

Whitefield, Me

Dec. 25. 1885

To Warren Price Esq

Dear Sir,

In pursuance of your Circular requesting certain accounts from us in regard to our schools, we are able to make, after so long a time, the following statistical items, which we transmit to you as requested - viz.

1. In this town are 14 School Districts, each having a Schoolhouse - some of which are valuable, & others not - We suppose the average value of the Schoolhouses, not to exceed \$150 each. Total \$2,100. ~
2. We suppose the average amount of Stationary ^{& Books} furnished each scholar annually to be about 50 cents. ~
3. The Number of Pupils within the proper age for public instruction ~~are~~ ^{admissible} to Schools are as follows -
Say - Males - or boys - 492
Females - 513 Total 1005
4. We know of no Donations to our Schools, either public or private. - The books in general use with us, are, say -
1. The National Spelling Book, & some others -
2. For reading books, we used the Young Reader - Introduction to the National Reader & the National Reader - The primary clap book, & the National Clap book -
5. Arithmetics - Smith's - Colburn's - Emerson & Kennis' - are of general use in our Schools - Some others have been used, but not so much at present as of late -
- 6 - Geography - Worcester's & Malte Brun, mostly. -
- 7 - Grammar - Litch's Murray - about altogether -

Q - The money raised by ~~law~~ ^{annually} & expended in this town
since the last census is \$000. - Beyond this sum
no money is expended for schools, except, now & then some
small private school may ^{be} set up for some short period in
different places -

Dear Sir,

As to remarks on the subject of our
primary schools, we perceive a wide door is open for
them, ~~but~~ ^{but} doubt whether ours may be necessary -

We suppose the official request which you have made
upon us, is but the beginning of some reform for the better,
& sincerely wish success to it - We have very soon the
necessity, as we have believed, of some further legislation to
promote the interest & success of our primary schools -

Imagine what we please of the value of Academic &
College Education, the success & utility of the higher
seminaries have their origin in the primary school -

It is an error of the first magnitude, to suppose that the
primary ^{school} is an indifferent institution - & to neglect it, or ^{not} to
support & encourage it, is scarce a fault, in a moral -
~~disregard~~ other point of view. - Such seems to be as we
have found among some of the views & feelings of many of the
best informed, that they are jealous of the friends of primary
schools, as though they were burdens imposed upon the
community - Such persons, of whom there are too many, often
greatly injure the education of their respective districts.

Most respectfully,
Your Ob^d. Servt.

David Crowell

In order of the School
Committee of Whitefield
Jan 10 35 -

Whitefield

Whitefield, Me { Full Brown P.M.
Dec. 25th {

Warren Rice Esq
Winchester
Me