

# HAZARD'S REGISTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF EVERY KIND OF USEFUL INFORMATION RESPECTING THE STATE.

EDITED BY SAMUEL HAZARD.

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## EDUCATION SYSTEM. REPORT

Of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Superintendent of Common Schools, on the subject of *Common Schools*.—Read in the House of Representatives, March 3, 1835.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Harrisburg, 2d March, 1835.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### GENTLEMEN:—

By the seventeenth section of the act to establish a general system of education, passed on the 1st day of April, 1834, "the Secretary of the Commonwealth is required as Superintendent of the Common Schools," to "Prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature, containing a statement of the condition of the Common Schools, estimates and accounts of expenditures of the school moneys, plans for the improvement of the common school system, and all such matters relating to his office of Superintendent, and to the concerns of the common schools, as he shall deem it expedient to communicate." The present report must necessarily be confined to a statement of what has been done towards organizing the system created by this act, and of the difficulties that have occurred in the construction of the law, so far as they have come within the notice of the superintendent. The condition of the schools, and the cost of maintaining them, cannot be known, till reports shall be received from the inspectors, which the sixteenth section of the act requires them to make on or before the first Monday in November.

The duty enjoined by the twenty-seventh section on the Secretary of the Commonwealth, was attended to; and copies of the act were sent to the sheriff of each county in the State.

The notice required by the nineteenth section, of the share to which each division might be entitled of the appropriation of seventy-five thousand dollars, made by the State, was prepared in August last, and published, agreeably to the provisions of the law, in every county of the Commonwealth in which there was a newspaper, except Mifflin and Juniata. The county of Juniata having constituted a part of Mifflin in the year 1828, when the last enumeration of the taxables in the State was made, it was not known what number was in each. This fact having been ascertained in November, the requisite notice was then given to these divisions also.

The enumeration of 1828 being the last made under the authority of the State, was taken as the ratio by which the appropriation of seventy-five thousand dollars was apportioned among the several school divisions. The share to which each is entitled, according to this appointment, appears by the table hereto appended.

Reports of the proceedings of the delegate meetings held on the first Tuesday of November last, have been received from all the counties in the State, except Clearfield, Columbia, Greene and Montgomery. The results of these proceedings are stated in the table.

Some difficulties have arisen in the construction of

this law, from the ambiguity and obscurity of its provisions, which are thought worthy of the notice of the Legislature.

By the first section it is provided, "that every ward, township, and borough, within the several school divisions, shall each form a school district." Some of the boroughs are divided into wards. Is each ward of one of these boroughs to constitute a district? or is the whole borough included in one? In York and Reading, each ward was taken to be a district; and this seems to the superintendent to be the correct interpretation of this part of the law. In Harrisburg, which consists of 2 wards, the borough was considered as but one district.

According to the fifth section, "the appropriations made by the joint meeting shall be considered part of the authorized estimates of county expenditures, and shall be levied and collected in the usual manner"—It also provides, that to constitute a joint meeting, at least two of the county commissioners, and a majority of the delegates of the school districts in each division, shall be required." By the sixth section, if a majority of the joint meeting refuse to make appropriations for common schools, those who may have voted in the affirmative, being the minority of the delegates, are empowered to fix the amount of tax to be raised by the districts which they represent. How is this tax to be levied and collected? It is not an appropriation made by the joint meeting, for the commissioners have nothing to do with it, and therefore it does not come within the provisions of the fifth section. In this case, the districts in the minority do not constitute a school division: their delegates act independently of the representatives of the county, and without their concurrence,

It is expressly provided, in the seventh section, that sums, which the districts acting separately and independently of the divisions, shall resolve to raise for school purposes, "shall be collected as township or borough rates and levies are by law collected."

The superintendent has therefore, in answer to inquiries upon this point, stated his opinion to be, that this tax is to be collected in the same way. Some of the supervisors however, in accordance with the advice of counsel, as it is said, have refused to collect it; and in some of the counties it has been assessed, and is intended to be collected, like county rates and levies.

The seventh section provides, that, "within twenty days after such joint meeting of the delegates as aforesaid, or at such time as such joint meeting shall fix and determine, if said delegate meeting shall have determined to make an appropriation as aforesaid, the people of the several school districts shall assemble, &c.

Meetings of the people in the districts have been held at times and places appointed by the minority of the delegates, in those counties in which the joint meetings refused to make appropriations. Many of these meetings agreed to raise sums in addition to the amount which their delegates had resolved should be levied.—The language of the law does not authorize these proceedings, and the collection of these additional sums may be successfully resisted. This will produce great hardship in some of the districts, in which they mainly rely upon the sums they expect thus to raise for the support of their schools. All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES FINDLAY,

Secretary of the Com. and Sup. of Common Schools.

\* See Reg. Vol. XIII. p. 235.

nence; and why should not its collegiate department aspire after the same enviable distinction? I know, indeed, there is no monopoly in the Republic of letters, and I envy not the prosperity of any literary institution in the land; but is it not a privilege as well as duty to patronise an institution of our own? Here it is that parents, while they can exert the best influence upon the morals of their children—an influence which is beginning to be better known and valued, can at the same time have them trained in a course, which for the extent which it embraces, is not inferior to that of any institution in our country. Its advantages are open to all who will embrace them. Every class of our citizens, and those especially who cannot incur the expense of sending their sons abroad, may here, at a comparatively small expense, have them educated under their own eye. And will not our citizens avail themselves, more than they have done, of the opportunity, when they know not but from among their own offspring there may be reared up another Rittenhouse, or another Franklin? If I am commanding to your patronage the University of Pennsylvania, I feel that I am pleading your own cause—the cause of every parent and child in this great and growing city. I would have every class of citizens feel that it is the legitimate nursery of their offspring, and the door through which they may be exalted to the highest honours in the republic. But with all the benefits which it is capable of conferring upon this community, it may be made still more beneficial. The only thing in the way is the want of funds; and though it may sustain itself as at present organized, it presents imperious claims to the liberality of the citizens of Philadelphia. Is it necessary to do more than to announce the fact to open the hearts and hands of a city so abundant in wealth, and not wanting in liberality? If, in my desire for the prosperity of this institution, I should appeal to you in its behalf, I flatter myself that you will need only to be told what means are necessary to realize your hopes, and ours, and they will be at once bestowed. While other institutions are even now exerting their efforts to add thousands to their funds, let us not be wanting to an institution which is, or ought to be, the pride and glory of our city. I fear I have trespassed too long upon your patience.—But allow me to say in conclusion, while so much depends upon our own exertions in sustaining this institution—while so much more can be done than has yet been done, I feel that success in our efforts must depend upon him from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, and whose merciful regard may be entreated upon every undertaking designed to promote his glory, and the happiness of man. To him do I commend it, with all its interests, in the hope that he will deign to smile upon it, and make it a fountain whence streams shall issue to gladden our beloved country, and the church of God.

From the Catalogue of the University it appears there are in the DEPARTMENT OF ARTS—

Under graduates, viz:—

Senior Sophisters	21
Junior do	15
Sophomores	24
Freshmen	33
Total	93

Of the above are from—

Philadelphia	80
Pennsylvania	3
Delaware	3
N. Jersey	3
Maine	1
D. Columbia	1
S. Carolina	1
Canada	1

Medical Class—Session 1834—5,	
Matriculants	392
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Viz. from—	
Alabama	9
Canada and British Provinces	2
District of Columbia	2
Delaware	8
England	1
Florida	1
Georgia	12
Ireland	1
Illinois	1
Kentucky	5
Louisiana	6
Maryland	8
Mississippi	8
Missouri	1
New England	12
New York	12
New Jersey	23
North Carolina	28
Ohio	9
Pennsylvania	48
Philadelphia	75
South Carolina	9
Tennessee	13
Venezuela	1
Virginia	87
West Indies	8
U. S. Navy and Army	2
Aggregate	392

Of which 197 are first course students, and the remainder of from 2 to 4 courses.

#### AGGREGATE.

Collegiate Department	93
Medical Department	392
Academical Department	139
Charity (English) Schools	175
Total	799

#### LETTER FROM REV. JEDEDIAH ANDREWS.

We are indebted for the following interesting letter to a gentleman of Boston, as also for the introductory notice of its author, and the occasional notes which are interspersed, tending to elucidate portions of the letter.

Boston, Feb. 24, 1835.

*Jedediah Andrews*, as appears from a genealogical list of the family, in the hands of Mr. Caleb Andrews of this city, was born, in Hingham, July 7, 1674, son of Capt. Thomas Andrews of that place, and Ruth, his wife. He was the youngest but one of 10 Children.—His great grandfather, Thos. Andrews, who died in 1640, at a very advanced age was one of the first settlers in that ancient town.

Capt. Thomas Andrews, father of *Jedediah* commanded a company in an expedition against Canada, in 1690, and died in that service of the small pox.—His widow, of whom her son writes in his letter to Mr. Prince, died in 1732, aged 97. *Jedediah Andrews* was an alumnus of Harvard College, of the Class of 1695. It appears from J. F. Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, Article *Churches*, that Mr. Andrews was minister of a

Presbyterian Church in 1698.\* His letter to Rev. Mr. Prince, minister of the Old South Church in Boston, was doubtless in answer to inquiries having reference to Mr. Prince's literary pursuit.—An accurate history of the country of which his Chronological History of New England, published in 1736, was a specimen.—It is not to the credit of that generation, that he did not receive sufficient encouragement to induce him to continue his labours, excepting in some few pages, part of a 2d volume never completed.

The genealogical list above mentioned of the *Andrews'* family, of Hingham, does not give the time of Mr. A.'s death;† it will probably be found in the records of the religious Society of which he was Pastor;—and is supposed, the first *Pastor*. His letter, plain, and unpretending as it is, has an interest, from the information which it gives of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania at that early period.

PHILA'D'A, 8th, 14th, 1730.

Rev'd Sr.—

I rec'd yours pr Mr. Oliver, thank you for it, and take the distinct acc't you were pleased to give of yr. father, his affairs and family, as a token of respect, not doubting but that covenant blessings are entailed and secured to your family, by covenant promises, which are yea and amen, by Jesus Christ. I suppose yt you call Middleborough, is the same yt was called Plimton, when I was in N. E. 21 years ago, and had occasion to be up by that country, on a visit to my brother, yt lives at Rochester, who is, now, the only brother I have left, having lost two desirable brothers, about 3 years since. One died in Aug't, at Hingham, and the other, we reckon, was lost at sea, in 7br, in the great storm yt happened at yt time; for he sailed from Boston, about 3 or 4 days before yt storm, and was never heard of since. My mother, an aged woman, lives at Hingham. She is about 96, and has her sight restored perfectly, for

\* [It is stated in Dr. Mease's "Picture of Philadelphia," page 206, "That in the autumn of 1698, the Rev. J. A. came from New England to Philadelphia—and officiated as an Independent minister. The Independents" (who were also denominated Presbyterians) "had by this time increased in numbers, and after the removal of the Baptists, continued to meet at the house on Barbadoes Lot, [where the Independents, and the Baptists under the Rev. John Watt, had worshipped for several years before at N. W. corner of Second and Chestnut] until they procured another in High street, where they erected a small house for worship in 1704, which was enlarged in 1729, about which time they adopted the presbyterian form of government."—Ed. Rro.]

† He died in 1747.—Ed. Rro.

‡ The 1st Presbyterian Church from 1701 to 1747.  
Ed. Rro.

§ A mistake. Middleborough was known as a town in the Old Colony as early as 1660. Plimton a settlement between Plymouth and Middleborough, was not incorporated until 1707.

the last 26 years, and retains her understanding wonderfully, as I am informed. I am continually longing to come once more and see her, before she dies; but the journey being long, and multiplicity of business continually taking me up, I am doubtful whether I shall get the liberty to answer my desire.

The help yt was kindly afforded us, from Boston, was of singular use to us, in enlarging our house, which would not, I think, have been done, without it.—It is now in a manner, finished, and proves very favourable for enlarging our Congreg'n.\* I heartily thank you for the present of the sermons, and having perused them, think there was no need of excuses from hurry of business, &c. rather admire how, in such a hurry, and among so many avocations, they could be done so well, especially the Election sermon, when your family was inoculated, which, being a disputed practice, would, you know, have occasioned censure, if they hadn't done well, and must, necessarily, cause more than ordinary concern at every uncomfortable symptom. A nephew of mine, son to my eldest brother, Thomas, died of the small pox, taken that way. He was Prentice to Dr. Bulfinch,—an hopeful young man, about 19. His brother informs me he died in peace, declaring himself prepared and not afraid to die.

Such a multitude of people coming in, from Ireland, of late years,† our Congregations are multiplied, in this Province, to the number of 15 or 16, which are all, but 2 or 3, furnished with ministers. All Scotch and Irish, but 3 or 4. Besides divers new Congregations yt are forming by these new comers, we all call ourselves Presbyterians, none pretending to be called Congregational, in this Province. In the Jerseys there are some Congregat'l assemblies, that is, some of the people are inclined yt way, being originally of N. Eng'd, yet they all submit to our Presbytrys readily eno', and the ministers are all Presby'tn, tho' mostly from N. E. There is indeed, one Congreg'n in the back pt of Newark, yt don't join with us, neither ministers nor People; besides yt, all ye rest do. There is, in the Jerseys, about a dozen Congreg'n's, but not all constantly supplied

\* Does the writer refer to the house in High street, which Watson calls the "Old Button Wood"—or to some earlier building in another part of the City occupied by the Presbyterians? [See note in the other column.]

† Dr. Holmes in his American Annals, copies from Anderson, the following abstract of the new comers, in 1729.

"English and Welsh passengers and servants,	267
Scot's servants,	43
Irish passengers and servants,	1,155
Palatine passengers,	243
Arrived at New Castle government alone, passengers and servants, chiefly from Ireland, about	4,500
Total,	6,206

(Annals II. 123.)

with preaching; tho' most of 'em are, and the rest getting into a settled way, as fast as they can, and some new Congreg'sns growing up there also. There is, besides, in this Province, a vast number of Palatines, and they come in still, every year. Those yt have come of late years, are, mostly, Presbyt'n, or, as they call themselves, Reformed, the Palatinate, being about three-fifths of that sort of people; they did use to come to me, for baptism for their children, and many have joined with us, in the other sacram't. They never had a minister, 'till about 9 years ago, who is a bright young man, and a fine scholar. He is, at present, absent, being gone to Holland, to get money to build a Ch'h, in this City; but they are scattered all over the country; those yt live in Town, are mostly a kind of Gibeonites, hewers of wood, &c. They are diligent, sober, frugal people, rarely charged with any misdemeanour. Many of 'em, yt live in the country and have farms, by their industry and frugal way of living, grow rich, for they can underlive the Britons, &c." The first comers of 'em, tho' called Palatines, because they came lastly from the country, are mostly Switzers, being drove from the Canton of Bern, for they are Baptists, and won't fight or swear. They don't shave their heads, and are many of 'em wealthy men, having got the best land in the Province. They live 60 or 70 miles off, but come frequently to Town with their waggons, laden with skins, (which belong to the Indian traders) butter, flour, &c. There are many Lutherans, and some Reformed, mixed among 'em. In other parts of the country they are, chiefly, Reformed; so that I suppose, the Presbyt'n party are as numerous as the Qua-

kers, or near it.\* There is lately come over a Palatine candidate of the ministry, who having applied to us at the Synod, for Ordin'n, 'tis left to 3 minist'rs to do it. He is an extraordinary person for sense and learning. We gave him a question to discuss about Justification, and he has answered it, in a whole sheet of paper, in a very notable manner. His name is John Peter Miller, and speaks Latin as readily as we do our vernacular tongue, and so does the other, Mr. Weis. The Ch'h party won't grow much, except in the Town, where there is a great Congreg'n of 'em. There are some few small Congreg'sns of 'em in the country.—Tho' there be so many sorts of Religions going on, we don't quarrel about it. We not only live peaceably, but seem to love one another.

As to civil affairs, we have a Charter, granted by Mr. Penn, which is ample enough. The assemblies are chosen yearly, (for we have one in the Province, and another in the Territories) and meet upon their own adjournm'ts. The people choose the Sheriffs and Coroners, yt is two of a sort, out of which the Govern'r (who is Penn's Lieut.) takes which he pleases. The Justices and Judges are put in by the Gov'r, in which matter he may use his own pleasure, but usually consults his Council. The Council has no pt in the Legislature, that lies only in the Representatives, and gov'r, but he still advises with his Council, which is of his own choice. Justice, among us, is usually administered impartially. The government inclines to lenity rather than severity.

In this City, we have a Mayor, 12 Aldermen, and 12 Common Council men. The Mayor is chosen, annually; all the Aldermen are Justices of the Peace, within the bounds of the City. The Mayor, some Aldermen sitting with him, holds Court 4 times a year, and tries causes, criminal but not capital, yt fall out in the City, and so fines, whips and pillories as matters are. Our laws go both to the Prop'r and Crown, for approbation. Two negatives, at home, some have thought a hardship. Tho' we have Townships all over the Country, yet the people don't make Towns, as in N. E. but settle, in a scattered way, for convenience of farming, and the Country grows mighty populous, plantations thick, for a hundred miles back. The 3 lower counties, which make the Territories, are, mostly, plain-level land, but the upper counties, which make yt pt w'ch they call the Province, is more uneven, all over the country, and abundantly free'r of stones, than N. E. There is not such abund'ce of barren land as in N. E. Almost any where, if you can get land, a plan-

\* Thomas Makin, who performed for Pennsylvania in its early days, what Morril had before done for New England, a description of the country in Latin verse, thus represents the economy and the comforts of the Pennsylvania farmers at that period, [1729.]

*Despicit exoticasque dapes, vestesque superbias,  
Contentus modicis vivere pace suis.*

*Esuriens dulces epulas depromit inemptas,  
Et proprio vestis vellere texta placet.*

*Parva, humilisque domus, latos quæ prospicit agros,  
Parta, vel empta, sibi sufficit atque suis.  
Utilis est illi, si non opulenta supella,  
Res sapiens omnes utilitate probat.*

#### *Proud's Version.*

"He scorns exotic foods and gaudy dress,  
Content to live on homely fare, in peace;  
Sweet to his taste his unbought dainties are,  
And his own *homespun* he delights to wear.  
His lowly dwelling views his large domain,  
Improv'd in part, where peace and plenty reign,  
Plain furniture, but useful, he doth chuse,  
And wisely values ev'ry thing for use."

\* The account of burials in Philadelphia for seven years, (1738 to 1744) given by Rev'd Dr. Holmes, in his Annals, confirms Mr. Andrews's conjecture.

The number of burials of Quakers, was	476
Presbyterians,	179
Baptists,	98
Swedes,	129
	406

[Total deaths in these 7 years, 3,179. See Reg. Vol. V. p. 115, deaths from 1722 to 1744.—ED. R.R.]

tation may be made. Tho' there are some barrens too. The land is light that they call loom, and easier of tillage than in N. E. tho' I think I never see any here so strong and rich as the Necks and Islands about the Bay.\* The country is pleasant, and the upper pt of it healthy, abounds with great plenty of all necessary provisions for the life of man, and beast. As to Oldmixon's history, I never saw it,† nor never heard any thing material of it, besides what I find in Dr. Cotton Mather's history of his father's life. There was formerly, when Mr. Penn had newly begun to settle people here, an account published of the country, which I have often seen inserted in histories of America, as well as single, but I have none of 'em by me. The first European Inhabitants here, were low Dutch and Swedes, who got titles from the D. of York, which were confirmed by the Prop'r Mr. Penn. There are in this Province and the Jersies, Swedish assemblies, Lutherans. The ministers come from Sweden, and when they have been here 11 or 12 years, they are sent for home, and others sent in their room, for they think it a kind of hardship to be here, and so they call 'em home and advance 'em. These Swedish Mission's are usually men of good learning, and good behav'r. They soon learn English, and often preach among Ch'h people in vacant places. I have been well acquainted with some of them, and wrote a certificate, lately, for one, that is going home. I have not a loadstone in possession now, having lost a good one in removing our goods to escape a dreadful fire, yt had like to have turned us out of doors, as it did my next door neighbour, the winter before last; but I'll endeavour to get one for you; they are found about 22 miles off. I was many years ago to search for them, and<sup>d</sup>Cotton Stones‡ for Mr. Belcher, now your Gov'r.

I had not the opportunity of the conversation with Messrs. Belcher and Oliver,|| as I desired, for which I am much troubled. When they came to my house, I, unhappily, was out of the way, and when I went to look

\* Meaning *Boston harbour*, in early times called the *Bay*.

† Oldmixon's "British Empire in America," a work probably to which Mr. Prince referred in his inquiries, was published in 1708.

[See Oldmixon's account of Pennsylvania, in Register Vol. V. p. 161.—Ed. Rxe.]

‡ The Magnetic Iron Stone, and the Amianthus, or Asbestos, called *Cotton Stones*, by Mr. A. are noticed by Thomas Makin, in his *Descriptio Pennsylvaniae*, among its rare productions.

Hic lapis est *Magnus*, &c.

|| The Mr. Belcher here mentioned was probably Jonathan Belcher, jr. son of Gov'r Belcher; his companion is supposed to have been Andrew Oliver, afterwards Lieutenant Gov'r of Massachusetts, or his brother Peter, who took his degree at Harvard College in that year.

for them, they were pre-engaged; so that I did but just speak to them, which troubles me more than a little; and when I expected them, and waited on purpose, they did not come, being taken up with other company, for the Gentry of the Town show'd them abundance of respect indeed, and, I hear, were exceedingly pleased with them.

Thus Sir, I think, I have, in some measure, answered yr requests, and shall be glad to understand my acc't of things has yielded you any satisfaction. If there be any thing, that you could be further informed about, touching the state and affairs of this country, I shall readily gratify you, as far as I can. This with hearty respects, is all at present, from

Yr Broth'r and serv't,

JEDEDIAH ANDREWS.

To the Rev'd  
Mr. Thomas Prince,  
Minist'r at Boston,  
New England,  
These.

The long struggle in the Councils upon the Gas question terminated on the 21st instant, by the adoption of the following ordinance. Unanimously by the Select Council,—19 for and 2 against it in the Common.

#### AN ORDINANCE, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS.

Section 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the citizens of Philadelphia, in Select and Common Councils assembled, That for the construction and carrying on the works hereinafter provided for, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to be divided into one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, shall be raised in the following manner. A book shall be opened by the City Treasurer at such convenient place as he may designate, on the first Monday of April, 1835, and be kept open during the office hours of said Treasurer for six juridical days thereafter, in which the said Treasurer shall permit all persons of lawful age, either personally or by attorney duly authorised, to subscribe for any number of shares of the said stock on the following conditions:—

The said book shall be headed in the following manner: We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, promise to pay to the City Treasurer the sum of one hundred dollars for each share of stock set opposite to our respective names, on the days and times and in such quotas and proportions as may be fixed by the Trustees appointed according to the provisions of an Ordinance entitled an Ordinance for the construction and management of the Philadelphia Gas Works, passed the 21st day of March, 1835. The said subscriber shall pay to the City Treasurer at the time of subscribing, ten dollars on each share, and the remaining ninety dollars on each share at such times and in such proportions as shall be required by the Trustees as hereinafter provided for. Provided that if such subscriptions shall exceed one thousand shares, they shall be divided amongst the subscribers pro rata, according to their subscriptions, but no less than one share shall be allotted to any subscriber; and, Provided further, that the said trustees shall have authority on the application of