Friday, January 2, 1880

The school were occupied the whole day in answering the following questions: –

1. Did your school work, so far as you know, injure or benefit your general health? What evidence have you of this?

2. What changes, if any, occurred in your physical habits or practice?

3. Ditto – mental or moral habits or practices?

4. What do you consider your most valuable acquisition? Why?

5. What was your greatest burden?

6. Ditto – chief delight?

7. What is your paramount aim for the immediate future?
8. What changes in school requirements would be most acceptable to you yourself?

Saturday, January 3, 1880 [continuation of January 2]

Questions continued

1. What regular study (branch) has taken most time (been most exacting)?

1. Ditto, least?

Other questions leading to the following results (as roughly estimated by the teachers) were answered.

Average hours of study per day – 2.30
Average hours of study on Monday – 3.00
Latest average bed-time 10.15
Earliest average bed-time 8.50
Average bed-time 9.15
Number of meals lost in a week too few to notice.
Tea-drinkers 19%
Coffee-drinkers 26%
Neither tea nor coffee 53%
Both tea and coffee 11%

Mr. Brown after a three weeks’ absence came into school this afternoon, expecting to return regularly next week.

The Hall was used for study after school instead of for play as usual on Saturdays, because it cannot be used on Monday.

Monday, January 5, 1880

For the first time in the history of the school the fires were put out for the purpose of clearing the furnace pipes and consequently the building was not used for study as usual on Monday.

Thursday, January 6, 1880

Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon from Oswego gave the school an hour’s call on their way to Providence seeking medical help for Mrs. Sheldon who was not strong enough to speak to the school.
Wednesday, January 7, 1880

An invitation to the school was received from Mr. J. T. Fields for Friday evening’s lecture at Plymouth Chapel – subject “Literary Life in London thirty years ago.”

Thursday, January 8, 1880

Dr. John Bengel made a long call in the office. Miss Mary Currier formerly of Bridgewater and Salem made a short visit in the school.

Friday, January 9, 1880

There was found in “the tin box” today four dollars and forty-seven cents, contributed by the school for a bouquet for Mr. Fields. Two dollars was used by Mr. Mathews and Miss Jones, (committee appointed by Mr. Russell) for the purpose.

Mr. Humes, formerly Superintendent of Schools at Lawrence, now connected with the Appletons, visited the school.

Miss Morgan, coming down from the drawing room, fell and dislocated a bone in her foot, the most serious accident that has occurred in this school.

Saturday, January 10, 1880

A part of the speaking hour was occupied by the scholars in reproducing the criticism made by Mr. Russell upon the way of lecturing suggested by Miss Goodwin’s talk about the use of paper. Fifteen minutes used for writing and the papers were handed in.

Mr. Woods of Brimfield and his daughter, Mrs. Foskitt; also Mr. Smith and Mr. Holden, teachers in the Oxford Grammar and High Schools visited the school in the afternoon.

A good number of graduates also present.

Tuesday, January 13, 1880

A stormy day and a good many absent pupils; fair weather and some depth of snow for the home-going.
A teachers’ meeting for a few minutes after school, in which Mr. Russell read a summary of results obtained from the recently written papers of the pupils, an item or two only given here. –

“The most exacting studies “as judged by thirty-three and twenty pupils were Drawing and History.

“The least-exacting studies” as judged by twenty and seventeen pupils were Algebra and Music.

Wednesday, January 14, 1880

Instead of the usual speaking by the pupils, Mr. Russell occupied the time and that of the first recitation in giving some of the results of the questions asked and answered (and recorded) Jan. 2 – with comments and commendation.

Thursday, January 15, 1880

An agent of the Mass. Total Abstinence Society and an agent for Dixon’s pencils called upon the school.

Mr. Brown is trying a new method of teaching punctuation, having sentences read by the class and letting them decide as to the places for pauses, and the R— [word unclear] with reasons for their decisions.

Friday, January 16, 1880

Visitors, Miss Spalter and three pupils from Westfield and Miss Emma Houghton.

Mr. Russell goes to Oxford to attend a conference on School Management.

Saturday, January 17, 1880

Visitors – Graduates as usual and our old pupil Miss McKay from Newtonville.

Tuesday, January 20, 1880

The teachers were occupied in the office all day excepting during the afternoon speaking hour deciding the fate of the pupils.
Wednesday, January 21, 1880

Miss Wight, teacher at Framingham Normal School, classmate of Miss Porter, spent the day with us.

Thursday, January 22, 1880

Prof. Bengel visited the school.
State Aid was given to ten pupils.

Friday, January 23, 1880

Miss Jones absent on account of sickness.

Saturday, January 24, 1880

Sent to the Treasurers of the State Board of Education the receipts of those who rec’d state aid.
All the books belonging to the state were collected and the other usual work of the end of a term was done.
The recitations went on as usual until the second hour of the afternoon and after that time the pupils “went through the office.”
Mr. Fox, principal of the Coffin Schools of Nantucket made a call in the forenoon.

Thursday, January 29, 1880 [this entry is a letter pasted into the diary; many of the words are difficult to determine]

January 3. 1878

[heading of stationery] 148 Charles Street, Boston.

My dear sir,

Next Friday being (the 9th.) my subject will be London Literary + Artistic Life” as I saw it 25 years ago, or more. As there will be room for all your pupils in the hall that night, I cordially invite the whole school to be present if the ladies + gentlemen [“+ gentlemen” is added above]
would like to come. W is my last evening in Worcester. Please see my friend Baldwin and ask him to arrange with the door keeper, so that there will be no trouble about admission. If the principal, teachers, + pupils ?? the door – “Normal School”. That will be all right, I think, perhaps nice be a well to have all arranged beforehand in the hall. Please tell Mr/Mrs. Stoddard of this plan.

J.T.F.
James T. Fields
Principal Russell
Normal School
Worcester

The following class of 22 young ladies has been admitted to the Normal School, as the result of the examinations this week:
Harriet Almira Baker – Phillipston.
Anna Jane Calhoun – Rutland.
Lizzie Jane Clark – Worcester.
Eugenia Collins – Gardiner, Me.
Mary Ellen Convery – Worcester.
Josephine Eugenia Corey – Worcester.
Emma Spaulding Cutting – Templeton.
Emma Maria Dingley – Gardiner, Me.
Catherine Doyle – Worcester.
Mary Elizabeth Joyce – Worcester.
Julia Ardelle Mann – Millville
Ada Elvera Mason – Northbridge.
Elizabeth Adeline Potter – Worcester.
Sarah Leonora Prouty – Spencer.
Anna E. C. Purdy – Sturbridge.
Maude Robinson – Pittston, Me.
Mary Celia Smith – Worcester.
Amy Hayden Stockbridge – Hanover.
May Florence Stratton – Millbury.
Etta Theresa Whalen – Worcester.
Grace Williams – Gardiner, Me.
Average age of those admitted 19 yrs. 3 mos.

[end of news clipping]

Miss Stowell, admitted in Sept. entered with the new class.
Thursday, February 12, 1880

A very rainy day but a full school.

Mr. Russell spent over an hour and a half talking to the school from the text found in Supt. Eliot’s Report for March 1. 1879, page 59 – self-reliance taught in Normal Schools.

The entering class were occupied with Mr. Russell most of the day, writing.

Most of the classes of Mr. Brown, Mr. Adams and Miss Jones had their lessons assigned and some recitations.

The last work of the school was having their seats assigned.

Friday, February 13, 1880

The entering class were occupied with Mr. Russell most of the day, part of the time in connection with the rest of the fourth class.

The new programme was used with the first, second and third classes

The roll-book was set up, numbers and seats permanently assigned, regular tardiness recorded, etc.

The school was detained after 3.30 to have explained the study-hour.

A rainy, depressing day outside of school.

Saturday, February 14, 1880

Pleasant or only cloudy day, like one in April.

Programme for Saturday fully carried out till the last hour in the afternoon when Mr. Nason not appearing for singing the time was occupied with reading.

With the work of the term well begun the first week ends.

Misses Clark, Jenks and Kent visited the school in the afternoon, all teachers from Leicester, two our graduates.

The German class of post-graduates had a lesson though most of the graduates, teachers in the city schools, were absent on account of vacation in the schools.
Tuesday, February 17, 1880
Programme written upon the blackboard but not perfectly followed in the forenoon as the
statistics concerning height, size, weight, etc. were taken in part for the 4th class.
The afternoon’s programme was exchanged with Wednesday’s for this week to accommodate
Mr. Nason who came for his first day’s work and did it this P.M.

Wednesday, February 18, 1880
Spring-like morning, cloud and wind.
The speaking hour and the next one were taken by Mr. Russell to teach the meaning of attention.
The school were told to take notice of Mondays and be ready sometime to report upon its use.
Mr. Burleigh from Waterville, Me. visited the school during the forenoon. Several friends of the
pupils visited the school, also graduates and a teacher of penmanship and a gentleman from
Uxbridge.
The last two recitation hours of the third class were occupied in getting statistics omitted last
term – concerning height, weight, etc.
Miss Marsh busy in the office making a color chart to show the proportion of time given by each
class to the different studies of this term.

Thursday, February 19, 1880
A very windy day.
The speaking hour was occupied by Mr. Russell in a talk suggested by giving notice of the
lessons of a teacher of penmanship.
The first hour of the afternoon was taken from recitations by Mr. Russell who talked about the
having company in school, the making rulers, the failure to use suggestions, etc.

Friday, February 20, 1880
Cold but pleasant. Rather windy.
Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking hour to speak of the kind of questions found in the box to
be selected for assignment and also to give some special instruction about the speaking exercise.
Mr. Lewis and Miss Buckley – visitors. Miss Brown and Miss Melanefy – visitors in P.M.
Several visitors of the pupils also present.

Saturday, February 21, 1880

Snow-storm began about noon.

Miss Clark called at noon and with several other graduates visited us on the afternoon. Some young men visitors present morning and afternoon.

Mr. Nason came at noon and gave his lessons in the afternoon according to programme.

Tuesday, February 24

Cloudless morning – cloudless day.

Visitors, Rev. Mr. Sargent (Grafton), Mr. Heath.

Mr. Russell occupied a part of the speaking hour giving some hints about the use and abuse of text-books.

The first volunteer, Miss Dingley, of the 4th class gave for her reading a selection from Mr. Russell’s Friday Evening’s Lecture for the Natural History Society, ‘Two or three points in the bringing up of children.’

At the time for speaking in the P.M. Mr. Russell gave out questions for different pupils to answer – these questions had been handed in by the tin box or through it.

Wednesday, February 25, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Dr. Williams visited the school in the A.M.

Thursday, February 26, 1880

Foggy.

Miss Jones went at ten o’clock and made arrangements for the first class to go out practicing next week – she got back at 11.30.
Pussy-willows were on the table in the hall today.

Friday, February 27, 1880

Beautiful day.

Mr. Russell reported the first warble of a blue-bird.

Miss Gates gave an interesting report upon the use of coffee – gathered from the testimony of some of Worcester’s first physicians.

Saturday, February 28, 1880

Pleasant, warm morning; cloudy afternoon.

A large number of graduates present in the P.M. and two or three other visitors – friends of pupils, present.

By vote (written) the school decided to have a study hour on Saturday P.M.

Tuesday, March 2, 1880

Cloudy but not disagreeable for March.

The first-class out practicing; beginning today their three week’s work.

Our school visited by Mr. Hubbard from 10.00 o’clock till 3.30. He was introduced to the school after the speaking exercise and talked to them about school government. In one of Miss porter’s classes he explained arithmetical analysis and in one of Miss Jones’ he talked about Reading.

Miss Heath from Gardiner and two other young ladies visited the school for half a day’s session.

Mr. Adams’ class in Natural Science have in three weeks finished the work in mineralogy.

Wednesday, March 3, 1880

Windy.

A Mr. Webb from Petersham visited the school during the speaking hour and afterwards talked about engaging a graduate for the High School in Petersham.
The teachers rec’d their February salaries.

Miss Bemis of the 3d class is obliged to leave on account of her health.

Thursday, March 4, 1880

Clouds and sunshine.

A Miss Greenwood, graduate of Bridgewater Normal School, from Illinois visited our school during forenoon.

Rev. Mr. Fowler attended the speaking exercise and spent the rest of the forenoon consulting text-books in the office.

Mr. Russell absent all day to attend a meeting of the Board of Education in Boston.

Friday, March 5, 1880

Rainy morning but warm and in the P.M. windy.

Mr. Russell absent in the forenoon – too tired from his going to Boston to work in school – no, not well enough.

Mr. Russell reports concerning the meeting in Boston, a full attendance of the members of the Board of Education and the Principals of Normal Schools, a statement of views by the Principals concerning the raising the standard of admission: requiring applicants to be older; the teaching of morals in the schools, etc.

Saturday, March 6, 1880

A few snow-flakes and more or less clouds all day.

Mr. Russell visited Miss Jones’ class in History – (3d) – also one of Mr. Brown’s classes.

Sunday, March 7, 1880 [faded, scratched out/erased entry]

Stormy.

The morning spea
Tuesday, March 9, 1880

Stormy.

The morning speaking hour was mostly occupied by Mr. Russell in teaching the importance of forming the habit of getting responses from pupils to what is imparted – all suggested by Miss Cavanaugh’s giving a correct pronunciation of a word she miscalled a few days ago, and giving it without making sure that the school understood the correction.

Miss Lyford’s report upon the question of the comparative illiteracy of New York and Massachusetts with discussion of the questions it suggested occupied the most of the speaking hour in the afternoon.

Wednesday, March 10, 1880

Clouds and sunshine.

Miss Jones absent – visiting the Thomas St. apprentices for an hour.

A teacher from Sterling visited the school in the P.M.

Miss Jones was told of a graduate’s misspelling manual and of an apprentice’s inaccurate work in Arithmetic.

Thursday, March 11, 1880

A snow storm for most of the day.

Miss Jones visited the Thomas St. Schools, two of them, Misses Clough’s and Wedge’s and saw in the latter – Miss Howe gave a reading lesson.

Miss Jones was absent (ill) from the Normal School and so did only an hour and a half’s school work in any school.

The speaking hour was mostly occupied by Mr. Russel who got a test from Miss Purdy’s low speaking and not improving after being criticized.

Mr. Russell spoke also of the lately observed two social habits of the school especially in the fourth class.

Friday, March 12, 1880
Cloudy.

Miss Jones visited the Sycamore St. Schools till recess, saw Miss Fairchild in charge of Miss Hagan’s school, give a Geography and a Reading lesson; Miss Lightbomms, a Mental Arithmetic lesson and Miss Brown, a written Arithmetic lesson when the examples were in room-plastering and papering.

At 11.15 Mr. Russell’s class in Physiology gave Miss Jones a lesson upon the skeleton – an experimental “rehearsal of a lesson-form.”

In the afternoon Mr. Russell called the attention of the school to Mr. Allen’s lecture upon Literary Men and the time with musical illustrations and also to a new book just put into our library – The Reader’s Hand-book.

Visitors– Mrs. Thayer and two unknown ladies.

Miss Ham Returned to school.

Saturday, March 13, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Jfts, Miss Gertrude Bridgeman and sister visited the school until 11.15.

Several other visitors present in the afternoon.

Mr. Russell gave Mr. Mathews and Mr. Dupon a warning in the office at the time of singing in the last hour.

Mr. Russell’s class in Physiology continued the “rehearsal of the lesson form” upon the skeleton to Miss Jones.

Tuesday, March 16, 1880

Storm of snow and rain.

Miss Jones visited the Belmont St. School, saw Miss Averill give a grammar lesson, Miss Smith, an Arithmetic lesson, Miss Hill, an Arithmetic lesson and Miss Barnard geography lessons in Miss Reed’s school (as substitute) and in Miss Nichols’ room as apprentice. Miss Seavy was absent from her apprentice-work. Miss Jones made arrangements for second class’ work in Belmont St. Schools next week and visited the new school kept by Anna Maud Smith.

Mr. Russell received the incidental fees.
Miss Porter took Miss Jones’ class in Geography at 12 o’clock.

An uncle of Miss Hale, her guardian visited the school.

Miss Pierce returned to school.

Wednesday, March 17, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Jones visited the schools at New Worcester till [word unclear] and then went to Woodland St. and visited the two apprentices, Misses Meriam and Pearce and made a call upon Misses Goddard and Buckley in Grade I.

Miss Porter was absent ill – all day.

Thursday, March 18, 1880

Beautiful spring morning.

Miss Jones visited Misses Griggs and Gates at [“Belmont” crossed out] Dix St. School and called upon Misses Phelps, Johnson, Giddings and Smith, making arrangements for next week’s apprentices – before recess at 10.30 and then came to the Normal School for the visit of the school day.

Report says “Miss Stowe is very sick.”

Friday, March 19, 1880

Stormy – “the prettiest snow-storm this year.”

Miss Jones visited Ledge, Providence and East Worcester Schools; saw Miss Kane teach Mental and Written Arithmetic, in charge of Miss Eliza Courles’ school; saw Miss Tucker teach Geography in Miss Cole’s school; and Miss Davis, in Miss king’s schools, teach the use of the infinitive in Grammar; called upon Miss Williams’, Miss Bryden’s, Miss Callahan’s and Miss Emma Courles’ schools’ also Miss Lyford’s, Miss Overend’s, Miss Russell’s and Miss Doherty’s and Miss Newton’s and called upon Principals Woodman and Miss Fosket.

A Mr. Beeman, Chairman of School Committee at Amherst visited our school in the forenoon.

Miss Porter took Miss Jones’ class in Geography.
A teachers’ meeting to discuss ways of teaching was held between three and four o’clock.

Saturday, March 20, 1880

Pleasant morning but dark afternoon.

Miss Jones visited Winslow, Oxford and Pleasant Street School until recess and so finished the work of finding places for the second class apprentices.

Tuesday, March 23, 1880

Beautiful day. Crows and bluebirds.

The second class begin their practice and the first class return, having completed their time “out.”

The speaking hour and the first recitation hour were occupied by a teachers’ meeting in the office. Mr. Dupon was allowed to enter the German class or be present in it on Wednesday and Saturday P.M. instead of going with his class in singing.

Mr. Russell detained the school in the hall after the speaking hour in the P.M. to speak of their misplacing of books and also to read an article in the Popular Science Monthly upon penmanship or writing and used the last ten minutes of the session for thinking and writing by the pupils the scope of the reading so there were no recitations in the afternoon.

Wednesday, March 24, 1880

Cloudy, windy, cold.

Mr. Russell occupied a part of the speaking hour in talking about unconscious knowledge.

Seven or eight visitors.

Thursday, March 25, 1880

Windy but sunshiny.

Mr. W. J. Marshall occupied the last two hours of the afternoon in talking about writing.

Two or three visitors.
Friday, March 26, 1880

Pleasant but windy.

The speaking hour was partly occupied in talk by Mr. Russell upon the things necessary for teachers to know.

Mr. Marshall gave a little talk in Mr. Adams’ room during two recitation periods, concerning the Yosemite Valley illustrated by Lantern views.

A teachers’ meeting occupied the last two recitation hours of the day and until 4 o’clock.

Visitors, Miss Gates, Miss Fairbanks and two or three unknown ladies.

Saturday, March 27, 1880

Cloudy. Snow-storm in the P.M.

A teachers’ meeting, continuing the discussion of our course of study occupied the first two hours.

Mr. Huling of the Fitchburg High School spent the forenoon in the school.

Mr. Marble brought a lady, lately apprenticed at Quincy to visit the school in the afternoon.

Sunday, March 28, 1880

Day of the death of Miss Addie Irene Stowe at her home in N. Brookfield.

Monday, March 29, 1880

A meeting of the Principals of the Massachusetts Normal School was held in the office of our own school, to discuss the course of study.

Tuesday, March 30, 1880

Beautiful, clear day.
Both speaking hours were occupied with speaking, but the second hour of the afternoon with a part of the third was occupied by Mr. Russell in remarks suggested by the death of Miss Stowe and contributions were made by the pupils and teachers for a wreath to be sent to her funeral.

Two or three unknown visitors present schools’ also Miss Lyford’s, Miss also Miss Clark from Paxton.

Wednesday, March 31, 1880

Pleasant.

Miss Jones visited Mrs. Hoyt’s school on Pleasant St. and saw Miss Davis in charge half an hour; Miss Murray’s on Oxford St. where Miss Stone was at work; Miss Houghton’s where Miss Nevin is serving her apprenticeship and Miss Howland’s on Winslow St. where Miss Sprout gave spelling, number and form lessons after recess.

Mr. Russell was absent from school after 12 o’clock as were half a dozen of our pupils, to attend the funeral of Miss Stowe.

Thursday, April 1, 1880

Beautiful. Eight-spring birds heard by Mr. Russell.

Miss Jones visited the schools on Dix St. where misses Bicknell, McCormick, Smith and Hills were teaching, saw them all teach and came to the normal School with Mrs. Williams at eleven o’clock.

The usual programme for the day was followed until the second hour in the afternoon after which time the school were occupied in answering the following questions; –

1. What time did you get up yesterday morning? Was it a voluntary awakening?
2. Character and amount of breakfast. (Food and drink)
3. Time spent in the open air.
4. Character and amount of luncheon.
5. Character and amount of supper. (Food and drink)
6. Food eaten between meals.
7. Time spent in study out of school hours. Time given to each study.
8. Recreation. (Kind and amount.)
10. Rest.
11. Bedtime and time of going to sleep. Time study ceased.
12. How many hours of sleep did you have last night?

Note. Was yesterday an average day?

Friday, April 2, 1880
Warm, cloudless perfect day.

Mrs. Williams came to hear the speaking but the school were given a study hour in its place. She had a talk with Mr. Russell while the rest of the teachers waited for a meeting which was held for the balance of the forenoon excepting the time occupied by Dr. Wheeler from Spencer with Mr. Russell. Dr. Wheeler wished to get a teacher from among our graduates.

The subject considered in teachers; meeting was lesson forms. The result of the questions answered by the pupils yesterday was also considered.

Saturday, April 3, 1880
Rainy.

The usual programme was followed until the second hour in the afternoon when the school was given the following questions to answer; –

1. Have you had occasion to go to the Public Library this school year? Ans. 64%
   About how many times? Average 7

Have you seen any one there?

1. Kind of books consulted?

1. Deficiencies in the Library?

1. Have you taken out books to read this year?

What is the name of the last one taken out?
Several visitors – one, a Miss Cutter from Winchendon, another Miss Jennison from Deerfield.

Tuesday, April 6, 1880
Cloudy.
Miss Jones visited the New Worcester schools; saw Miss Newton in Miss Simonds’ school give a Number and a Reading lesson; Miss Taintor, having Miss Paul’s school in charge, gave a Spelling and a Number lesson.
Miss Florence Bicknell’s father and mother visited the school in the forenoon.

Wednesday, April 7, 1880
Squally,
Miss Jones visited Belmont St. and Thomas St. Schools; saw Miss Ahletoon in Miss Hopkins’ school give three reading lessons; Miss Andrews in Miss Whitney’s school, a music and a number lesson, Miss Mason a reading lesson in Miss Gate’s school; Misses Bigelow and Martin in charge of Misses Carey’s and Webber’s schools, giving, the first a music and a drawing lesson, the second, number and spelling lessons.
Mr. Pulsifer from Lake Village, N.H. visited the N.S.
The speaking hour was occupied by Mr. Russell in talking about volunteering.

Thursday, April 8, 1880
Fast-day. No school. House open to pupils.

Friday, April 9, 1880
Beautiful day.
The speaking hour crowded with volunteers.
Miss Jones visited Providence St. and E. Worcester Schools; saw Miss Peckham in Miss Overend’s School give a form lesson; Miss Butler in Mrs. Chamberlain’s, a number lesson; Miss Bigley in Miss Lyford’s in reading and an animal lesson; Miss Caper in Miss Doherty’s, number lesson and Miss Aames also in miss Russell’s school reading lessons.
Saturday, April 10, 1880

Hazy, warm, windy and sunny.

Miss Jones visited Miss Wheaty in Miss Williams’ school where she was alone, in charge of the school, saw her give Color and Reading lessons; also visited Miss Kelley in Miss Callaghan’s school and saw her teaching number and reading.

Visitors, Miss King, Hattie Brown and two sisters with several others during the day.

Tuesday, April 13, 1880

Pleasant, though windy.

The second class having completed their first period of practice, have returned and school lessons once more to be in regular running order.

The speaking hour was given to study and a teachers’ meeting was held in the office till 11.15 and the matter of lesson-forms considered and tabulated.

The speaking hour in the afternoon was used for speaking and the rest of the afternoon was taken up in giving out the “weekly reports” and explaining their use, with the answering of questions suggested by them.

Wednesday, April 14, 1880

Heavy, warm, Indian-summerish.

Mr. Nason called before school to ask for a change in Wednesday afternoon’s programme and so Tuesday’s was substituted, with the expectation of having two Wednesdays next week.

At noon Mr. Russell suggested in the dining room that a list of the different articles of food in this day’s dinner be made out and the result showed thirty different things which led Mr. Russell in the afternoon speaking hour, to talk a little about things good to eat.

The graduates who came for their Wednesday afternoon’s lessons had to lose some of them by the change of programme.

Thursday, April 15, 1880
Still hazy and warm.

In the speaking hour Miss Butler have a selection from Gail Hamilton’s “Our Common Schools” and Mr. Russell, led by it to speak of Normal Schools and their critics, occupied the time until quarter past two.

Two visitors, Mrs. Capin and Mrs. Partridge from Charlton; also a distinguished visitor, Mr. Nuñez, Hon. J. Abelardo Nunez, Commissioner of Education from Chili, introduced by Hon. John Eaton and accompanied by Mr. Marble.

The Commissioner was introduced to the school, and made a few remarks concerning the schools of Chili and spoke of the pleasure he had had in what he had seen in our school, especially the work in drawing.

The speaking exercise was taken up for the last fifteen minutes of the morning session as a way of introducing the school to Mr. Nunez.

Friday, April 16, 1880

Rainy.

A short meeting of the teachers decided the matter of attendance at Horticultural Hall during the Art Exhibition, of two members of the first class, staying but four hours at a time and the making of the arrangements for change, etc. was put with into the hands of the first class.

The opportunity of giving the special privilege of a free attendance upon the Exhibition for four hours was fortunately in the power of Mr. Russell as Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for the Art Society.

The usual programme was carried out.

One or two visitors only present – an unknown gentleman + Miss Carrie Thompson.

Saturday, April 17, 1880

Rainy.

Mr. Russell took the time of the last forenoon recitation to speak to the school about the Art Exhibition and the opportunity to see fine things.

A little time was taken in the afternoon to speak about tardiness or absence and their prompt excuse.
Half a dozen visitors besides graduates.

Miss Dingley showed the first snake of the season, holding it, to the astonishment of most of the pupils for the whole time of her talk.

Tuesday, April 20, 1880
Cloudy.

Time was taken from the third hour to distribute questions to be investigated and to take in the reports of last week and to give out ones for the present week.

Wednesday, April 21, 1880
Lovely.

Miss Clara Prince, teacher from Bridgewater Normal School and a Mr. Prince spent most of the day in our school.

Mr. Russell gave notice to the school in the morning that the admission to the Art Exhibition this afternoon would be ten cents and several pupils availed themselves of the reduced admission fee.

The time of the first afternoon recitation was taken by Mr. Russell to talk to the school about the use of the intermission and also of the after school study hour.

Thursday, April 22, 1880
Beautiful.

The speaking hour was broken off at 9.30 after Miss Peckham had talked about a hornet’s nest she had brought to school and Mr. Russell occupied the time until 10.20 urging the pupils to make acquaintance with nature.

Friday, April 23, 1880
Beautiful.

Miss Averill’s talk in the speaking hour about the conversation and manners of school-girls and teachers led Mr. Russell into a half-hour’s supplement hinting of national unrest and satisfaction especially shown among the young women.
Mr. Russell introduced to the school a painted and a spotted tortoise.

Saturday, April 24, 1880

Rainy.

Mr. Holden, Mr. Smith and Mr. – teachers from Oxford visited the school.

Miss Jones went to Framingham and spent the school day in the Normal School, saw in Miss Hyde’s class in Methods a lesson given by one of the class to half of her class, the other observing and afterwards criticizing. The lesson was upon color, 2nd step, the making of secondary colors by the use of oil paints, application, — [word unclear]. This lesson was with the senior class.

A lesson in Roman History time of Julius Caesar, conducted by Miss Montgomery with the graduates was enjoyed.

A lesson in Geography, teacher Miss Pratt, subject the islands around N. America, class juniors was also enjoyed.

Part of a recitation hour was spent in Miss Davis’ class in Algebra, the balance in observing the study of the oyster as conducted by Miss Williams with the graduates and some of the teachers.

Two hours were spent in the two departments of the Model School with the Principal, Miss Ellen Williams; oral lessons in Geography and Number, given by the practicing second class and a Reading lesson by the assistant Miss Broom were listened to and the rest of the time was occupied in talking with Miss Williams about the plan of work in the Model School.

Tuesday, April 27, 1880 [“Tuesday” crossed out and “Thursday” written]

Cloudy and windy.

Uneventful. No visitors. Programme uninterrupted.

Mr. Everett – ill.

Wednesday, April 28, 1880 [“Wednesday” crossed out and “Tuesday” written]

Cloudy and windy.

Mrs. Sanborn and children and two other lady visitors.
Mr. Russell went home at twelve o’clock and did not return.

A part of the afternoon speaking hour was used for finding out the correct names for the catalogue + the rest of the time was given to study.

Mr. Everett went home sick during the forenoon.

Thursday, April 29, 1880 [“Thursday” crossed out and “Wednesday” written]
Beautiful day.
Miss Marsh absent a part of the forenoon, Miss Jones (ill) all day, Miss Porter visited the R.I. Normal School.

Friday, April 30, 1880
Cloudy.
Miss Marsh absent all day. Mr. Everett still sick.
“New acquaintance in nature” has taken a place in the speaking exercise.
A Mr. Fuller from LeRoy visited the school.

Saturday, May 1, 1880
Cold and windy.
Teachers’ meeting occupied the time of the teachers all the P.M. – classes, excepting Mr. Nason’s left to themselves.

Tuesday, May 4, 1880
Warm, very warm.
Col. Stoddard was present at the speaking exercise which had all the varieties of quartette singing, lectures speaking, question answering, + new acquaintance-showing.
Dandelions, blood-root blossoms, hepatics, dog-tooth violets, epegeaea, cultivated flowers and unknown wild flowers were on the desk.
Calling the roll in the classes was inaugurated.

Mr. Russell spoke of the use of vacation and also of the coming day of graduation and the chometeritive dress of our pupils on such an occasion, etc. etc.

Wednesday, May 5, 1880

Another warm day.

Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking hour and all of the recitation hour to call attention to the danger of making too sudden changes in dress as the weather grew warmer, also speaking of the use of lanes, care of windows and dining room, he offered to the use and abuse of telephones.

Mr. Everett still confined to his home.

Thursday, May 6, 1880

Warm, sunny but windy.

Mr. Russell was detained from most of the speaking hour by a call from a parent – Miss Davis.

Miss Tucker reported the arrival of orioles and found that other pupils had seen them before.

Friday, May 7, 1880

Beautiful.

The school was not called to order till half-past ten as a good many of the pupils went to see the circus procession on Main St.

A teachers’ meeting for decision as to the pupils’ standing was held for an hour.

Mr. Russell spoke to the school about disturbing the pictures of the school in the vacation and offered the smaller sized pictures to the pupils if they desired as was evident they did after school.

Saturday, May 8, 1880

Beautiful.

Five unknown visitors at the opening exercise of school and on through the forenoon.
Prof. Bengel, Miss Ruth Thompson, both called.

Mr. Russell took the time of the first afternoon recitation hour to speak to the school about the "going through the office" which followed to the exclusion of all recitations except Mr. Nason’s with the 2nd and 3d classes. The going through the office lasted till 4 o’clock.

Mr. Everett still confined to his home.

School closed for a week’s vacation.

Saturday, May 15, 1880

Worcester County Teachers’ Association held its annual meeting in the High School Hall of Worcester.

Tuesday, May 18, 1880

Rainy.

After a week’s recess school re-opened with full number and cheerful courage.

Mr. Everett in his place once more.

After the usual speaking hour which did not show a surplus of volunteers Mr. Russell took [“a part of” crossed out] the next hour and a part of the second to talk about volunteering and to prove his marks in his notebook – then a little time, the rest of the second hour was used by the pupils for study and by the teachers for a meeting.

The time for speaking in the P.M. was used in making some changes in seats; in explaining by Mr. Russell the giving of state aid and in giving out reports to be made out this week.

Wednesday, May 19, 1880

Cloudy, pleasant, warm.

Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking hour to tell the school a little about insects.

Mr. Marble visited the school.

Mr. Nason had chorus singing the last hour in place of the regular programme while the teachers were busy in the office with work for Mr. Marble.
Thursday, May 20, 1880

Warm – pleasant.

Mr. Russell took a little more time for talk-teaching about insects in preparation for Mr. Sanborn’s annual visit.

Later in the day one recitation hour was used by Mr. Russell in speaking of the use of the Natural History Rooms.

Friday, May 21, 1880

Warm – pleasant.

Mr. Russell announced at the opening of school that Mr. Sanborn had arrived and would continue the talks about insects that Mr. Russell had begun but not to the school as a whole but to classes. Accordingly the first class met Mr. Sanborn in the speaking hour, the second in the first recitation hour, the third in the second and the fourth in the third. Ten minutes recesses were given that the pupils might ask questions of Mr. Sanborn.

Mr. Russell took the first afternoon hour to speak to the school about the need of teachers and pupils being on the same side. The remarks were suggested by the failure of a pupil to report the breaking of a pane of glass, to the Principal and perhaps by a case of deception in one of the recitations of yesterday.

Saturday, May 22, 1880

Warm – pleasant.

Misses Williams and Robinson were excused from school in consequence of irregular behavior until they could be able to satisfy Mr. Russell with a plan for the proper use of their time.

Tuesday, May 25, 1880

Beautiful day – hot.

Misses Williams and Robinson were given permission to return tomorrow.

Our first class spent the day at the City Hall – taking the teachers’ examination.
Requests for names of school committee were sent to out hundred towns or to the town closest of those towns.

Wednesday, May 26, 1880
Beautiful and hot.
Mr. Sanborn gave a lecture upon the order of insects to each of the three classes at school.
The first class are still at work on the examinations at the City Hall.

Thursday, May 27, 1880
Beautiful but hot.
Prof. Tweed read a paper to the school upon what children know before they are five years old.
This occupied an hour from eleven to twelve.
Prof. Kimball and a friend from Scotland Prof. Thompson visited the school.
Twenty-five of the hundred cards sent to Town Clerks were returned in this morning’s mail and a note from P.M. Pickett accompanied one of them suggesting that postal cards would have served the purpose and pleased U.S. better.

Friday, May 28, 1880
Warm but not so warm or hot as other day this week. A shower in the P.M.
Mr. Russell took time from the fist recitation hour to extend an invitation to pupils interested in Natural history to attend a field meeting of the N.H. Society at the Lake Shore tomorrow P.M., adding some words of caution in the matter of thoughtless disturbances of such meetings.
Notice that there would be no school and no open door here for the pupils was given.

Saturday, May 29, 1880
Cool, pleasant. Memorial Day.
No school but all the teachers, [“excepting Miss Marsh” crossed out] met at the usual time and worked upon papers most of the day.
Tuesday, June 1, 1880

Beautiful.

Several unknown visitors. Programme as usual.

Wednesday, June 2, 1880

Cloudy after a rainy night.

Miss Foskett’s mother visited the school, also Miss Callaghan and Miss Bryden and other graduates.

Miss Averill made application of Shakespeare’s quotations to each member of the 1st class for a lecture.

Thursday, June 3, 1880

Beautiful and cool.

Mr. Russell used the telephone to speak to Rand, Avery + Co. in Boston.

Friday, June 4, 1880

Pleasant, cool.

Visitors, Miss Fairbanks, Miss May (Abby W.) Miss Blatchford, Master Scudder – several unknown visitors.

Misses Proctor + McCambridge gave for a lecture in the speaking hour a duet [“from” crossed out] a sonata of Mozart’s and Mr. Russell by question and criticism occupied the rest of the time.

Miss Amsden showed the school a tarantula from S. American in the P.M.

Saturday, June 5, 1880

Cold, cloudy.
Mr. Thurbur was to give a lecture upon Wordsworth but as Prof. Atkinson made the mistake of coming a week before his appointment time, Mr. Thurbur’s lecture was deferred a week.

Several old pupils visited us – Misses Knowlton + Miss Morgan among the number.

Prof. Atkinson’s lecture was “On Teaching.”

Tuesday, June 8, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Chapin showed in the speaking exercise a pair of woodchucks.

Mr. Russell gave notice of the Natural History Rooms’ being open every day this week and of Mr. Sanborn’s being there to give information.

The work on the catalogues was concluded after school.

[2200 copies of the catalogues for 1880 ordered to be printed by Rand, Avery + Co.]

[800 cards of invitation.]

[1400 programmes.]

Wednesday, June 9, 1880

Clearing.

Miss Stowell announced in the speaking hour the name of the Republican Candidate for President, James A. Garfield, and gave a sketch of his life.

Mr. Marble called.

Thursday, June 10, 1880

Pleasant.

Mrs. Studley spent a good part of the forenoon in Mr. Russell’s classes.

Friday, June 11, 1880

Warm – pleasant.
Misses Collins and Grey from Gardiner, Me. visited the school all the forenoon.

Miss Ahlstrom gave in the third class in History something of what she knew of Swedish History which took the place of class – recitation almost wholly and was very interesting.

Mr. Russell reported favorable result of the first class’ examination before the committee but the poor girls are still waiting to know.

Saturday, June 12, 1880

Hot though cloudy.

Misses Grey, Collins and Robinson from Gardiner, Me. visited the school also some unknown visitors, besides Mr. Thurbur who, at the conclusion of the speaking hour read a paper upon Wordsworth.

Tuesday, June 15, 1880

Cloudy, cool.


The first class rec’d word from the Worcester School Committee that all had passed. Miss Griggs was elected valedictorian for the class by the teachers.

Wednesday, June 16, 1880

Showers.

Two brothers, Fuller by name, from Connecticut visited the school most of the forenoon.

Mr. Sanborn brought up from Mr. Forbuch a beautiful stuffed heron, loaned to the school for a season.

Miss Butler showed a tree frond to the school and Mr. Russell showed it off.

Thursday, June 17, 1880

Beautiful day.
Miss Jones absent – ill.

Friday, June 18, 1880

Beautiful.

The invitations (postal cards) were received and sent out.

Saturday, June 19, 1880

Beautiful. Warm.

The speaking exercise was interrupted by the coming and putting up of the pedestal for Judge Chapin’s bust.

Several unknown visitors and some graduates.

Tuesday, June 22, 1880

Cool, pleasant.

The school had examinations in drawing, occupying from one to three hours with the first, second and third classes.

There was no speaking either in the morning or afternoon hours for speaking.

Mr. Russell refused permission to several of the girls to attend the graduating exercises at the High School and took the first hour of school to talk about making school a business, not to be interrupted by whatever came along.

The diplomas were signed by Mr. Russell.

Wednesday, June 23, 1880

Pleasant.

Hon. Sec. Dickinson spent the forenoon in the Normal School, most of the time in the office with Mr. Russell who did not however arrive till nearly eleven o’clock.

Col. Stoddard called to see Mr. Dickinson.
The school programme was interrupted, – Mr. Nason having chorus singing and the teachers for the first two hours occupied with discussion of classes, the last hour and until 4 o’clock (after the invitation arrived) in preparing them for the mail.

Thursday, June 24, 1880
Warm – pleasant.
The classes were left to themselves a good deal of the day because the teachers were occupied in the office where they worked till 4 o’clock.

Friday, June 25, 1880
Very warm.
The teachers were engaged in the office most of the day and the classes took care of themselves.
The books loaned to the pupils were returned.
The catalogues were rec’d.

Saturday, June 26, 1880
Warm – pleasant.
The speaking exercise occupied the first hour and then after a talk from Mr. Russell about the going through the office, the procession began to move from Miss Porter’s room through the office and continued until 3.30 P.M. taking out the hour intermission.
A few minutes’ interruption was made in the P.M. by Miss Emma Prouty’s having a nervous fit, on account of which Mr. Russell called Dr. Sargent.
Mr. Nason had also a half-hour for rehearsal of songs with the school.

Monday, June 28, 1880
Very warm.
The first class came to school and read their essays to Mr. Brown in the Hall.
The teachers, (excepting Mr. Russell who came at 10.30) came at 9 o’clock and staid till noon.
Tuesday, June 29, 1880

Pleasant – still warm.

The school were called together as usual but after the opening exercises (from which Mr. Russell was absent) were put into Mr. Nason’s hands for drill in singing, etc.

Books were taken out by the pupils for the vacation, and the pupils were dismissed about noon but the teachers and graduates were busy until 4 o’clock.

The catalogues furnished work for the day as the balance of them arrived in the morning.

The programmes also arrived.

Wednesday, June 30, 1880

Warm but breezy and comfortable. No showers!

The exercises of graduation began and were carried out according to programme.

The several committees from the school did their work well so that abundance of flowers brightened the rooms and everybody seemed well pleased with the serving by ushers and lunch-givers.

The hall was full in the afternoon and a good audience attended in the morning.

Thursday, July 1, 1880

Comfortable morning.

The teachers excepting Miss Marsh met for a few minutes at 9 o'clock, but as Mr. Russell left for Boston at 9.30 nothing was done in the matter of sending off catalogues as expected.

An adjourned meeting of the in-town-staying teachers was agreed to as some future day, not far off.

Salaries for June expected but not rec’d.

Vacation is begun.

Monday, July 5, 1880
Warm – cloudy.

Mr. Russell, Mr. Adams, Miss Porter and Miss Jones met in the office about 10 A.M. for work, answered some letters, addressed catalogues and papers, working till about 4 o’clock.

Wednesday, September 1, 1880

x Kellogg’s Rhetoric to Mr. Brown for examination.

x Graduates’ theses, – missing statistics.

Graduates’ photographs.

Revise invitation list thoroughly.

Wednesday, September 8, 1880

[news clipping]

The High School.

The graduating exercises of the senior class of the High School will take place in the High School hall next Tuesday afternoon at 3 o’clock. The plan introduced by Principal Thurber last year, doing away with spread-eagle essays and declamations will be followed this year, the innovation on the old-time custom having been entirely satisfactory. The exercises will include a salutary address by Helen M. Parkhurst, a history of of the class by Jennie A. Houghton, a prophecy by Charles J. Dyer, and valedictory by Dennis J. Sullivan, with music by the class, and the presentation of the diplomas by His Honor Mayor Kelley. The names of the graduates are:

Charles A. Barnard,
Charles J. Child,
James J. Doyle,
James N. Doyle,
Charles J. Dyer,
Theodore P. Fallon,
John J. Foley,
Frederick P. Gleason,
Gustavus A. Gunderson,
Joseph H. Kelley,
Jamas A. Lynch,
George D. Moore,
Walter B. Nye,
John O’Driscoll,
Charles C. Putnam,
Linwood Robinson,
Edward S. Russell,
Theodore H. Sheldon,
Dennis J. Sullivan,
William A. Tateum,
James H. Underwood,
Alonzo W. Whitcomb,
Samuel E. Winslow,
Elsie M. Ball,
Lizzie E. Batchellor,
Mary G. Blanchard,
Fannie A. Carter,
Ida I. Chapin,
Elizabeth B. Cheever,
Alice M. Cheney,
Mary Coes,
Imogene Cooper,
Nellie M. Cudworth,
Ora M. Davis,
Ida L. DeCamp,
Nellie M. Denny,
Lillie F. Diemar,
Marion F. Eldred,
Nellie F. Henry,
A. Cordelia Hobart,
Jennie A. Houghton,
Mary L. Houghton,
Florence A. Jefferson,
Annie E. Jordan,
Mary G. Kiley,
Jennie E. Knight,
Mary A. McGillicuddy,
Nellie S. Packard,
Theresa M. Park,
Helen M. Parkhurst,
Anna E. Prouty,
Nellie S. Richardson,
Stella V. Rolston,
Josephine Spurr,
Etta M. Thayer,
Isabel Warner.

Thursday, September 9, 1880
See “Sept. 1.”
Cloudy and cold.
While the city schools, begun on Monday last, are having a holiday in honor of the visit of Vice President Wheeler and to attend the N.E. fair, the Normal School re-opens its doors and begins work.

Neither serious sickness nor death has in the long vacation taken teacher or pupil from our numbers.

With scarcely an exception every expected one has returned and most of those advised to leave are seeking to re-enter on any terms.

A class of thirty-four applicants promises a good-sized fourth class for the new term.

By a “new departure” in the way of re-organizing, each of the old classes was given at once a homeroom for the time of examination – the 1st, Room “6”; 2nd, “7”; 3rd, “3”; 4th, “8” and a teacher in each.

Recitations were at once arranged for by the teachers exchanging rooms as they wished to meet particular classes.

Examinations of the new class, this first day, have been in Reading, General, Composition, Penmanship and Geography.

Friday, September 10, 1880

Cold and rainy – so that the furnace heat was welcome to every one coming into the building. The new class had examinations in Grammar, Arithmetic and History and got through before four o’clock and passed through the office before half past five. Of the thirty-four applicants, twenty-nine were admitted.

Some lessons were recited by the first, second and third classes.

[news clipping]

The Normal School

Thirty pupils were admitted to the normal school on Friday to form the new class. Their names and residence are as follows:

Martha Dowse Adams – Worcester

Addie Maria Blenus – [lines]

Mary Louise Blenus – [lines]

Albert Chauncy Brown – Fitchburg
Martha Burns Burgess – Clinton
Mary Louise Burroughs – West Acton
Louis Francis Clark – Paxton
Harriet Annie Colton – Oxford
Ellen Gertrude Daley – Worcester
Ella Teresa Dyer – [lines]
Lizzie Philomena Elwood – [lines]
Minnie Lincoln Fletcher – Littleton
Mary Louise Gafney – Worcester
Mary Jennie Hart – [lines]
Susan Rhoda Hartwell – Rochdale
Mary McCann – Clinton
Mary Agnes McGillicuddy – Worcester
Hattie Althea Merritt – [lines]
Minnie Scott Murray – [lines]
Alice May Nichols – Auburn
Fannie Rebecca Pierce – Worcester
Mabel Piper – [lines]
Mary Celia Smith – [lines]
Mary Gertrude Smith – [lines]
Abbie Josephine Taft – [lines]
Etta Melissa Thayer – [lines]
Mary Frances Timon – [lines]
Octavia Howard Vaughan – [lines]
Madge Osgood Whitney – [lines]
Lillie Blanch Wood – [lines]
Saturday, September 11, 1880

Beautiful day.

Recitations were had with the different classes until the last hour, excepting time taken for seating the pupils just after the noon intermission.

The teachers were occupied with programme preliminaries until after four o’clock.

Tuesday, September 14, 1880

Rainy.

Recitations began in the second hour and were continued through the day according to the new programme after the third hour.

Wednesday, September 15, 1880

Rainy.

Regular programme followed without exception, saving that the speaking hour was used for extra recitations.

Thursday, September 16, 1880

Cloudy.

The speaking exercise was resumed in the morning and an hour given to it in the afternoon, according to programme which makes the exercise formerly a part of Tuesday afternoon’s work now a part of Thursday’s.

Friday, September 17, 1880

Beautiful.

An agent for a new globe took the time of Mr. Russell before school time and Miss Porter gave him her’s during the speaking hour.
The last recitation of the day was interrupted for a few minutes for a lesson upon the use of separate stalls in the dressing room.

Saturday, September 18, 1880

Warm, cloudy.

Mr. Russell gone to New Hampshire; his classes distributed among the other teachers.

Miss Forkett gave a very pleasant variety to the speaking exercise by singing and playing “Evening Belle”. Miss Taft of the 4th class was the first volunteer from her class.

Among the graduate visitors during the day were Carrie Howe, M. Ella Clark, all the Tucker girls, Macarthur and Dupon, the last two not graduates but teachers having holiday on Saturday.

Tuesday, September 21, 1880

Beautiful.

Miss Jones was absent all the forenoon visiting schools, the Dix, Belmont and Summer St. twenty-three were visited.

Wednesday, September 22, 1880

“Perfectly beautiful.”

Miss Jones visited the Thomas St. Schools for an hour in the morning.

Two or three visitors.

Thursday, September 23, 1880

Beautiful day.

Miss Jones visited Woodland and Sycamore St. Schools and got to the Normal School at 11.30.

Dr. Clark from Northbridge called to get a teacher, several other visitors present.

Miss Porter went to the Musical Convention in the P.M.
In the speaking hours lectures were given upon eels, sardines + skates so that some of the girls
though it fish-day.

Friday, September 24, 1880
Beautiful.
Miss Jones visited Winslow, Oxford, Salem, Washington, Ledge, Providence and E. Worcester
Schools – having a horse and carriage for 3 hours.

Saturday, September 25, 1880
Perfectly beautiful and warm enough for open windows once more.
Mr. Brown absent on account of illness.
Several visitors, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Blodgett, graduates and others, present.

Tuesday, September 28, 1880
Cloudy, warm – shower at 3 o’clock.
Mr. Brown still unable to be at school.
Forenoon programme interrupted till 12.15 by Mr. Russell’s taking the time after the speaking
hour, in which, by the way, he gave a good talk about cant and sentiment, to tell the school his
plan for a six months’ apprenticeship. The talk was a grand one and the advantages of such a
change were shown and evidently felt by every class in school. Questions were asked about the
details and for the rest of the day a serious thoughtfulness was evident and particularly in the first
class who supposed that only those — — [words unclear] of apprenticeship and the school work
belonging to the rest of the term would make them ready for diplomas having in them all that
would perhaps ever be shown by the diplomas of the school. Wanting the additional testimonial
of successful experiences in teaching they were full of questions as to how they could obtain
them.
Graduates’ reports, sent out last week begin to come back.

Wednesday, September 29, 1880
Beautiful.

Mr. Brown returned to school but staid only a part of the forenoon.

The programme was written upon the blackboard and followed without interruption.

A new pupil, Miss Robbins joined the 4th class.

A beautiful compass instead of a globe was bought for the school of the Case-agent who has all the term been trying to sell a globe to the school.

Thursday, September 30, 1880

Perfect.

Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking hour to suggest improvements in the exercise, making the selections and the talks shorter and getting more material from visits at the Natural History Rooms. He contributed a “lecturet” on the singing of birds in the autumn.

At the time of speaking in the afternoon Mr. Russell suggested a variation of the exercises by reviving “off-hand selections” for reading – these to be made by some one else than the reader.

A talk about the use of the Hall and the way of studying took a little of the speaking hour.

The “new departure” is occupying the minds of all the pupils, and there seem to be days of decision.

Friday, October 1, 1880

Still continues beautiful weather.

The great event of the day was the passing through the office of the 1st and 2nd class to tell the decisions relative to going out for a six months’ apprenticeship.

Mr. Russell and Miss Jones went to see Mr. Marble after school and concluded the plans for a long term of practice in the schools.

Saturday, October 2, 1880

Beautiful.
Miss Moar, Mrs. Sanborn + Mr. Brooks from the High School visited the Normal School – also Miss Levins from Paxton, Misses Thomas and Meade from Walnut St. School and several graduates.

Miss Jones visited Providence, Grafton, Union Hill and Lamartine St. Schools – had a horse for the whole school forenoon.

Tuesday, October 5, 1880
Cloudy – Pleasant.
Miss Jones visited Belmont, Edgeworth, Dix, Winslow, Oxford, Sycamore, Salem, Lamartine + Lodge St. Schools, having a carriage from 8.45 to 12.15

Wednesday, October 6, 1880
Beautiful.
Miss Jones visited Walnut and Thomas St. School and came to the Normal School at 11 o’clock.
Programme as usual until the last hour of the afternoon when it was interrupted to attend to the matter of incidentals, but [“Mr.” crossed out] Dr. Marble coming in with Gen. Eaton, the latter was introduced and business first formed.

The finding of a handkerchief marked W. W. Chamberlain made a little ripple of surprise in the office as it was found in Mr. Brown’s desk.

October salaries rec’d today.

Thursday, October 7, 1880
Lovely autumn day.
Miss Jones visited Ash, Washington, South Worcester, Adriatic + new Worcester schools carriage three hours and a half.

Visitors at speaking hour – Mrs. Fowler of Sandersville and Miss S. Wadsworth of S. Boston.

Friday, October 8, 1880
Glorious.

A crowd of volunteers in the speaking exercise. A talk from Mr. Russell about responding to questions, some speaking and unprepared reading.

Programme as usual, no visitors.

Places for apprentice work assigned.

Saturday, October 9, 1880

Beautiful as can be.

Visitors, Rev. Mr. Paine from California, Mrs. Dr. Studley; Florence Brown, Mr. Painter, three unknown ladies and Col. Stoddard.

Remarks in the speaking hour from Col. Stoddard and Mr. Paine.

Later visitors, Miss Munger, Miss Howe and five or six others, strangers – and several graduate visitors, and old pupils – Miss Martin, Mr. Mathens, Miss Morgan and others.

Tuesday, October 12, 1880

Warm and pleasant till a shower came in the P.M.

A reporter came from the Garede Office for facts concerning the apprentice work which began yesterday for the rest of this term.

Two classes absent made the school seem small but there was no lack of volunteers for the speaking exercise and the programme for the 3d + 4th classes had no interruption till 12 o’clock when all the teachers except Miss Porter went to the station to see Miss Foster on her way to Europe.

A teacher from Nashville, Tenn. Normal School visited us all the afternoon.

Three from the second class returned for school work this P.M. and one from the 1st.

Wednesday, October 13, 1880

Still beautifully clear but cool and windy today.

The apprentices came back for the day, had diaries given them to keep and bring in once a week; plans made for Wednesday’s work and were invited (unprepared) to use the speaking hour left
after Mr. Russell had suggested how it was to be used – and Miss Capen and Miss Newton volunteered and did themselves great credit by their little talks of their work and especially by the volunteering.

Visited – Father Power and Mrs. Stratton and several strangers.

Thursday, October 14, 1880

Perfect weather still continues but the spring are getting any – we hear.

Programme as usual on Thursday when we always have to miss Miss Marsh.

Friday, October 15, 1880

Cloudy.

Mr. Russell occupied a part of the speaking hour and used for his test –

“1. Rough genre
2. Careful estimate
3. Positive statement.”

The Worcester Co. Teachers’ Association at Fitchburg was announced to the school as occurring tomorrow and permission given to pupils to attend.

A Teachers’ Meeting was held to consider a programme for the apprentices on Wednesday.

Saturday, October 16, 1880

Cloudy and misty in the afternoon.

Mr. Russell, Mr. Adams and Miss Jones went to Fitchburg to the Worcester Co. Teachers’ Asso., and five or six of the pupils went also.

Tuesday, October 19, 1880

Beautiful.

Miss Marsh gone to Boston to visit the Normal Art School, the rest of the Faculty present.
Mr. Hubbard made a short call in the office.

Wednesday, October 20, 1880

Beautiful.

Mr. Brown absent to move until afternoon.

Miss Jones absent an hour to visit Miss Robinson in the Summer St. School – Miss Upton’s.

Diaries of a week’s work were brought in by the apprentices.

Thursday, October 21, 1880

Beautiful.

Mrs. E. D. Cheney visited the school for an hour, was introduced and said a few good words to the pupils.

Miss Jones visited Washington and Sycamore St. Schools, saw Mr. Fitch give a lesson on the Metric System; Miss Kelley a Geography lesson; Miss Davis a Grammar lesson.

Miss Porter absent in the afternoon to get some ferns – for Botany lesson.

Friday, October 22, 1880

Cloudy – misty, rainy.

Miss Jones visited Ash and Providence St. Schools, Miss Butler, Miss Boyd, Miss Loughlin, + Miss Ham.

Mrs. Chaplin and Mrs. Ames and Mr. Ford of Clinton – visited.

Requests for photographs sent to [“pupils” crossed out] graduates.

Saturday, October 23, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Munger and Miss Howe visited the school.
Miss Jones went to West Boylston to a Teachers’ Institute and got back to school in time for the last two recitations, bring Mr. Hubbard with her.

Several stranger guests at school.

Monday, October 25, 1880 [“Monday” crossed out and replaced with “Tuesday,” “5” replaced with “6”]

Cloudy.

Miss Jones visited Belmont St. Schools – Saw Mr. Condy teach Arithmetic; Miss Chapin, Reading, Miss McCormick, Arithmetic; Miss Newton, Arithmetic; Miss Bicknell, Number.

The two-week apprentices returned to regular work.

Wednesday, October 27, 1880

Cloudy.

Misses Porter and Marsh gone to visit the Normal School at Westfield.

“Apprentices’ day” – welcomed by all.

Thursday, October 28, 1880

Pleasant.

Miss Jones visited Thomas and Summer St. Schools – Saw Miss Holman give Reading lessons; Miss Jones, Number and Miss Wells Number lessons.

Friday, October 29, 1880

Pleasant morning – cloudy afternoon.

A teachers’ meeting occupied the first two recitation periods – subjects under discussion the assistant teachers taking part in the speaking exercise and the “going through the office” of the pupils.

Usual programme followed after the meeting.

The plans for the graduates’ opinions were prepared to send out tomorrow.
“Unrecognized Merritt”!

Saturday, October 30, 1880
Cloudy.
Miss Harkell and Mr. Abbott both of the High School visited the Normal School, Miss H. staying till 12 o’clock.
Miss Porter made her first public remark in the time of the speaking exercise.

Tuesday, November 2, 1880
Beautiful – “Indian Summer.”
Miss Jones visited the Grafton and Ledge St. Schools – saw Miss Sargent give a General Lesson and a Reading Lesson; Miss Sonte, Number Lesson; Miss Hams + Miss Peckham, Reading Lessons.
Mr. Russell, Mr. Brown and Mr. Adams were all late enough to have deposited their votes at the polls opened at 9 o’clock.

Wednesday, November 3, 1880
Perfect.
Apprentices’ day.
Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking time to speak of our habit of holding on to old ways of doing things, suggested by Miss Goodwin’s thinking that written spelling could not quite take the place of oral.
Mr. Brown remarked that oral spelling in school originated when children did not learn to write so young as they do now.

Thursday, November 4, 1880
Cloudy.
Miss Jones visited Woodland St. Schools – saw Miss Ranger give Reading and Number; Miss Stone Grammar and Arithmetic; Miss Begley, Geography and Arithmetic.

Mr. Russell took the time of two recitation periods to explain a “new departure” in the way of “going through the office.”

Friday, November 5, 1880

Cloudy. Rainy.

Mr. Brown made an interesting contribution to the speaking exercise by writing on the blackboard “A Fool’s Errand”, “Bricks without straw” and calling for questions upon the books by those names.

The “going through the office” to tell the Teachers what the pupils thought was begun and two recitation periods used for it – Miss Jones taking notes.

No visitors. Afternoon programme as usual.

Saturday, November 6, 1880

Misty.

Mr. Dunn of Shrewsbury spent the forenoon in the school.

Mr. Hartwell of Fitchburg spent the day.

Among the graduate visitors were Miss Gates, Miss Fairchild, Miss Averill + Miss Smith.

The hour from 12-12.35 was used for going “through the office.”

Mr. Brown forgot his last recitation or thought it was 3.30 at 3 and left the building.

Tuesday, November 9, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Jones visited New Worcester and Sycamore St. Schools – saw Miss Tainter give a Reading + an Arithmetic lesson; Miss Wheaty a Geography lesson, Miss Tucker in her little attic school teaching Number.

The first hour of the afternoon was used for ‘going through the office’.
Wednesday, November 10, 1880
Perfect. Indian Summer.
Apprentices’ day.
Mr. Russell told of an idiot he lately saw that could read well and understand nothing.

Thursday, November 11, 1880
Rainy.
A failure on the part of Miss Williams to insist upon saying what she raised her hand to say led Mr. Russell into a half hour’s talk – one of his own particularly practical talks.
The speaking hour of the afternoon was mostly occupied in finding out why delinquents were delinquents.
Miss Marsh absent as usual on THursday so there was no going through the office.

Friday, November 12, 1880
Beautiful.
Miss Jones visited Mason and oxford St. Schools, saw Miss Proctor give Number and Reading Lessons; Miss Nevins, Geography; Miss Goodwin, music and Language; Miss McCambridge, Reading.
A change in the programme made it possible for Miss J. to be absent all the forenoon without having a recitation.
The going through the office occupied the second hour of the afternoon and the third too.

Saturday, November 13, 1880
Beautiful – cloudy P.M.
Most of the speaking hour was used by Mr. Russell in a good talk about adopting suggestions.
“Going through the office” was continued in the first hour.
Tuesday, November 16, 1880

Lovely – cool. A little snow on the ground.

Miss Jones visited the Edgeworth St. Schools saw Miss Dudley open school, teach singing and Reading; Miss Ahlstrom, Geography; Miss Mason, Spelling; Miss Andrews, Arithmetic.

Visitors – Miss Fairbanks, Miss Seavy, Miss Barnard; a school com. from Hardwick.

Wednesday, November 17, 1880

Lovely – Indian Summer like.

Miss Lovell from W. Boylston spent the day in the school.

Misses Sanborn, Howe, Benmis, Mr. Mathews and several other graduates and old pupils visited the school.

Miss Connery left on ac’ct of health.

Thursday, November 18, 1880

Cloudy.

Miss Jones visited Miss Capen and Miss Len at Lamartine St. School, saw Miss C. work with examples in Percentage and Miss Len in Numbers, Reading and Spelling; attempted again to visit Miss Perkins but found that, having had a chance to take a school she had left her apprentice-work.

A great day in the school – few recitations but a good deal of Hall work. In the morning Mr. Russell talked to the school about self-government, the need of it in schools, especially in schools like ours. A committee made up of one member from each class and one from the school as a whole was voted for to take into consideration the matter of tardiness and absence and report a plan for the care of them in our school.

In the afternoon recitations were suspended in order to let the delinquents make up their speaking.

Miss Livermore left to do something else.
Friday, November 19, 1880

Perfect weather.

Mr. Russell took a part of the speaking hour to find out if the pupils understood from the talks of yesterday that he wanted them to be less tardy or absent.

A new round of speaking started off with the usual vigor. Miss Williams began by telling of some drunken cows and was followed by Miss Pearl’s telling of a cow’s having a fainting fit!

Two hours were used for going through the office.

Saturday, November 20, 1880

Rainy.

Mr. Russell talked about the proper use of books.

Visitors—Mr. Lewis’ sister, some graduates, Derper, Mathews, Mr. Marble.

Going through the office occupied the last forenoon hour.

A week’s vacation begins tonight.

Tuesday, November 30, 1880

Pleasant.

The week’s vacation over it is a pleasure to see the happy faces of our pupils again.

Miss March has been ill and is not able to be in school today.

Mr. Russell gave an hour’s talk about rest – well worth the time.

One visitor before 10 o’clock – a lady and later a Mr. Priest from Vermont who spent most of the day with us.

Word is rec’d that Misses Dingley and Stockbridge have left to teach.

Wednesday, December 1, 1880

A great snowstorm all day.
Apprentices’ day. Mr. Russell took the speaking and one recitation hour to talk about “wise building”, care of health, etc.

Regular programme interrupted to give the apprentices their time for “successes, failures, experiences and perplexities”, until 12 o’clock.

The first hour of the afternoon was used in part for re-seating the pupils.

Miss Marsh still absent.

Thursday, December 2, 1880
Beautiful winter day.
Mr. Russell showed the school a Chinese newspaper; Miss Purdy and Miss Clark showed porcupine quills and claws.

Friday, December 3, 1880
Beautiful but cold.
Miss Jones, with horse and sleigh for 3 ½ hours, visited schools and arranged for a change of place for each apprentice.
Miss Marsh still unable to be at school.

Saturday, December 4, 1880
Beautiful.
Mr. Russell, in order to get a check cashed was late to school.
Miss Lindsey was the first visitor of the day, other old pupils and graduates came later.
Miss Word left the Normal School to go back to the High School.
Miss Dingley came to see Mr. Russell.

Tuesday, December 7, 1880
Clear and cold.
Miss Marsh returned.

Mr. Russell gave the pupils half sheets of paper on which to write during the speaking hour anything they would like to say to him, the teachers used the same time in considering how the school could be given a more attractive, less dreadful aspect.

Wednesday, December 8, 1880

Cloudy.

At the close of the speaking hour we were surprised by the arrival of Mr. Bryden and Dr. Hagar who were introduced to the school after the second recess and then began their visitation of classes. They left at 3 o’clock.

Thursday, December 9, 1880

Cloudless.

Mr. Russell occupied the speaking with a talk – subject “Starving in the midst of plenty” suggested by the fact that a few of the pupils wrote when given a chance to say something to Mr. Russell upon any subject, that they had “nothing to say.”

Olive Russell quoted – “Straight for a Normal Scholar.”

Miss Jones was absent in the afternoon to attend a funeral.

Friday, December 10, 1880

Sunshine and shade.

Mr. Russell read a letter from Miss Foster to the teachers at noon that had been waiting for a time when all were together.

Saturday, December 11, 1880

Cloudy.

A short Teachers’ Meeting held in the last hour – subject Mr. Mooney.
Tuesday, December 14, 1880

Thawing – cloudy.

Mr. Russell and Mr. Brown attended to their votes before coming to school. Speaking was omitted.

Wednesday, December 15, 1880

Cloudy.

“Apprentices’ day.” Mr. Russell gave notice of no school on Christmas + New Year’s Days and also that school would be closed on Tuesday following Christmas to permit teachers and pupils’ attending Teachers’ Convention.

A small number of volunteers led Mr. R. to speak of the cause as not the having nothing of interest to tell, etc. and the result was a crowded platform when the first recitation hour was given up for the speaking.

Carelessness about drawing utensils was the subject of another talk from mr. R. and lessons were deferred till eleven o’clock.

Thursday, December 16, 1880

Cold – cloudy.

Mr. Russell absent all the forenoon. No speaking in the first hour – programme as usual with this so exception.

A petition from a part of the pupils was handed to Mr. Russell for schools to be kept on Monday of next week instead of Friday.

Friday, December 17, 1880

Beautiful.

Programme as usual until the second hour in the afternoon when “going through the office” was resumed and continued till the end of the session.

The petition, on consideration before the school was not granted.
Saturday, December 18, 1880

Beautiful.

Mr. Russell took a little time from the speaking hour to speak of the need of pupils’ giving up some of the holiday extras when trying to do school work – singleness of purpose.

Several visitors – graduates and strangers.

The report of the committee on tardiness and absences was read in the office.

Tuesday, December 21, 1880

Cloudy.

Mr. Russell absent, Mr. Adams tardy + Miss Jones visiting New Worcester Schools in A.M.

All present in P.M.

Miss Jones visited Miss Newton and saw her taking charge of Miss Paul’s school, teaching spelling; saw Miss Ranger teaching Reading in Miss Carter’s school –; tried to visit Miss Tainter but found she was absent to attend a funeral.

Wednesday, December 22, 1880

Pleasant.

A good number of apprentice volunteers.

Conway Brown visited the school for an hour.

Mr. Russell took the last hour of the forenoon to speak of State Aid, advertising the school, etc.

In the first hour of the afternoon the report of the committee on tardiness + absences was read and Mr. Russell talked about self-government – the two classes in every school, those who could + those who could not be trusted.

Several graduates and other visitors.

Thursday, December 23, 1880

Beautiful.
Miss Jones visited Belmont St. Schools, saw Miss Wells + Miss Jones teach Division and Subtraction of Denominate Numbers and Miss Dudley, Geography in Misses Nichols, Dearborne + Phillips’ Rooms.

Friday, December 24, 1880

Squally.

Miss Jones visited Dix St. Schools and though the schools were somewhat affected by the nearness of Christmas Miss Mason, Miss Chapin and Miss Andrews wer seem at work, Miss Ahlstrom was not feeling well and was excused.

Going through the office occupied the first hour of the P.M.

Nellie Webber’s invitation to wedding were rec’d by the teachers.

Tuesday, December 28, 1880

Pleasant.

No school. Teachers’ Association met in Worcester.

Wednesday, December 29, 1880

Great snow storm.

Mr. Russell and Mr. Adams absent during the forenoon – attending association, secretary suppose. Miss Jones absent all day on ac’ct of a cold and the storm.

Thursday, December 30, 1880

Beautiful but very cold.

Mr. Russell and Mr. Adams later.

Two visitors in the P.M. – unknown ladies.

Mr. Russell used the first hour to introduce some new books and incidentally advised the girls to read boys’ books, remarking that the schools are made up of girls and boys and that there is no child in these days.
The second hour was taken to suggest that introduction of monitors for roll-book, classes and dressing room.

The third hour was used in voting monitors (and until 3.45)

An application from W. Boylston for a teacher to take the place of Miss Lawler who has gone to Clinton has to be answered unfavorable as usual.

Friday, December 31, 1880

Beautiful but very cold.

The speaking hour and most of the first recitation hour were occupied by Mr. Russell in a talk about – knowledge not the correction of bad habits.

Going through the office occupied the last hour.

Memoranda

Views of the Building

Sent to

Mr. Fowler’s Store                   Sandersville
Agricultural College                Amherst
Town Hall                           Holden
Depot                               Jeffersonville
Public Library                      Holden
Post Office                         Hubbardston
Post Office                         Spencer
Public Library                      Spencer
Store                               North Head, Grand Manan
Public Library                      Amherst
Public Library                      Auburn
Public Library                      Leicester
Public Library                             Templeton
[“Post Office” crossed out] Library       Grafton
Post Office                              Webster
Public Library                            Nantucket
Post office                              Nantucket
Dr. perkins’ Office                      Sterling
Atword’s Grocery Store                   Sterling
Post Office                              Sterling
Public Library                            Sterling
Apothecary’s Shop                        Westboro
Reading Rooms                            N. Brookfield
[space left]                              Paxton
P. O. Building                           Milford
Public Library                            Fitchburg
P.O.                                     [lines]
Boston + Gardiner Boat, Capt. Collins.    Gardiner, Me.
Public Library                            Lunenburg
Public Library                            Sturbridge
Hunt’s Piano Rooms,                      Boston.
Depot                                     Keene
[lines]                                   Winchendon
Public Library                            Phillipston
[space left]                              Paxton
P. O.                                     Shrewsbury
P. O.                                     Oxford
P. O.                                     North Oxford
Library  Lancaster
P. O.    Clinton
P. O.    Princeton
P. O.    Old Boylston
P. O.    West Boylston
Library  Oxford
R.R. Station  Webster
Pub. Library  Southbridge
Store W. H. Wakeman  Millville
Depot    Still River
Library  Southboro
High School  Fitchburg

[“Pub. Lib.” crossed out]
Pub. Lib.    Hardwick
R.R. Station or Store  Littleton
Post Office  Leominster
Peoples’ Club Room (D—) [word unclear]  Lowell
P. O. (Norban)  Westminster
Library    Shrewsbury
Library    Millbury
Millinery Store  East Templeton
Depot (Miss Landy)  Gardner

[lines]  Athol
Miss Braman  Charlton
Post Office (Miss Mello)  Deerfield
Have the envelopes made, stamped and addressed before the catalogues arrive.

[end of 1880]