

Switzerland Dec 18. 1835

Dear Sir

Your circular of Sep 11 and letter of Dec 13 have been received. We should have answered your enquiries before, had we not expected you here in October.

The No of School Districts in this town is 13. 1 is part in Lisbon
" " " Houses 12.

Estimated Value being generally old \$2000.
Estimated amt of Stationary an. furnished ea. scholar 75 cts

The no. of Scholars admissible is 670
" " " attending 450

Population 1545. We are under obligation
to appropriate \$648.

We annually appropriate \$650.

We pay for private tuition perhaps \$250.

Something is also done by giving
board and fuel

We receive from Bank Tax \$89.

Our School books embrace a great variety
some good - Many very exceptional. Among our
~~books~~ are Webster, Marshalls, Peeps Goodells & some
other Spelling books - Am. first Class book - The Eng
lish Reader for Lower Classes - Primary Class book
Gunnys Reader, American Preceptor, The New Testa-
ment and Moises Geography of 1800 and some
others for reading books - In Geography we
have every thing from Moises in 18th Century
down to Peter Parley - We have a dozen

authors on Arithmetic - Not much Mental Arithmetic in our Schools because our learned pedagogue generally ^{oppose} any thing of that sort thinking it too simple a business to teach what they cannot comprehend.

The Committee of this town are clear in the opinion that the cause of Common education would be greatly promoted by some system which might introduce the best text books & effect a more uniformity. The change might be expensive at first but ultimately a great saving would be made in a pecuniary point of view - The present law would authorize Committee to make changes; but in a majority of cases these committees are far from being competent judges of the best books - They are made up generally of worn out School Masters who might have been mighty men in Science, when a little knowledge of the Spelling book, to be able to read haltingly in the Psalter and cypher as far as the Rule of Three were considered ~~might~~ ^{splendid} acquisitions. - We have another difficulty to contend with and that is the want of well qualified teachers. We are under the necessity of employing

men wholly unfit for the business - There are
many districts in this vicinity where we
not supplied even with these images of
a real "Schaback". I would not be so slow
if I could help it. But how can I know
I ask a man who has kept school 40 years
with great success to spell Contrary and
he spells it Contorary and many things after
that sort - — We need such an Insti-
tution as Governor Denio recom-
mended two years ago. And I do hope the
Legislature will establish one liberally.
I am sure each ~~one~~ ⁱⁿ a school. State and
city commissioners to have a general di-
vision of the whole business would be
valuable help - The business of teaching
needs to be raised to a profession in
order to expect much from our schools.
Having been many years a pedagogue
you will excuse the freedom with which
I have abounded my views in your no-

Very respectfully
Wm. Rice Esq. for the Committee
Samuel Pickard

Goffbanner, Me
Dec 21

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Warren Rice Esq.
Wiscasset.
Me.



Leicester