

1865

# Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Falmouth, for 1865

Falmouth (Me.).

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# REPORT

OF THE

## TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

### TOWN OF FALMOUTH,

FOR 1865.

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#### AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED FOR 1865.

For Schools,	\$1500 00
“ Contingencies,	500 00
“ Town Officers,	350 00
“ Bridges,	200 00
“ Poor,	600 00
“ Interest,	1500 00
“ Payment of Debts,	6000 00
“ State Tax,	9333 90
“ County Tax,	811 85
	\$20,795 75

Total Valuation,	601,297 00
Number of Polls, 385.	
Per centage on the Dollar, 3 cents 3 mills,	

#### RECEIPTS.

Received from E. N. Tuksbury, on Tax Bills, 1864,	\$7059 15
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1865,	1450 17
“ “ Glendy Moody,	138 00
“ “ State School Fund, 1864,	132 82
“ “ “ for State aid,	305 14
Interest on the same,	9 91
Additions on Tax Bills, 1864,	140 08
Money hired, 1866,	5165 00
	\$14,400 27

#### EXPENDITURES.

For Schools,	\$1,432 42
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#### CONTINGENCIES.

George O. Knight, for highways,	5 00
Wm. Field, “ “	7 70
Rodman Allen, “ “	10 20
Daniel Marston, “ “	24 50
Geo. W. Leighton, “ “	1 46
E. H. Ramsdell, “ “	12 80

Oliver Hardy,	for highways,	35 90
Samuel Bucknam,	“ “	2 96
John Woodbury,	“ “	8 00
Charles Hicks,	“ “	3 12
Lorenzo Leighton,	“ “	23 80
J. M. Anderson,	“ “	3 60
Benj. F. Hall,	“ “	12 80
Asa Leighton,	“ “	5 33
Daniel Merrill,	“ “	2 00
Bailey & Noyes, for Stationery,		15 38
Town of Gray, taxes,		3 50
Glendy Moody, surveying,		1 50
E. H. Starbird, Com. on Water Power Company,		92 25
Richard Mountfort,		2 50
John Noyes, Stamps, &c.,		7 20
Henry Gallison, office rent,		12 00
E. C. Blanchard,		5 44
Daniel Knight, for recruits,		52 06

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\$351 00

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

Glendy Moody as Selectman, 1864,	57 68
Seward Frye, “ 1864,	43 69
Edward Crabtree, 1864,	47 12
Glendy Moody as Superintending School Committee, 1864,	18 36
E. H. Starbird, “ “ “ “ “	25 30
Glendy Moody,	66 70
J. M. Anderson as Moderator,	2 00
E. N. Tukesbury as Constable,	12 00
E. N. Tukesbury, commission on collecting tax, 1864,	263 44

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\$536 29

#### POOR OUT OF THE ALMS HOUSE.

Andrew Hodsdon,	40 00
Isaac Cobb for Hannah Cobb,	47 25
Dorcas Cobb for “ “	11 00
Smith Barbor,	10 00
J. A. Pearson's Medical attendance, D. D. Allen's family, 1864,	27 00
Denis MacGillercandy,	15 00
Samuel York for A. Hodsdon,	14 00
E. N. Tukesbury medical attendance,	101 00
Town of Bethel, supplies to F. Bennett,	16 14
H. C. Buzzell for board of Jane Allen's child,	27 50
Seward Frye, “ “ “ “	2 93
John Noyes,	13 92
W. H. Allen, wood to R. Jones,	8 25
Sawyer & Ricker,	8 37
Mathew H. Clark, for A. Hodsdon and wife,	20 00
Margaret Emery for nursing J. Allen,	5 00
Seward Frye, “ child,	1 37
Daniel Merrill for Apphia Knight,	4 15
John Noyes, “ “ “	3 98
John L. Lambert, House rent, D. D. Allen,	18 00

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\$394 86

## DEBTS PAID.

George W. Lord,	250 00
Henry Pennell,	2,000 00
John E. Donnell,	5,000 00
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	\$7,250 00

## POOR IN THE ALMS HOUSE.

Samuel H. Anderson, Overseer,	300 00
Alvan Roundy, supplies,	137 29
E. N. Tukesbury, medical attendance,	6 00
John Noyes, stove,	2 50
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	\$445 79

## FOR BRIDGES.

Edmund Frye, for repairs,	4 00
J. & E. Merrill, saw bill,	13 24
David Allen, plank,	37 80

## LORD'S BRIDGE.

Edward Mayberry,	25 00
Charles A. Stackpole,	21 00
Samuel Winch,	18 00
Samuel Ramsdell,	19 00
Albion Field,	3 50
George W. Leighton,	16 00
Amos B. Melcher,	18 00
Samuel B. Stackpole,	7 40
S. M. Swett,	6 67
E. H. Ramsdell, stone,	7 40
Matilda Ramsdell,	1 35
Oliver Hardy,	49 00
John Woodbury,	30 00
Frank Noyes,	1 00
Benj. Lord,	12 00

## F. MERRILL BRIDGE.

John Woodbury,	11 25
Rufus D. Loud,	9 62
Amos W. Noyes,	17 00
John Noyes,	5 00
Fenwick Merrill,	13 50
Albert Winslow,	19 50
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	\$366 26

## NEW ROAD.

John Woodbury,	22 50
Edmund Frye,	58 00
Oliver Hardy,	29 00
Seward Frye,	30 00
John E. Frye,	2 00
J. M. Hartshorn,	3 25
Leonard Merrill,	1 75
George W. Allen,	10 00
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	156 50

Paid Families of volunteer Soldiers, 449 69

INTEREST PAID.

John E. Donnell,	1,005 50
George Gallison,	96 75
L. P. Frye,	168 19
Merrill Noyes, two years,	52 95
M. M. Butler,	180 00
George W. Lord,	19 91
Charles W. Winslow,	20 88
Lorenzo D. Wells,	18 00
Falmouth Mutual Fire Ins. Com.	83 67
Henry Pennell,	211 50
James Leighton,	9 00
John Anderson,	126 00
Eliza Merrill,	3 00
Bela Blanchard,	3 00
Daniel Merrill,	10 50
Louis H. Downer,	9 00
Joseph Parker,	7 50
Albert S. Legrow,	3 00
Royal Leighton,	80 00
Daniel Marston,	6 00
Amos Marston,	3 00
William H. Snell,	6 00
Charles Gallison,	20 16

\$2,093 51

DAMAGES AWARDED ON JOHNSON ROAD.

Paid Ezekiel Hodsdon,	\$125 00
“ John Johnson, Jr.,	43 00
“ John W. Dana,	255 00
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	\$423 00
Abatement on Tax Bills, 1864,	501 45
“ “ John Johnson, Jr., tax 1865,	4 23
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	\$505 68

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Greatest number of Inmates at the Almshouse,	11
Least, “ “ “ “ “	9
Number of Females,	6
“ “ Males,	5

ALMSHOUSE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN.

To Salary of Overseer,	\$300 00
“ Supplies furnished by Alvan Roundy,	137 29
“ “ “ by Wm. N. Richards,	228 62
“ “ “ by Sawyer & Ricker,	66 67
“ “ “ by Motley Brothers,	30 47
Cash paid for Supplies,	145 44
“ “ “ Corn,	40 00
“ “ “ A. B. Huston, chopping wood,	36 75
“ “ “ “ “ labor for haying and machine	39 62
“ “ “ “ “ use of his horse,	7 50
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	\$1032 36

	Cr.
By Cash received for articles sold off the Farm,	\$261 33
“ Labor done off the Farm,	48 62
“ “ “ on Roads and Bridges,	80 00
“ Board of horse,	24 00
“ Repairing on house,	12 52
“ Cash on hand,	42 33
	<hr/>
	\$468 80
Showing a Balance against the Almshouse of	\$563 56
Estimated 15 tons of hay more than the stock will eat,	150 00
Value of Stock, Farming Tools and other personal property on Farm, appraised at	786 00

#### AVAILABILITIES.

Taxes in the hands of E. N. Tukesbury, 1865 bills,	\$9617 92
Due from the State for supplies furnished to families of volunteers,	394 33
Due from the State on Bank Tax,	113 81
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	\$10,126 06

#### LIABILITIES.

Outstanding Orders,	\$6614 71
Estimated Interest on the same,	500 00
Balance due School Districts,	180 49
Town of Cumberland Bill for support of Jane Allen and child	79 17
John Noyes, services as Clerk and Treasurer	45 47
John Noyes as Selectman and Assessor,	60 25
Smith Barbor, “ “ “ “ probable,	40 00
Seward Frye, “ “ “ “	48 00
E. H. Starbird, as Superintending School Committee,	24 00
E. H. Ramsdell, “ “ “ “	10 00
Glendy Moody, “ “ “ “	3 00
E. N. Tukesbury, commission collecting 1865 bills,	263 76
Probable abatement of Taxes,	200 00
E. C. Blanchard, taking care of Town House,	4 00
William N. Richard's bill,	228 62
Sawyer & Ricker,	66 67
Motley Brothers,	30 47
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	\$8,397 61

#### OUTSTANDING NOTES.

1 Note dated August 2, 1862, on 2 years,	\$400 00
3 “ “ Feb'y 11, 1863, on 7 “	1400 00
1 “ “ Dec'r 2, 1863, on 10 “	2000 00
1 “ “ June 13, 1864, on 5 “	1000 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 8, 1864, on 4 “	3000 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 20, 1865, on 2 “	1000 00
1 “ “ Sept. 20, 1865, on 1 “	7000 00
1 “ “ Octob. 1, 1865, on 1 “	1000 00
1 “ “ Jan'y 1, 1866, on 1 “	165 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 5, 1866, on 1 “	100 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 5, 1866, on 1 “	100 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 5, 1866, on 1 “	350 00
1 “ “ Feb'y 8, 1866, on 1 “	300 90

1 Note dated Feb'y 9, 1866, on 1 year,	250 00
1 " " Feb'y 9, 1866, on 1 "	300 00
1 " " Feb'y 9, 1866, on 1 "	100 00
1 " " Feb'y 10, 1866, on 6 months,	2000 00
1 " " Feb'y 10, 1866, on 1 year,	1000 00
1 " " Feb'y 10, 1866, on 1 "	200 00
1 " " Feb'y 19, 1866, on 1 "	200 00
1 " " Feb'y 19, 1866, on 1 "	100 00

\$21,965 00  
125 00

Interest on Notes up to March 1, about

\$22,090 00  
8,397 61

Whole amount of Liabilities,

\$30,487 61

### RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of Receipts,

\$14,400 27

#### EXPENDITURES.

Schools,	\$1,432 42
Contingencies,	351 00
Town Officers,	536 29
Poor out of the Alms House,	394 86
Debts Paid,	7,250 00
Poor at the Alms House,	445 79
Bridges,	366 26
New Road,	156 50
State Aid,	449 69
Interest,	2,093 51
Johnson Road,	423 00
Abatements,	505 68

\$14,405 00

Whole amount of Liabilities,

\$30,487 61

Whole amount of Availabilities,

10,126 06

Balance against the town,

\$20,361 55

### SUMS NECESSARY TO RAISE.

For Schools,	\$1,500 00
" Contingencies,	500 00
" Town Officers,	350 00
" Bridges,	400 00
" Poor,	600 00
" Interest,	1,800 00
" Payment of Debts,	6,000 00
	\$11,150 00

JOHN NOYES, } *Selectmen and Overseers*  
SEWARD FRYE, } *of Poor, Falmouth.*

# SCHOOL REPORT.

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The Superintending School Committee of Falmouth, present the following as their Annual Report for the year ending March 4, 1866.

## FINANCIAL.

The whole amount of money raised by the town, for the support of Schools the past year,	\$1,500 00
Amount received from the State,	113 81
Total,	\$1,613 81
Whole Number of Scholars in town, between the ages of four and twenty-one years, 641.	
Amount per scholar,	\$2 51

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## REPORT BY DISTRICTS.

### DISTRICT NO. 1.

*Summer Term.* MISS JULIA P. NOYES, Teacher.

This School was visited by the Committee at the commencement and appeared well, but the School was not visited at the close, consequently we are not prepared to speak of the School from actual knowledge, but being a member of the District we know that the scholars one after another left, so that at the close of the School the number was very small. But should judge that those who were regular in their attendance, made a fair proficiency in their studies. We are satisfied that the system of recesses was detrimental to the progress of the School.

*Winter Term.* STEPHEN M. NEWMAN, of Falmouth, Teacher.

Mr. Newman as a teacher, occupies a position in the front rank. Wherever he teaches success crowns his efforts. At our first visit we were well pleased with the appearance of the School. We found the classes well arranged and that earnest attention to study, which should ever characterize the School room, and which is in itself, the surest indication of success.— There was a promptness in recitation, a ready response to every question of the teacher and a cheerful compliance with his wishes on the part of his pupils which rendered the School harmonious, pleasant and profitable to all concerned. The interest so plainly visible at the commencement was sustained throughout the entire term and the examination at the close, furnished abundant proof of the ability of the teacher, studiousness and good deportment of the scholars.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 81—whole number attending School, 63—average number in attendance, 48.

### DISTRICT NO. 2.

*Summer Term.* ELLEN T. STURDIVANT, Teacher.

Good order did not prevail at the commencement of the School, but a decided improvement was made in this respect before the close. A fair improvement was made in all the classes.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 59—whole number attending school, 37—average number in attendance, 30. Length of School in days, 44.

*Winter Term.* J. H. RAMSDELL, Teacher.

We found the School very quiet and orderly, and a creditable improvement was made in all the classes, particularly in the first class in grammar, and we believe general satisfaction was given.

Length of School in days, 49.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

*Summer Term.* MISS VICTORIA L. HAWKES, Teacher.

This School was under the direction of a teacher who has had much experience in her vocation, and whose labors have been attended with more than ordinary success. We found good order prevailing, both at the commencement and at the close, the pupils attentive, studious and respectful in their deportment, and the teacher actively engaged in the work of instruction.—The result we believe was satisfactory to all concerned.

*Winter Term.* E. H. RAMSDELL, Teacher.

Mr. Ramsdell has had much experience in teaching. We always find him earnestly engaged in his arduous duties, laboring for the good of those under his care and with good success. We found some of the best scholars in town in this District. The closing examination showed thoroughness of mental discipline—good progress in the various branches of study pursued. The success that has attended Mr. Ramsdell in his labors, has secured him a good reputation as a teacher.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 97—whole number attending School, 74—average, 68. Length of School, 66 days.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.—No Summer School

*Winter Term.* MISS EDNA H. LEIGHTON, of Falmouth, Teacher.

At our first visit there appeared to be a spirit of carelessness and indifference manifested by the scholars, and our impressions in regard to the success of the School were unfavorable. But our frequent inquiries about the School during its session satisfied us that it was a paying institution, and at our last visit we were happily disappointed in our first impressions. Good order prevailed—the number had increased—scholars studious and attentive. A good improvement was made. The teacher is to be commended for her zeal and energy and for the marked change in the appearance of the School, while under her care.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 30—whole number attending School, 29—average number attending, 21. Length of School in days, 52½.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

*Summer Term.*

From the appearance of this School at the commencement we should judge it was a profitable one. The order was exceedingly good, and a lively interest was manifested by both teacher and scholars, but we are unable to speak particularly of the improvement made as we did not visit it at its close, not being notified in due season.

*Winter Term.* NATHANIEL PINKHAM, Teacher.

At our first visit the scholars did not appear so quiet as we could wish, but in every other respect the school appeared well. In consequence of a severe snow storm, on the day appointed for examination, the school was not visited at the close, consequently we cannot speak of the merits of the School.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 85—whole number attending School, 55—average attendance, 35. One great fault in this School, irregular attendance. Parents are you not guilty? Something should be done.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

*Summer Term.* MISS JULIA MERRILL, Teacher.

Order and improvement good. We were particularly pleased with the promptness of the recitations in Geography, from the outline maps.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 33—whole number attending School, 25—average number, 21. Length of School in days, 27½.

*Winter Term.* MISS JULIA MERRILL, Teacher.

An improvement was visible in all the branches of study pursued in the School. The recitations in Geography were exceedingly interesting. The scholars were very prompt and thorough, and deserve commendation.

Whole number attending School, 27—average number, 25.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

*Summer Term.* MISS JULIA MERRILL, of Falmouth, Teacher.

A general interest was manifested by both teacher and taught. Miss Merrill has long been known as a successful teacher, and she sustained her reputation quite creditably during this term.

Whole number attending School, 53—average attendance, 40. Admitting scholars from other Districts made this term unusually large.

*Winter Term.* MR. C. A. DUNLAP, Teacher.

We found good order prevailing both at the commencement and at the close. The pupils were attentive, studious and respectful in their deportment, and the teacher actively engaged in the work of instruction. Doubtless there was an improvement, but the scholars spoke so low, that your Committee could not understand half that was said, and scholars in the same class acknowledged they could not hear one word the other said. Now such a state of things is detrimental to the progress of any School. It is impossible to make that improvement which otherwise might be made. This is a serious fault—very injurious in its effects, and very easily corrected. Now we hope that inasmuch as this is their only fault, that they will endeavor to correct it in the future. This School in deportment is second to no School in town.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 60—whole number attending School, 44—average, 37. Length of School, 44 days.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.—No Summer Term.

*Winter Term.* MR. ASA GREELEY, Teacher.

Mr. Greeley is an old, experienced and successful teacher, and by the united effort of both teacher and scholars, this School occupies a favorable position among the Schools in town. Much credit is due the teacher for the effort he made to advance his classes in English Grammar.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 30—whole number attending School, 25—average, 20. Length of School in days, 38.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.—No Summer School.

*Winter Term.* MR. CHARLES C. KNOWLES, Teacher.

A lively interest was manifested by both teacher and scholars, and a creditable improvement was made. The first class in Arithmetic acquitted themselves well. We were pleased to see so many of the parents in this District, take interest enough in their School to be present on examination day.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 45—whole number attending school, 36—average attendance, 29.

## DISTRICT NO. 10.

*Summer Term.* MISS EDNA H. LEIGHTON, Teacher.

Notwithstanding Miss Leighton was a scholar in the District, she succeeded in gaining the good will of the scholars. Good order was manifested—teacher and scholars were interested. A good improvement was the result of the School.

*Winter Term.* MR. O. A. GOULD, Teacher.

At our first visit the School appeared well, but after some five or six weeks some of the large boys, (I am sorry to say it,) were not well inclined. Their conduct seriously affected the School, and the teacher (for some cause unknown to the Committee) did not call them to an account for it. A general dissatisfaction prevailed with parents, teachers and scholars, near the close of the School, and as a natural result the School was not a profitable one, yet an improvement was made in some of the studies.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 45—whole number attending School, 36—average number attending, 30. Length of School in days, 36.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—*No Summer School.*

*Winter Term.* J. K. P. WILSON, of Gorham, Teacher.

Mr. Wilson ranks among our best teachers, he is very thorough in his instruction. The best of order prevailed through the term, and those who attended during the whole term made a rapid progress in all their studies.—For some cause unknown to your Committee, quite a number of scholars left the School before its close, and we regret exceedingly that such was the case. Parents, we are inclined to throw most of the fault upon your shoulders; it is your duty to see that your children are prompt and punctual. Our public Schools are designed for all, and all should reap the benefit of them. You will see that the average number in attendance was only about half of the whole number in the District.

Whole number in the District, 39—average number attending, 21. Length of School in days, 45.

## DISTRICT NO. 12.

*Summer Term.* MISS M. A. ELDER, Teacher.

This was Miss Elder's first School. She failed in order, and consequently the School was noisy; this together with a want of interest on the part of the scholars, was unfavorable and the School was not so profitable as could be desired, yet a good improvement was made in some of the classes; and as the teacher did not have the advantage of experience to profit by, we hope she may be more successful in the future.

Whole number attending School, 34—average number, 20.

*Winter Term.* MISS ABBIE A. COBB, of Gray, Teacher.

The School appeared well at both visits. Miss Cobb labored faithfully for the School. She was fortunate in securing the good will of parents and scholars; a very important point for the teacher to gain in order that their labors may be successful. A good interest continued through the entire term. This School was among our first in improvement. If Miss Cobb would sustain a little better order, we should class her among our best teachers.

Whole number of scholars in the District, 38—whole number attending School, 38—average number, 34. Length of School in days, 39.

We have not seen one writing book worthy of being seen in any School Summer or Winter during the past year.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

We think the Schools in this town have been unusually quiet the past year. Your Committee have not been called upon to settle any difficulty in any School during the year, and with one exception we think perfect harmony has prevailed.

Our School houses will compare favorably with any other town in the County, and we have no hesitation in saying, that we are the banner town in this respect. This speaks well for the town of Falmouth.

We think some of our text books are not what they should be. The Grammar, (W. & Q.) in particular. We know by experimental knowledge, both as a scholar and a teacher, that grammar is rather a dry study with the beginner, and we think the more brief and plain, the first lessons, the better.— Many teachers confine themselves entirely to the Grammar, and require their scholars to commit to memory the whole book, before they allow them to commence parsing, and in this way it becomes a task. A dark future is before them, and with no prospect of ever seeing through, and many a scholar becomes disheartened, and if the study is pursued at all, it is very reluctantly, and the result is, we have but very few good grammarians. If teachers would seek to know their duties, and then discharge them faithfully, this would be remedied in part. Thank heaven we have a few of this stamp, but in our humble opinion they are like angel visits. And unless something is done to introduce a different book, one better adapted to the wants of the scholar, or, more competent teachers come into the field, in a few years if we have any good grammarians we shall have to import them. We think when we state that we have scholars, and quite a number of them in town, eighteen years of age, who have studied Grammar three terms, of ten weeks each, and cannot parse the simplest word in the English language, (while in other branches they are tolerably well advanced,) we think we have sufficient reason to be alarmed. Teachers, Superintending School Committees we think it is your duty to see that something is done to correct this growing evil.

Perhaps one will ask what are the duties of a teacher. We answer, to make the lessons of the text book shine before the mind of his pupil; to make every page luminous with apt, clear, and lucid illustrations. Make it your business to interest the scholar. When this is done the great object of education is being accomplished.

No teacher can successfully teach a pupil, that which is not perfectly clear to his own mind. His acquaintance with the various branches taught, should be such that a text book would be an unnecessary aid, to guide him in conducting a recitation. He must feel that the School room is his proper field for action, and not a place in which to spend a few months to obtain the necessary means, to pass him to another profession. He should delight rather to see the mental powers of his pupils expanding and becoming active, than to see the close of the day, or the termination of a school term. His pupil's good must claim his attention, and from their advancement must flow his greatest pleasure. Another important branch is almost lost sight of; this is writing, during the past year. When teachers have presented themselves for examination, we have almost invariably urged upon them the necessity of making it a part of his or her business to see to it, that every scholar of sufficient age is provided with a writing-book, and make writing an every day exercise. At our first visit we inquire if the scholars have brought in their writing-books, the reply is, they have not yet, but we expect they will. At the close of the school we call for the writing books, the teacher collects some six or eight perhaps, with some three or four leaves scribbled over, where we ought to see twenty or thirty books written through, free from blots and scrawls, and an improvement manifest on every succeeding page. Parents, will you not assist your Superintending School Committee, the coming year, in trying to have some attention paid to this important branch. See that your children, eight years of age and upwards, are furnished with writing books, in the Summer term, and ten years of age and upwards in the Winter

term, then, if the teachers fail or neglect to discharge their duties, they will be deserving of censure, and in our next annual report we shall expose them.

Another fault prevalent with teachers, some seem to suppose that they have a right to recommend and even introduce different kinds of books, into the Schools where they are teaching. Much confusion is caused in this way. They are committing a gross wrong, and in no case should this be done. Teachers, do you know that you violate the law, and not only forfeit your wages but as much more for every day you teach without your certificate of approbation. You will please understand, the Committee consider this a gross insult and if you expect pay for your services in the future, you will please govern yourselves accordingly.

Agents you have an important duty to perform. You should not wait for some one to come along and offer his or her services, but make an effort to secure able teachers. If we ever expect to raise the standard of our public Schools, in our opinion, this is the only way to do it.

Parents, the success of our common Schools depends very much upon the faithful performance of all your duties. If you wish to promote the cause of education, you must be very careful not to introduce politics into your Schools.

In choosing your Agents, you should select men who have scholars to send to School. They will, generally speaking, be more anxious to secure the services of good teachers than those who have no scholars, and consequently they will make a greater effort. We think that young men, and those who have no scholars to send, should not come into the School meetings and control them in choosing their Agents, and in deciding what time the Schools shall commence, unless they see that the money is being squandered, or that might is overcoming right, or something of this nature, in which case it would be proper for them to interfere.

It is almost a universal fault with parents, if the teacher is not precisely what he or she should be, in every respect, to take their children out of School. We beg of you not to deceive yourselves, or be deceived in this way. You are cheating your children out of their honest due. You are cheating them out of that which prepares them to discharge their duties as parents and citizens and has a tendency to lead them in paths of virtue, to happiness. A far better way to remedy this defect is to overlook the teacher's faults, or see the teacher privately, or call the District together, have the Committee present, have the matter investigated, and if the good of the School demands it, discharge the teacher and employ another. But in no case, under no circumstances take your children out of School. Parents as you love your children do not indulge them in absenting themselves from School, or in disobeying the rules and regulations. If you wish them to be respectable and useful men and women, see to it that they attend our public Schools, and we wish to impress upon the minds of parents the necessity of their children being prompt and punctual in their attendance, as irregularity seriously affects the progress of any School. We feel it our duty again to appeal to you, parents, for your cooperation in the great work of educating your children. God has given you no greater earthly treasures, and none after whose interest you should more closely watch and feel solicitous. They are the only gifts God has bestowed upon you, that possess mind, and you are held accountable for their proper training. Soon they must fill your places in society, and if possible, with more stern and complicating duties awaiting them, than you have met. Times are changing, governments are undergoing mighty revolutions. Let us never forget that an enlightened and educated people, are always loyal, while ignorance tends to anarchy. Our common Schools give the people that education. Let us cherish them as one of the great pillars of freedom.

E. H. STARBIRD, } *Sup't School Com.*  
E. H. RAMSDELL, } *of Falmouth.*

FALMOUTH, March 5, 1866.