In consequence of some extraordinary expenses for the purchase of Stoves, School Desks, and other fixtures, it was found necessary to abridge somewhat the School terms. The town appropriation was $4000.00 Received from State Fund, tuition of pupils from other towns, $333.90 $215.62 $212,79 $83.40 $4227.02

Expended for instruction, Wood and Coal, $3530.00 Stoves, pipe, &c., 312.75 School Desks, 185.61 Sundries, 61.25 317.47

Total, 4237.62

Note.—The last item includes some last year accounts, repairs on School houses, furniture, black boards, painting, painting, glazing, Janitor's bills, &c. See Town Clerk's file.
The Selectmen of Amherst here with present their annual report for the year ending March 1, 1868.

**DOGS LAW**
Number of dogs returned by the Assessor 102, of which 98 were licensed, and three killed. $133 was received for licenses and after paying for expense of licenses, the balance was paid over to the County Treasurer, to whom all accounts for Sheep damages must be rendered.

**BRIDGES, &c.**
Appropriation $300. The Bridge at the City, fell in, April last, and on account of the high price of labor and material, the rebuilding of it has cost nearly $1000. Several other bridges have also been rebuilt and with ordinary expenses for gravel and lumber, the total expense has been $1798.92, exceeding the appropriation $498.92.

**HIGHWAYS.**
$320 was appropriated, apportioned to and expended by the District Surveyors. Several cases of damages have occurred to individuals, on account of the Surveyor's neglect of repairing the roads, amounting to $61.90 cts.

**SCHOOL AND MILITARY BONDS.**
School Bond No. 4 and Military Bond No. 1, of $500 each, have been paid, with the interest on the whole amount. An appropriation is needed of $1100 for the School Bonds, and $1040 for the Military Bonds.
MILITARY.

Eighty-seven families of soldiers have been assisted by the State Aid to the amount of $488,884. Allotments to the amount of $466,346 have been received from the State Treasurer and paid out to the soldiers' families. Under the various calls for men the past year we have enlisted 44 men for three years—4 for two years—21 for one year. Total 76 men, amounting to $8,700, and in accordance with the vote of the town, we have refused to individuals for former bounty near $5,000, making $10,700, to be included in the next annual assessment, of which amount $8,500 was raised last May, $1,250 is necessary to be raised to fill the amount needed to be assessed. Total Military expenses including $500 paid Town Agent $11,733.85, $200 above, due from the State. We have a surplus of three men Feb. 1, 1865.

PAUPERs.

Appropriation $1,000. The expenses far exceed any previous year, not only on account of the high prices that prevailed, but on account of the support of 25 cases of small pox, which alone amounted to $922.40—Eighth have been supported in the Almshouse and 19 out. 23 transient persons have also been assisted at the farm.

The Overseers of the Poor charge themselves with the expenditures for the farm and pampers, viz:—

To appraisal of farm,

 propriety in '64, $2,295.44

" Store Bills, 835.00

" Medical and Pastoral Services, 40.00

" Sawing Lumber, 3.44

" Sexton's Services, 9.00

" Vardens Services, etc., 400.00

" Support of 19 persons out of Almshouse, 497.28

" Expense of 25 persons with Small Pox, 692.48

" Coffee and Shovels, 19.53

" Supplies paid from the farm, 722.24

" Or, $5,050.18

By supplies sold from the farm, 1,331.47

" Appraisal for $65, $223.65 $83,031.13

Cost and support of pampers, $1,424.61

EXPENSES OF THE TOWN FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1864.

Am't not brought forward 70.22

Printing and Advertising, &c., 89.90

Road Damages, 61.29

Sign Boards, 2.00

Cemeteries Pans, 31.50

House, 2 years, 50.00

Insurance, 10.00

Beasts AgI Hall, &c., 95.68

Stationery and Books, 14.24

Interest paid, 334.63

Assessors Abatement, 1.98

Postage, Express, and Rev Stamps, 38.19

Treasurer Expenses, etc., 6.49

Sexton's Return of Deaths, 2.30

Returns of Deaths, etc., to State Secretary, 25.90

School Valuation Committee, 24.00

Legal Services, 10.00

Miscellaneous Expenses, 152.45

TOWN OFFICERS.

Elector, 12.00

Constables Services, 22.30

Assessor, 245.00

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, 222.00

1527.30

Am't not brought forward, 1527.30

Town Clerk and Treasurer, by vote, 100.00

School Committee, 255.20

Town Dealer, 12.00

Am'mtor, 5.00

Collector, 1 pr. ch. 192.18

Total Contingent Expenses, 2001.94

State and County Taxes, 6,296.72 6,296.72

School Bonds and Interest, 1140.72 1140.72

Military Bonds and Interest, 1052.50 1050.00

Schools, 1466.56 1470.13

Highways, 1250.00 1250.00

Bridges, 1700.22 1700.22

Pamper, 1126.57 1000.00

Debts, 1000.00 2000.00

19,666.00 18,788.84

18,788.84

Expenses exceed appropriated, 208.15

Military Expenses 31,798.85

Debt 1864, 12,445.00

State Fund and Tuition included.

School Com. services not included.

LIABILITIES MARCH 1, 1865.

Town Orders on interest, 17,601.87

Interest due, 585.00

Pamper orders and bills due Apr. 1, 907.74

10,051.61
### RESOURCES

- Due on taxes '63, $6,450.45
  - from State
  - (Aid) $5,445.54
  - " State and other Military $1,192.00
  - " Canton: $1,81
  - " Potwine: $51.81
  - " Place, $100.81

Debt besides bonds, $12,280.81
School and Military bonds, $20,500.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREASURER'S REPORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEBT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rec'd on Loans, $16,861.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>from State, Treasurer, $4,628.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Aid, $4,585.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corp. Tax, $788.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reburial, $260.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Fund, $147.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military and refundal, $12.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on bond, $1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron sold, $43.20</td>
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<td>Overseers of the Poor, $101.21</td>
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<td>Highway Surveys, $131.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. Sch. Com. Jutition, $55.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes 1863, $22.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes 1864, $19,218.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bal due Treasurer, $11.54</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> $47,335.88</td>
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### DISBURSEMENTS

- State and County Tax, $6,250.72
- Outstanding Orders, $1,174.42
- School Bonds and interest, $1,140.00
- Military Bond and interest, $1,062.50
- Military Expenses, $11,738.85
- Interest on Loans, $394.60
- Highways Surveys, $1,200.00
- Assessors Other, $198.00
- School Orders, $4,985.64
- Bridges, Gravel, &c., $1,798.92
- Paupers, $1,080.77
- Loans, $5,401.13
- Contingent Expenses, $1,181.83
- Soldiers Families, $4,688.34
- Soldiers Allowances, $4,682.44
- Postage, Express, Rev. Stamps, $58.19

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUDITORS REPORT</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMHERST, Feb. 28, 1865.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This certifies that I have examined the accounts of S. Carter, as Town Clerk, Collector and Treasurer for the year ending Feb. 28, 1865, and find them correct and a balance due from the town to him of Eleven 55-100 Dollars.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| GEORGE CUTLER, Auditor.
REPORT

OF THE

General School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF AMHERST,

For the Year 1864-5.

AMHERST:
H. A. MARSH, PRINTER.
1865.
The condition of our public schools, the year past, has been, for the most part, very satisfactory; and we would acknowledge, with devout gratitude, the goodness of God, in permitting us, as a people, to enjoy so many distinguishing privileges, and allowing our children and youth to prosecute their studies unmolested, while war is still devastating many portions of our land.

There is no better criterion by which to judge of the moral and intellectual condition of a people than the condition of their public schools. Judged by this, Amherst now holds a very respectable rank among the cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

There is evidence in all our schools that the system of classification introduced by our predecessors, was dictated by practical wisdom. The geography of our town interposes obstacles to the perfection of this system. But the recent action of the town, removing District lines, will eventually, to a good measure, remove those obstacles. As new houses are needed, the location may be so changed, as to allow, to a much greater extent, than at present, those of the same grade to assemble in the same room.

But while we speak in general terms of approbation of the schools, we would not represent them all as equally successful, or equally deserving of commendation. Most of the schools have
been well taught and well governed. The teachers have been competent, faithful and successful. In some few instances, good intentions and persevering efforts have not led to satisfactory results. The loss sustained in consequence of an unsuccessful term of school, it is difficult to estimate. Pecuniarily, there is the teachers wages, the expense of fuel, the wear and tear of fixtures and books and the time of the pupils. This it would seem should be a sufficient inducement for us to do what we can to prevent failures. But there is another and more important consideration: When the pupils of a school become "demoralized"—when habits of insubordination, of idleness and "mastery inactivity" are acquired and practiced under a teacher's eye, for a whole term, the evil done—the wrong inflicted cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. The faithful and judicious labors of a whole year may be necessary to restore order in such school, and to establish in the minds of the pupils a proper sense of deference to authority. And some there are, who, having tasted the sweets of rebellion, will never subumb, but to the arm of the civil magistrate.

Teachers need the co-operation of parents—the natural teachers, as well as guardians of their children. In our social system most parents delegate to others the task of training their own offspring. By so doing they do not—they cannot throw off the responsibility of their children's education. The mechanic may find it for his interest to employ another to do his work. He is nevertheless responsible for the manner in which it is done. No less responsible are parents for the training of their offspring.

Most of the failures in school result from inability to govern. Without good order, a school is of but little value. Now in the government of a school the parent has very much to do. Children under proper restraint at home, seldom, if ever, make trouble in school.

It seems to be a law of our being, that if we would acquire wisdom, we must submissively sit at the feet of him who dispenses it. And he who is unable to secure that submission, mistakes his calling when he assumes the teacher's garb.

In all the schools above the Primary, weekly reports are made out by the teachers and given to the pupils, for the inspection of parents. From these reports they may learn, at the close of every week, of the attendance, deportment, proficiency and rank of their children. This affords an opportunity for commendation or reproof, as the case may require; and if faithfully improved, would be an efficient instrumentality in the government of the school.

The Committee have reason to believe that in some families these cards receive little or no attention.

The teachers are directed to require of absentees a written apology for absence. The design of this requirement must be obvious. It is for the protection of the parent as well as the teacher. Without it how can truancy be prevented? Yet there are parents in town who manifest unwillingness to do this much to save their own children from vagrancy. If their neighbors, seeing a fire break out through the roof of one of their houses, should go and clamor for admission that they might assist in extinguishing the flames, might not we expect that admittance would be refused, on the ground that the family would not submit to direction?

Three boys in one District have been deprived of the privileges of the school most of the winter term, because their parents would not condescend to inform the teachers whether or not their sons were absent from school with their consent.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

There is need of better school accommodations in some portions of the town. Especially in what were Districts No. 1 and 8. In the former, the Committee have been obliged to continue to occupy a room in the Academy, which is ill adapted to the par-