Bank,	18.00
“ int. from G. W. Moulton,	12.00
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	\$5368.75

SURPLUS REVENUE FUND.

This fund is invested as follows :

Note, July 10, 1837, Hall Burgin, Wm. Kent, Wm. A. Kent,	2000.00
Int. to March 1, 1845,	282.03
Notes, Sam'l Tallant, March 13, 1843,	400.00
Int. to March 13, 1845,	29.30
Note, Dec. 10, 1844, Aaron Shute,	40.00
Int. to March 10, 1845,	60
Loaned to the town on certificate of selectmen,	972.64
Land set off on execution against Geo. Kent, and unsold, as appraised,	470.00

Balance due on execution against Concord Bank,	1202.70
Cash in hands of Committee,	212.40
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	5609.67
Real estate set off on execution against Concord Bank,	1425.00
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	\$7034.67

which is submitted by

SAM'L COFFIN, *for the Committee.*

Report of the Committee to sell Parsonage or School Lands.

The committee appointed by the town at a legal meeting holden on the third day of November, 1840, to sell such portion of the Parsonage or School lands as remain unsold, have attended to that duty, and sold a piece near Little Pond, containing, as surveyed by a committee appointed for that purpose, nine and an half acres, to Daniel Farnum, for the sum of *two hundred thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents*, and executed a conveyance to him in the name of the town of the same; and have delivered to the committee having in charge the funds of the town the amount received therefrom.

SAM'L COFFIN,
JONA. EASTMAN, } *Committee.*
ENOCH H. DOW, }

Report on Highway near Carter's Tavern.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of discontinuing the highway across the Rail Road near the Carter Tavern, report as follows :

Your Committee consider the crossing, owing to its locality, highly dangerous in its present state.

After careful examination, we came to the conclusion that a road running from Water street, parallel with the north line of James Thompson's land to the road running from the stone landing to the middle intervale road,

would convene the public better than the road as now travelled; said road should be laid out and built by the Concord Rail Road Company free from expense to the town.

NATHAN STICKNEY, }
 JEREMIAH FOWLER, } *Committee.*
 J. S. NOYES, }

Report of the Superintending School Committee for the year ending March, 1845.

The Superintending Committee of Schools in Concord, having attended to the duties assigned them, respectfully present to the town the following Report :

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The committee were highly gratified to find the summer schools entrusted to so competent and faithful teachers. Their examinations in the several studies taught, were, with but few exceptions, highly satisfactory; and the appearance of some of the schools as to arrangement, discipline and improvement, was very commendable.

Your committee are of the opinion that our summer schools have not received the attention they deserved.— There is not a more important period in the history of the child, than when forming its early habits of education. The influence of the school upon the mind and character at this period is incalculable; and, whether good or bad, it may never be fully overcome. Although in viewing a splendid fabric, its deep-laid foundation may be concealed from the eye, yet it forms a most essential part of the structure—so with the first rudiments of education, like foundation work—they should be taught with great care and correctness. It is an entirely mistaken notion that almost any one can teach the first rudiments, for, unless correct and faithful instruction be imparted in the sounds of the letters and pronunciation of syllables, habits will be contracted which may never be fully overcome.

In the judgment of your committee, a mistake has been

made in confining young children to the school room for three hours with only a short recess. Children under seven or eight years of age are not capable of long and continued study. On first entering school they cannot study at all. It is only while under the direct instruction of the teacher that they are particularly interested or benefited. Then, being obliged to sit on the hard and uncomfortable seats, such as are found in too many of our school houses, not able to reach the floor with their feet, and nothing to employ the mind, is not only a task too severe even as a punishment, but must be seriously injurious both to the mind and body. To remedy this evil, as far as practicable, means should be provided to afford occupation to the younger scholars, and their parents should furnish them with slates and pencils and other apparatus; they might also be permitted, when the weather is suitable, to exchange the school room for the play ground more frequently than the older scholars; and again, the older pupils might, without any hindrance to their own progress, be employed a portion of time each half day in giving instruction to the younger ones, as the teacher should direct. The common practice of managing the younger classes is subject to serious objections; it is quite impossible for a teacher to find suitable occupation to interest them, and without this it will be next to impossible to keep them still on their seats, and if it were done, it would only injure them. As one has justly remarked, "it would pluck the roses from their cheeks, annihilate the elasticity of their muscles and turn all their steel springs into old iron."

The following table will show the number and attendance of the summer schools:—

Districts.	Teachers.	Weeks kept.	No. scholars.
2.	Mary S. Fowler,	6	28
3.	Eliza Whipple,	16	70
4.	Susan Dow,	10	31
5.	Eliza J. Abbot,	8	13
6.	No school.		
7.	Miss Knowlton.		
8.	Ann Roby,	9	25
9.	Catharine W. Arey,	12	56
	Mary J. Prescott,	10	55
10.	Josiah Stevens,	8	80
	H. E. Eastman,	11	
	Nancy W. Arey,	20	110
	Caroline E. Carter,		
	Miss Ballard,	12	75
Catharine W. Arey,			
11.	Emily Pillsbury,	20	66
	Louisa L. Kelley,	20	50
	Priscilla H. Kimball,	30	72
12.	Mary Coggswell,	10	35
13.	Elisabeth W. Dow,	9	33
14.	Hannah Batchelder,	9	16
15.	D. D. Wheeler,	11	28
16.	Eliza Robertson,	10	11
18.	Caroline E. D. Virgin,	16	30
19.	Mary Lyford,	12	37
20.	Ruth A. Gitchell,	10	13
21.	Ruth E. Hoit,	8	20
23.	Miss Eastman,	5	12
24.	Louisa J. McAllister,	12	15

WINTER SCHOOLS.

The committee designed to visit each school at its commencement and close: but in two or three instances they failed, either on account of not receiving notice from the Prudential committee, or some unavoidable circumstance. They have the satisfaction to state that the schools have, generally, appeared very well. They believe the agents exerted themselves to procure good teachers, and with but few exceptions they were successful in securing such as have devoted themselves to their work

with fidelity. The schools generally have been conducted pleasantly, and but little complaint has been made to the committee of insubordination. The committee had some fears that they might be under the painful necessity of reporting to the town, the names of two or three of the larger scholars who manifested some unwillingness to conform to the regulations of the instructor, but their subsequent amendment has rendered it unnecessary.

By the following table it appears that the winter schools have been kept about 237 weeks, attended by over 1200 scholars. The committee believe a decided improvement has been made in most of the schools the past year; and while there may be some which might be spoken of in terms of especial commendation, the whole, with but an exception or two, have appeared so well, it is thought undesirable to make any comparisons.

No.	DIST. NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Weeks kept.	Number of scholars							Higher branches.	
			Readers.	Writers.	Geography.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	History.	Astronomy.		Philosophy.
1	Hannah S. Danforth	13	27	27	16	8	10	5	2		
2	Samuel H. Folsom	9	37	37	20	4	31	15			
3	James Moulton, Jr.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	80	80	50	26	44	25	5		
4	Abial Rolfe	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	36	30	3	32	13	5		
5	Nathan K. Abbot	8	21	21	17	8	20	10	4	2	
6	S. L. F. Simpson	12	15	17	9	1	10		1		
7	John C. Brown	8	22	22	15	2	8	7			3
8	Josiah Stevens, Jr.	6	31	31	17	14	19	7			
9	Sidney Webster	12	96	96	52	19	76	23	7		
	Mary J. Prescott										
	Josiah Stevens	12	201	201	61	65	119	63	27		81
	Frances M. Stevens										
	John K. Cate	7	120	120	30	10	45	32			2
10	Francis R. French	7	67	67	30	40	45	14	2		
	Caroline E. Carter	20	86	86		12	14				
11	John Town	10	67	86	66	55	56	54	7		3
	Emily Pillsbury	10	50	50		7	32				
12	John Jarvis	8	57	57	33	17	39	16			3
13	Wm. P. Chandler	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	49	34	9	37	8			
14	John N. Tilton	8	19	19	15		15	4			
15	C. A. Brown	10	46	46	12	10	20	14			1
16	No school.										
18	Wm. C. Gould, (left, time not out.)		40								
19	Lafayette Forrest	11	60	60	41	24	41	15	1	4	2
20	Samuel Folsom	7	22	22	14	4	16	7			1
21	Gilman C. Stone	8	15	17	10	4	9	7		2	
23	John Jarvis	5	26	26	17	13	23	5	1		
24	George Renton	6	23	23	13	5	10	6			
25	Betsy Hoyt	10	12	12	11	8	9				

During the last year, the citizens of District No. 9 have erected a neat and commodious school-house, two stories high, which reflects much credit on the enterprise of the District. In District No. 11, a third room has been provided; the scholars are divided during the summer, into three classes, according to age, which we regard a great improvement. In District No. 10 the same evil exists which has been noticed in former reports—a want of room for the large number of scholars. Several meetings were had in the early part of last season to consult on the subject, but while all admitted that something ought to be done, no definite plan has yet been adopted.

Some of the districts in the town are so small that their proportion of the school money will sustain a school only for only a short term, and, consequently, the means of education furnished from the public funds are very limited. The committee heartily concur in the suggestion expressed in the last report: “the only alternative left is for the smaller districts to unite where it is practicable, either as a permanent arrangement; or, what will amount to the same thing, let these districts agree to send to each other’s schools, and so arrange their schools that the terms shall succeed each other, and thus while all the scholars can enjoy the benefit of their own school, at least, all, except it may be a very few in the extremes, can enjoy the benefit of two schools instead of one.” In some instances it has been found difficult to determine the exact boundaries of the districts, which is a subject perhaps deserving the attention of the town.

Within the last few years great attention has been given to the subject of common school education in several of the United States, and in different parts of Europe; and the system has been very materially improved. And it is to be regretted that this State has not engaged as vigorously in the work, as some of the neighboring states. But it is hoped the same spirit which has been so nobly evinced elsewhere, is beginning to inspire the hearts of the citizens of New-Hampshire, and that we shall see our common schools ere long, receiving that fostering care which they so richly deserve. A new interest has already been awakened—the citizens of Cheshire county were

the first to move on this important subject and the friends of education in the other parts of the State have not been indifferent to their example so that common school conventions have been held in nearly every county in the State. Two State Conventions have also been held, and the third is appointed to meet in this town, next June, which it is hoped all our fellow citizens may find it convenient to attend.

However desirable it may be to raise the standard of common school education, it can never be fully accomplished until a deeper interest is felt by the community generally. It is for the people to say what shall be the character of our schools—it is in their power to make them such as they please: a few individuals cannot do it—it must be done by the many. And in closing this report the committee would suggest a few things which they consider deserving the particular consideration of their fellow citizens, in order to the improvement of our common schools.

I. Parents should visit the schools. This is too generally neglected. Probably not more than one in fifty ever visit their school. Wise and discreet in every thing else, they will not trust other matters beyond their own inspection. But here is a subject of almost infinite importance, which is entirely neglected. They give their children and the teacher very little reason to suppose they are at all interested, or have any concern in the welfare of the school.

There are towns in this State which are far in advance of Concord in this respect. In Dublin a Common School Association has been formed, which has held meetings in most of the districts in the town, and which, says their report has done much “in exciting a new interest in behalf of common schools, and of actually promoting their welfare.” The number who visited their schools the past year was double that of the preceding year. In one district, 56 persons visited the school by occasional calls during the term, exclusive of the examinations.

In New Ipswich their committee say they have “witnessed a growing interest in the schools among parents.” In proof of this they state that “in one district a paper

was circulated at the beginning of the last term with the following caption, viz :

“ The subscribers hereby engage to visit the School in District No. 1, at least once during the present term.— And that our visits may be extended equally through the term, we will endeavor to make them sometime during such week as shall be assigned to us by lot.” To this, 59 names were appended of parents, brothers, sisters and friends of the scholars. These names were thrown into a ballot-box and drawn out in equal numbers for the successive weeks of the term, and a list furnished the teacher, who at the beginning of each week, notified through the scholars, the persons whose duty it was to visit the school during that week.

In another district, and which in the particular now under consideration—parental and public interest, has taken the lead of all others—not only have the parents and others visited the school, and kept the eye of inspection and encouragement constantly upon it, but to invest the school-house and the school with associations of gladness and every attraction possible ; during the summer term a half day was devoted to a *pic-nic*, served up in the school house, after partaking of which, some little exhibition like declaiming, singing, &c., was furnished by the scholars : and the whole occasion made one of pre-eminent satisfaction, both to the children and their parents and friends. At the commencement of the winter term, the school was promised, on condition of their fidelity, a sleigh-ride ; which in due season was given—and by the scholars enjoyed with enthusiasm.”

In Connecticut the ladies have taken hold of the work. The Board of Commissioners of Common Schools in the State give an account in their report of “ Female Associations for the improvement of common schools.” In a district in one of the towns, a greater portion of the mothers belonged to the association and a few unmarried ladies—they meet monthly at the school house, when topics connected with the improvement of schools, &c., are discussed, and if the school is in session at the time, the members hear the exercises of the scholars, which

greatly pleases them, and after the close of the school, they transact their business.

The committee ought in justice to say here, that two or three examples have occurred the last season as exceptions to their general remark on this point. At the close of the summer term in District No. 11, about *forty* ladies and gentlemen were present and added much to the interest of the occasion. In District No. 10, the winter school was visited several weeks in succession by gentlemen in the district; in No. 9, also, several were present at the examination, and the same may be said of Nos. 3, 19, and 21.

It is very important that the Prudential committees give notice to the Superintending committee of the commencement and close of their schools—and also that they take particular pains to secure the frequent visitations of parents and guardians.

2. There is too great a variety of text books in our schools. This is an evil which creates confusion—divides the school into an unnecessary number of classes, and consumes time to no possible advantage. In one school of 19 scholars the committee found six different kinds of reading books: in another of 22 scholars there were *ten* different reading books, dividing a school of 22 scholars into *ten* classes. This is a sore evil which calls loudly for correction. In some of the districts there was a deficiency, not in *variety*, but in the *number* of suitable books.

3. Another thing necessary to raise the standard of common school education, is, that they receive the patronage of all classes. Those who have the means, have been disposed to send their children to a select or high school—they thus lose their interest in the common school, and withhold the influence essential to their highest improvement. The impulse which children of this class would give to the district school, is not only lost, but worse than lost. Instead of meeting each other in the school room and on the play ground, under the common sympathies of age, studies and pursuits, without knowing or caring for each others birth or expectations, thus forming friendships to survive the stormy struggles of after life.—

the children of a district now start off in different paths, which are likely to diverge more and more from each other. Those who attend an Academy or Select school, not unfrequently grow up with feelings of superiority, every way at war with the harmony of society. On the other hand those confined to the district school feel more or less the depressing influences of their inferior advantages, and imbibe feelings of jealousy, if not of hostility towards their more fortunate neighbors. The rich, because they are rich, give their children the advantages of higher schools, and thus distinctions are formed by *money* and not by *merit*, between their children and those of the less wealthy. And a public sentiment is created unfavorable to those little democratic seminaries, to which our fathers looked with so much satisfaction.

4. The establishment of High Schools, sustained by a portion of the public money and open to all, of suitable age and acquirements, is among the improvements of the school system. This has been effected in other States, and in the town of Portsmouth in our own State. It may be deemed impracticable to adopt this plan as a town, considering our extent of territory, but it might be carried into effect by the larger districts and especially by those in the village. Much might be said in favor of this plan, but our limits will not allow.

5. In the judgment of the committee, the instruction of vocal music in our common schools would tend to improve them and add to their usefulness. It is certainly as desirable and as useful to acquire a knowledge of music, as of some other studies which are generally taught. The most ardent and experienced friends of common school education in other States have recommended that music form one of the branches to be taught, and already it has been introduced somewhat extensively.

6. It is not enough that a *general* interest alone, should pervade the community, but it is necessary that there should be concentrated and systematic action.—This has been found true in other States, and hence the appointment of Superintendents and Boards of Commissioners of Common Schools by different State legislations

and enactments, requiring returns, &c., from all the district schools. This opens a medium of correspondence, affords occasion for public lectures and tends to correct public opinion and create a more lively interest in the subject of education. A bill to this effect was introduced at the last session of our legislature and passed the lower branch, which was finally postponed till the next session. The committee cannot refrain from expressing their decided approbation of the measure, and hope it will receive the attention and co-operation of their fellow citizens generally.

In conclusion the committee repeat the sentiment, that the character of our common schools is in the hands of the people—it is for parents and guardians to make them such as they please.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL J. NOYES, EDMUND WORTH, WM. H. RYDER,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>
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Voted, to raise \$3,500 to defray the ordinary expenses the current year.

Voted, To raise \$2,200 for the support of schools the ensuing year.

Voted, To raise \$4,000 for the building and repairing of highways and bridges, to be laid out in labor at 10 cents per hour.

Voted, to adopt the provisions of the law in amendment of Chapter III, R. S. in relation to the appointment of chief engineer and assistant engineers in the fire department.

Voted, That the Selectmen pay to Harry Houston and Isaac Eastman, compensation for services rendered, as constables, during this town meeting.

Voted, That the poor house be established as a house of correction.

Voted, That the following By-Laws be adopted in relation to the house of correction:—

1st. That the house at the Town Farm be deemed and constituted a house of correction as far as the same

is necessary for the detension and safe keeping of all such persons as may be legally sentenced to the house of correction in this town; and the Selectmen are directed to see that suitable rooms are prepared for the above purpose.

2d. That the Overseer of the poor for the time being be the keeper of the house of correction.

3d. That all persons sentenced to the house of correction, shall be subject to labor on the town farm according to the direction of the keeper of said house of correction, unless otherwise directed in the sentence.

4th. Should any person refuse to labor as directed by the keeper, such person shall be put in solitary confinement not exceeding forty-eight hours at one time.

5th. Should any person run away or leave said house of correction before the expiration of their sentence, the keeper is directed to pursue and bring back such runaway and punish the same by solitary confinement not exceeding forty-eight hours at one time.

Voted, That the report of the committee in relation to the highway leading from Hoyt's tavern across the rail road to Merrimack river be accepted.

Voted, That the road leading from Hoyt's tavern across the rail road be discontinued provided the Concord Railroad Co., will furnish a substitute for said road.

Voted, To raise and appropriate \$100 to build a reservoir between the South Church and Hoyt's tavern.

Voted, To raise and appropriate \$100 to build a reservoir opposite of the State House and west of Green Street.

Voted, That the above sums be expended and the above reservoirs be built under the direction of the Fire Department.

Voted, That the subject matter in the 11th Article in relation to hearses and hearse houses be referred to the Selectmen, and that they be authorized to act as they may deem expedient.

Voted, That the regulations adopted last year to prevent horses, cattle, sheep and swine from going at large, be adopted this year.

Voted, That \$300 be taken from the amount raised for

schools, and be equally divided among the several school districts in town.

Voted, That \$15 be taken from the Literary Fund and appropriated to district No. 3, for the benefit of the children at the poor farm.

Voted, That the remainder of the income arising from the Literary Fund be distributed among the several school districts.

Voted, That the income of the Parsonage Fund be distributed as heretofore; and such portion of said fund as shall have no direction given as to its distribution, be equally divided among the several religious societies in town.

Voted, That the committee having in charge the public lands of the town, be authorized to sell and convey the same in the name of the town.

Voted, That \$178.50 be raised and paid to Engine Company No. 6, to repair engine house, and for money paid out by said company.

Voted, That \$47 be raised and paid to citizens of Concord near Fishersville for money laid out towards purchasing Engine and building engine house.

Voted, That \$61.49 be raised and paid to Engine Company No. 2, it being the amount paid out by said Company towards building engine house.

Voted, To adopt the same provision of the police law as was adopted last year.

Voted, That Arts. 6, 17, 18, and 19, relating to the division of the town into school districts, be referred to a committee of 7.

Voted, That said committee consist of Josiah Stevens, Samuel Coffin, Isaac Dow, Jonathan Eastman, Moaes Shute and Joseph Robinson.

Voted, That article 20, relating to the granting of licenses, for the sale of ardent spirits be indefinitely postponed.

Art. 21, was not acted upon.

Voted, To dissolve.

JOHN P. JOHNSON, *Town Clerk.*

Appointments made by the Selectmen,

MARCH 1845.

Overseer of the Town Farm and Keeper of the House of Correction—Hiram Farnum.

Physician—Dr. Ezra Carter.

Police Officers—Isaac Eastman, Harry Houston, James Woolson, James Hoit, Cyrus Hill, Samuel Gage, Rufus D. Scales.

Superintending School Committee—Rev. E. Worth, Rev. William H. Ryder, Rev. Hiram Freeman.

Fire Department.

ROBERT DAVIS, *Chief Engineer.*

Assistants.—Luther Roby, George H. H. Silsby, Caleb Parker, Harvey Rice, Benjamin Grover, John Gass, James Moore, Shadrach Seavy, John Abbott, William Pecker, H. H. Brown, Moses Shute.