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1862 Paris Maine Town Report

Municipal Officers of Paris Maine

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN,

AND

Supervisor of Public Schools,

OF THE

TOWN OF PARIS,

For the Year 1861-2.

PARIS, ME.: W. A. PIDGIN & CO., PRINTERS. 1862.

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Selectmen's Report.

In accordance with a vote of the town, the undersigned submit the following report:

The amount of money voted by the town, for the sup-		
	\$2,000	00
Received on account of highway tax,	239	55
Received from other sources,	206	70
:	\$2,446	25
The whole amount of orders drawn for the support of		
	\$2,097	94
Outstanding bills, including Town Officer's fees, so		
far as known:		
Town Clerk,	\$5	00
Town Treasurer,	25	00
Town Agent,	15	00
C. W. Bemis,	66	50
G. F. Hammond,	38	00
H. O. Tuell,	33	50
Supervisor of Schools,	66	50
Collector of Taxes,	97	59
Superintendent of Poor Farm,	200	00
Amount expended,	2,645	03
Amount appropriated,	2,446	25
Indebtedness of the town,	198	78

Of the above amount there has been orders drawn for	Y ⁰
expenses in Norway land case, amounting to	\$869.58
Orders drawn on account of last year's bills,	489 90
For repairs of roads and bridges,	295 60
For support of Poor and other charges,	442 86
Town Officer's bills,	547 09
	\$2645 03

Present indebtedness, according to report of last year, \$1,072 30

It has cost for the support of poor off the farm, as follows:

11	
Mark F. Rawson, paid Insane Hospital, and for other	
expenses,	\$ 83 13
Cephas Washburn,	30 70
Mrs. Whitman, about,	30 00
Wm. Swan and family,	16 94
Transient paupers,	8 41
B. F. Warren, funeral charges,	11 50
Mrs. Caldwell, sickness and funeral charges,	16 00
V 2007	\$196 68

We visited the town farm, the 12th of February, and found the property named below:

2 oxen, valued at	\$117 0	3% barrels pork,	85 28
9 cows.		1 " beef,	16 00
10 two-years-olds,		50 lbs. fresh meat,	3 00
6 one-year-olds,		72 " butter,	12 00
3 swine,		140 " cheese,	12 60
28 fowls,		63 " lard,	7 56
32 tons hay,		25 " tallow,	2 50
1 ton straw,	5 0	barrel flour,	3 50
100 bushels corn,	90 00	2½ bushels meal,	2 25
32 " wheat,	40 0	Dried apple and pum	kin, 300
150 " oats,	60 00	Family Groceries,	12 21
6 " beans,	12 0	Farming tools,	91 25
½ " peas,	6	a barrel soap,	3 00
400 " potatoes,	133 0		
40 " turnips &	car. 10 0	Amount,	\$1468 13

The whole amount of personal property on farm, Paid for labor and groceries with produce sold from farm	\$1468 13 . 168 32
Cash from Mason for produce sold sold from farm, Paid in produce for repairs on farm buildings,	92 50 20 27
tala in produce for repairs on talin buildings,	1779 22

It has cost to manage the farm for the year and support poor on the same, and for repairs, as follows:

on the same, and for repairs, as follows:	
Phillip Mason and wife's services,	\$200 00
Labor hired,	56 81
Store bills,	7554
Grass Seed,	29 50
Blacksmith bill,	6 47
Repairs on buildings,	78 14
	\$446 46

We will say that we are well satisfied with the way the farm has been managed for the year. In addition to usual labor of farm, there has been 55 loads of muck dug and hauled into the yards.

We	have settled	l with	the Treasurer	, and find	cash on	
hand,						\$8 39
Due on	Collector's	bills	for 1860,			50 00
66	66	66	1861,			3902 72

TOWN AGENCY.

To the Selectmen of Paris:-

The undersigned, Agent for the sale of liquors in the town of Paris, from March 1, 1861, to Feb. 14, 1862, presents the following report:

S. D. WEERS, Agent, Dr.

March 1, 1861.	To liquors on hand,	\$21 96
60 60	To cash on hand,	45 16
	To liquors purchased during	year,220 52
	To profit charged on same,	115 03
		\$402 67

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	CIt.	
Feb'y 14, 1862.	By cash paid on old bills, during	
	year, 121 75	
23 23	By cash paid on liquors pur-	
	chased, freight, &c., 198 62	
66 66	By salary allowed, 53 51	
ec ec	By liquors on hand, 16 99	
66 66	By cash on hand, 11 80	
	\$402 6	57

There is now due from the Town for liquors purchased in Portland the sum of \$35,42. It is proper to state that the Agent was required to pay into the Town Treasury, in 1860, the sum of \$35,94, which will explain the large amount due at the last settlement.

S. D. WEEKS.

Paris, Feb. 14, 1862.

In conclusion, we will add that a further report of the Norway land case, and of the soldiers' families, will be made at our town meeting.

CHARLES W. BEMIS, GEO. F. HAMMOND, HERRICK O. TUELL, of Paris.

Report of Supervisor.

To the Citizens of Paris:

Your Committee have attended to the duties assigned, and now respectfully submit what follows:

While the novelist possesses the keys to the "store-house" of fiction, and is suffered to ramble at pleasure in the fields of imagination, I find myself provided with only a few simple truths, (much circumscribed by a resolution passed at your last annual meeting,) wherewith to write a pamphlet to satisfy a community, who are compelled to pay for the book, whether they read it or burn it.

Under such circumstances I feel that I can pen nothing that will be appreciated by any only such as feel a lively interest in the subject of education.

I shall offer no further apologies, and endeavor to report the schools up to the present time, minus facts which can be obtained only from registers not yet returned.

DISTRICT NO. I. (Bolster District.) JOSEPH PENLEY, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Frances F. Kimball, teacher. Whole number of scholars registered, 14; average attendance, 11; length of term, 8 weeks; wages of teacher per week, \$1,50.

This was Miss Kimball's first attempt; and she showed a good degree of decision, and met with success which should not deter her from a second trial.

Winter Term—Miss Elizabeth H. Bray, teacher. Whole number registered, 16; average attendance, 13; length of term, 8 weeks; wages per week, \$2,50.

There was great laxity of discipline in this school, yet there being so few scholars and nearly all kindly disposed, no fatal result followed, as might have been the case in larger schools.

DISTRICT NO. 2. (South Paris.) ALVAH HERSEY, Agent.

Summer Term, Grammar—Miss Clara E. Carey, Teacher. Whole number registered, 34; average attendance, 26; length of term, 11 weeks; wages per week, \$6,00, including board.

Intermediate—Miss Mary H. Foster, Teacher. Whole number registered, 42; average attendance, 26; length of term, 11 weeks; wages per week, \$5,50, including board.

Primary—Miss Sarau E. Hewerr, Teacher. Whole number registered, 41; average attendance, 30; wages per week, \$4,50, including board; length of term, 11 weeks.

These schools were visited but once and that near their commencement. They appeared in good condition and I have seen no cause to change my views with regard to these teachers, since my last report. I harbor no doubt their services were highly beneficial in their several schools.

Winter Term, Grammar Department—S. G. Norcross, teacher. Whole number registered, 61; average attendance, 57; wages, \$40 per month, including board. Mr. Norcross resigned after continuing in the school five weeks.

The school was then placed under charge of Miss Foster, who conducted it profitably to the close, The school continued 6 weeks and averaged 53 scholars, registering 60; wages per week, \$7,50, including board. The influence which Miss Foster exerts as a teacher, carried into all our schools and there perpetuated, would have a tendency to improve the condition of mankind.

Intermediate, Miss Foster, taught 5 1-2 weeks, and resigned. Whole number registered, 51; average attendance, 46; wagesper week, \$5,50, including board.

*Miss Lorenda C. Young finished the term, continuing five weeks. Whole number registered, 47; average attendance, 41; wages per week, \$5,00, including board.

*1 attempted to take charge of this school, but as I made a complete failure, I will give no statistics, and only ask the parents to look at my intention and not the result.

There sprung up a spirit of insubordination, which became general among the scholars. This fact should not be taken as conclusive argument against the efficiency of the teacher. Space will not permit me to give my views in full concerning all the circumstances connected with our schools; but I would here suggest whether it would not be well for the parents in this district to examine themselves, and see if they are prepared to sustain the teachers placed over their children.

Primary, Mrs. S. G. Norcross taught five weeks, and resigned. Whole number registered, 31; average attendance, 27; wages per week, \$5,50, including board.

This school was under good discipline, and we could hardly expect to find any teacher who could keep up the interest, as a change of teachers must have some bad effects. Mrs. Norcross heard several recitations from the Grammar Department.

Mrs. G. W. Hammond completed the school, continuing six weeks. Whole number registered, 33; average attendance, 27; wages per week, including board, \$5,00.

This school, though all quite small, yet they showed a shrewdness that would do credit to older scholars. I may not be able to judge impartially of this teacher, I will therefore leave the matter in the hands of the district.

DISTRICT NO. III. (Swift District.)

HENRY R. WEBBER, Agent.

Summer Term, Miss Mary E. Webber, Teacher. Whole number registered, 30; average attendance, 26; length of term, eight weeks; wages per week, including board, \$3,00.

Winter Term, Danvill B. Stevens, Teacher. Whole number registered, 36; average attendance, 26; length of term, 9 weeks; wages per month, \$20,00.

Mr. Webber succeeded in hiring good teachers. They did honor to themselves in the manner in which they conducted their schools. The scholars made good improvement in all their studies, and especially in Arithmetic.

DISTRICT NO. IV. (Biscoe District.) JAMES F. PENLEY, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss LORENDA C. Young, teacher. Whole number registered, 18; average attendance, 14; length of term, 8 weeks: wages per week, \$2,50, including board. This was Miss Young's first term, and everything went on smoothly. The scholars showed a good degree of ambition to answer all questions pro-

posed.

Winter Term—Amasa E. Swift, teacher. Whole number registered, 26; average attendance, 22; length of term, 9 weeks; wages per month, \$20.

DISTRICT NO. V. (High Street.)

ASAPH BIRD, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Janett K. Jackson, teacher. Whole number registered, 25; average attendance, 18; length of term, 11 weeks; wages per week, \$1,25; board of teacher per week, 60 cents. Miss Jackson is quite young and has never seen much of the rough side of life; and by a chain of unlucky circumstances her school was condusive of but little good. I am not willing this should be used against the teacher. Many difficulties with which she had to contend were entirely beyond her control. I am nearly certain that Janett will succeed in teaching. Prejudice and cheap talk are well calculated to injure the interest of any school.

Winter Term—Otis B. Rawson, teacher. Whole number registered, 26; average, 20; length of term, 10 weeks; wages per month, \$22; teacher's board per week, \$1. We would like to hear from the district which can compete with this one in boarding teachers.

DISTRICT NO. VI. (West Paris.)

BENJAMIN F. EVANS, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Jennie E. Elden, teacher, This school commenced May 13, and was visited on the 22d. I was much pleased with the appearance of the school. The management was proper and instruction thorough. Miss Elden left suddenly some eight or ten days before she anticipated, consequently I could visit

the school but once, and as she has not returned her register, I cannot give the statistics of the school. I have thought perhaps Miss E. might fill and leave her register with some one: if so I trust it will be handed in immediately. We cannot properly make our returns to the Secretary of State until every register is returned. Teachers should bear in mind that by not returning their registers they not only put the School Committee to trouble, but wrong the town in which they teach.

Winter Term—A. FITZROY CHASE, teacher. Whole number registered, 57; average attendance, 39; length of term, 10 weeks; wages per month, \$26,00.

A large per cent. of attendance always looks well for a school. Out of mere justice to the school and teacher, I will here state that this is a large school of small scholars, their average age being only 10 years—35 being from 4 to 11 years of age. During the first four weeks, the average was near 50, but as the going and weather grew bad the little ones could not get out. I mention these facts to show that it was not a want of interest that kept them at home. Mr. Chase always has something new, something interesting, for his pupils. This school was under perfect control. The teacher could work at the board with his back to the school, and yet no under currents. At my first visit the school was quite full, but I did not see one scholar, even, whisper while I was present; and best of all, the teacher was entirely free from any arbitrary or domineering disposition towards his scholars.

DISTRICT NO. VII. (Hall District.)

NATHANIEL G. BUMPUS, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Sarah O. Foster, teacher. Whole number registered, 17; average attendance, 14; length of term, 9 weeks; wages per week, \$2,50, including board.

Winter Term—EDWARD P. BARTLETT, teacher, Whole number registered, 16; average attendance, 12; length of term, 11 weeks; wages, \$12 per month.

These schools were conducted with ability and made good advancement.

DISTRICT NO. VIII. (King District.)

WM. O. KING, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Viola N. Webber, teacher. Whole number registered, 27; average attendance, 22; length of term, 10 weeks; wages per week, \$1,25.

I thought Miss Webber rather young to take charge of this school, but her labors were crowned with success. With more

experience she will rank high as a teacher.

Winter Term—George F. Sawyer, teacher. This school is still in session. Whole number registered, 41. The first 8 weeks the average attendance was 37 or 38. The whooping-cough then entered and took about one-half of the scholars from the school.

Mr. Sawyer has dignity to govern a school properly, and at the same time have a smile and pleasant word for all his scholars.

DISTRICT NO. IX. (Paris Hill.)

BENJ. F. TWITCHELL, Agent.

Summer Term, Grammar Department—Miss Mary F. Holmes, teacher. Whole number registered, 36; average attendance, 29; length of term, 11 weeks; wages per week, \$4,75, including board. Miss Holmes is a teacher of marked ability. The discipline was not rigid, yet the school made very good advancement. The kindness of Miss Holmes always wins the love and confidence of all her scholars.

Summer Term, Primary—Miss M. Louisa Twitchell, teacher. Whole number registered, 30; average attendance, 26; length of term, 11 weeks. Wages per week, \$4,12, including board. The returns show that, while F. Marble, E. Twitchell, A. Cummings, A. Hammond and Herbert Hammond, stand high in deportment, Hattie Hubbard heads the list, not having been reproved during the term.

Winter Term, Grammar—Joseph H. Morse, teacher. Whole number attending school, 54; average attendance estimated at 45; length of term, 11 weeks. The school is still in session.

Winter Term, Primary—Miss M. LOUISA TWITCHELL, teacher. This school is not yet closed. I cannot give the facts of the school, as the register is not yet filled. I fear that the per centage

of attendance will be rather small, as there has been some sickness among the scholars. Miss Twitchell has had much experience as a teacher, and labors faithfully for the prosperity of those entrusted to her care.

DISTRICT NO. X. (Partridge District.) ALEXANDER H. THAYER, Agent.

Summer Term—Mrs. A. H. Thayer, teacher. Whole number registered, 26; average attendance, 20; length of term, 12 weeks; wages per week, \$2,75, including board.

There was not so much jingling of the bell in this, as in some of our schools, but good common sense entered largely into the management of the school, both in government and instruction. The register shows the names of five scholars who were not absent during the term of 65 days; two others were absent only a half day, and eight others were present about 60 days. Some larger scholars were present but a few days, their parents claiming their services, which accounts for the per centage of attendance not being so high as we could wish. The money paid for this term was, in my opinion, as safely invested as that of any other school for the year.

Winter Term—L. M. Peirce, teacher. Whole number registered, 35; average attendance, 24; length of term, 10 weeks; wages per month, \$20. I visited this school twice. Everything moved quietly during my stay in the school. I have no doubt but those who attended steadily and applied their minds to their studies, made good improvement. The classes in grammar, and especially the second class, made rapid progress. The register shows that only eight girls attended school, and they averaged but 28 days each.

DISTRICT NO. XI. (Stearns District.)

MARSHALL STEARNS, Agent,

Winter Term—Miss Jenett K. Stearns, teacher. Whole number registered, 7; average attendance, 5; length of term, 18 weeks; wages per week, \$1,50. This school will take the lead in at least two respects. Miss Stearns has attended faithfully to her duties,

but the means to accomplish great achievements have not been furnished.

DISTRICT NO. XII. (Harbor District.)

GIBBS BENSON, Agent.

Summer Term—Lucelia C. Forbes, teacher. Whole number registered, 31; average attendance, 21; length of term, 12 weeks; wages per week, \$3,50, including board.

There was much sickness which injured the interest of the school, which will account for the per centage of attendance not coming quite up to the standard. I think the scholars made satisfactory advancement in their several studies, and have reason to regard Miss Forbes as a kind and faithful teacher. There is one important lesson she has learned, and well-learned, that of self-government.

Winter Term—Randall B. Morton, teacher. This school has several weeks to continue. Mr. Morton has \$22 per month, and the length of the term, about 15 weeks, will probably average 40 scholars. Mr. Morton labored to improve the condition of his scholars and I think his services were generally appreciated.

DISTRICT NO. XIII. (Tubbs District,)

ALPHEUS SHAW, Agent.

Winter Term—Miss Rose McKenney, teacher. Whole number registered, 14; average attendance, 12; length of term, 14 weeks; wages per week, \$3,07, including board.

Miss McKenney, should she think of teaching larger schools, will find it necessary to tighten the reins of government. In fact it would not have injured her school had she been a little sparing of lenity. Still her scholars made very fair progress.

DISTRICT NO. XIV. (Mountain District.)

Winter Term—Miss L. J. Chase, teacher. This school is in session and is to continue some weeks yet. I visited this school soon after it commenced and found it doing well. The school was very small, but all seemed bent on doing a good winter's work, and the teacher ready, willing and competent to assist.

DISTRICT NO. XV. (Whittemore District.) ALEXANDER S. THAYER, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Nellie M. Thayen, teacher. Whole number registered, 17; average attendance 16; length of term, 8 weeks; wages per week, \$2,00, including board. It was the wish of the district that Mr. Thayer should place his daughter in charge of the school, and time has told that he was not unwise in so doing.

Winter Term—Charles W. Ryerson, teacher. Whole number registered, 23; average attendance, 19; length of term, 8 weeks; wages per month, \$18.

DISTRICT NO. XVI. (Tuell District.)

PHINEAS B. WARNER, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Julia P. Howe, engaged this school, commenced on the first Monday in June, continued a few weeks and resigned, much to the regret of both children and parents. Register not returned.

Miss Helen J. Morton, engaged the school and conducted it successfully to the close. Whole number registered, 24; average attendance, 21; length of term, 6 weeks; wages per week, \$2.

Winter Term—Seth Benson, teacher. Whole number registered, 38; average, about 33; length of term, 12 weeks. This school is not closed. This ranks among our best schools. I was much pleased with the examination during my last visit, especially in reading, which was a complete success. I have gained an evidence that the parents in this district are determined that their children shall have an education. Snows, blows, and drifts as high as small mountains, have no terror for parents or children.

DISTRICT NO. XVII. (Forbes District.) EDWIN GRAY, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Lizzie D. Perkins, teacher. Whole number registered, 31; average attendance, 20; length of term, 11 weeks; wages per week, \$1,50.

There was not that unity of feeling which could be desired, but the school was not so bad as we frequently find. The teacher appeared to be most kindly disposed, yet there was not that taking hold on the part of the scholars which there must be to make a school highly profitable.

Winter Term—Nelson O. Swift, Teacher. This school is now in progress. Whole number attending school, 27; average, about 18; Length of term, 12 weeks.

I have seen nothing in Mr. S., but he was able and willing to do his duties faithfully, but by some means he has not the respect of at least a portion of his scholars. The school appeared well at my first visit, and I hoped they might have a school; but I must say I was disappointed at my last visit. As this was the teacher's first attempt, perhaps experience and years may make him a successful teacher. I have always regarded this as one of the most quiet and easily governed schools in town.

DISTRICT NO. XVIII. (Hollow District.)

JAMES H. BARROWS, Agent.

Summer Term—Miss Marietta A. Curtis, Teacher. Whole number registered, 34; average attendance, 26; length of term, 14 weeks; wages per week, \$2,00.

I have seen no cause to change my mind with regard to the efficiency of this teacher since my first report. I believe this term to be one of profit to the district.

Winter Term—CHARLES H. BOLSTER, Teacher. Whole number registered, 40; average attendance, 27; length of term, 10 weeks; wages per month, \$18,00.

Messrs. A. E. Swift, Rawson, Chase, Morse, Ryerson, Benson, and Bolster have each conducted their schools with ability. It does not satisfy these men to merely glide through their schools, pocket the money appropriated for the good of education, and step out; but they show a vital interest for the welfare of those confided to their trust; and the recitations in their several schools convinced me that their solicitude had awakened the minds of their scholars to their own interest. These are citizens of our own town, and I would suggest whether it would not be well to engage such men before we go abroad for teachers. Why swap a certainty for an uncertainty?

There have been 39 terms and 42 teachers the past year, and although there has been some hard feeling and perhaps some bad blood put in motion, yet when we consider how many there are who are really interested, I think we have reason to say we have been favored.

TO TEACHERS.

GOVERNMENT. Let your government be firm, and if it be necessary to inflict corporal punishment, let it be done in candor and in a proper manner. All acts like pulling hair, twisting the ear, or varinging the nose, are treasured up in the young mind as so many personal insults. It matters not what may be the age or sex of the scholar, teachers should bear in mind that the first step towards discipline is self-government, and while the civil LAWS of our land and the sympathics of all good men lean in favor of sustaining them in doing their duties, the same laws point out as important qualifications of teachers that they sustain sound moral character, and a temper and disposition suitable to instruct youth.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

There has been no change in the houses except some slight repairs; while there are several that ought to be razed to the ground. The old structure in the seventh district calls most earnestly for the carpenter's strong arm. Any good earpenters, who may find themselves out of employment the coming season, would do well to call on the inhabitants of school districts numbers one, four and seven.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

I have recommended no change in books except in readers. After due examination and deliberation, I was satisfied that it would be for the interest of our schools to adopt Willson's series of readers; and after making the terms as low as possible, which, by the way, was ten per cent. below the regular introductory price, I made use of such means as I thought best to bring the matter before the parents. Now that the books have gone into most of our schools, and met the eye of nearly all the inhabitants, I leave the matter for their approval or disapproval. While some say if the books

are to be introduced "force them in at once," I did not regard this case one of absolute necessity, therefore I think such a course uncalled for; neither do I believe the people so depraved as to require to be driven to do right. The books are more generally adopted than they would have been had arbitrary means been used, and by using the same means, I have no doubt those districts which have not made the change will do so, and that, too, with perfect good feelings.

Change of books is a delicate matter, and I have long wished that it might be settled by State authority. If no better method can be adopted, let our Legislature decide what books shall be used for a given series of years, and at the same time contract with the publisher to furnish the State. This would secure uniformity, and give us our school books at much reduced prices, and put an end to much dissatisfaction and confusion. The veto power vested in the President is under certain circumstances as despotic as that of any of the crowned heads in Europe. Something of the same is at the pleasure of our State Executive, and so down, down, down even to our town officers, there are times they can use the authority which they possess in an absolute manner.

STUDIES PURSUED.

Next to the importance of reading, spelling and writing, is a knowledge of arithmetic to a certain degree; but a large number of our scholars pay more attention to mathematics than to all other studies, and a large majority make that their hobby. Now let me inquire, which will bring the most useful knowledge, puzzling on an abstract question in arithmetic, or learning something of the surface of the Earth; the construction of our language into sentences; the mechanical powers which we are every day using; and looking into the simple historical facts of even our own country. There are but very few of our scholars who pay any attention to History. A. B. Berard has published a history of the United States, a little manual of some 250 pages, which is a very interesting and useful work. I would be glad to see it in the hands of our little scholars. I think it might prepare the way for higher attainments in the study of History.

MY POSITION.

Two years since, when the citizens of Paris, without any solicitation on my part, saw fit to place me in charge of the interests of our schools, the very responsibility caused me accept with reluctance. I did accept, and took the oath of office, which oath instructed me to attend to the duties assigned, but not one word about trying to please everybody. This may account in some degree for my doings. I have tried to settle all differences when it could be honorably brought about. I have found it pleasant being associated with teachers and scholars, and have been treated with much kindness by all the parents with whom I have met,—for which favors I would tender my sincere thanks.

Town of Paris to G. W. Hammond, Dr.

To 1 day apportioning money,	\$1 00
To examining teachers and granting certificates,	5 00
To 78 visits, 50 cents,	39 00
To traveling expenses,	21 50
	\$ 66 50

GEO. W. HAMMOND, Supervisor.

Paris, February 18th, 1862.

