

**REPORT MADE TO THE BOARD
OF CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC
SCHOOLS; PHILADELPHIA,
APRIL 11TH, 1854**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649307630

Report made to the Board of controllers of public schools; Philadelphia, April 11th, 1854 by
Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**REPORT MADE TO THE BOARD
OF CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC
SCHOOLS; PHILADELPHIA,
APRIL 11TH, 1854**

REPORT

MADE TO THE

BOARD OF CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OF THE

First School District of Pennsylvania,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

PHONOGRAPHY,

BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

READ APRIL 11th, 1854,

AND

WITH THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS,

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

PHILADELPHIA :
CRISSY & MARKLEY, PRINTERS,
GOLDSMITHS HALL,
ALBANY STREET.

1854.

✓
Educ 2370.3

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
JUL 14 1926

REPORT.

To the Board of Controllers of Public Schools.

The Special Committee to which was referred the communication on the subject of Phonography as a branch of popular education, addressed to the Board by John K. Kane and thirty-seven other citizens of Philadelphia, respectfully submit the following report:

That a very careful and elaborate consideration has been given to the subject, due alike to its importance, and to the character of the very respectable gentlemen who have addressed the Board in relation to it.

The Committee has endeavored to obtain such information respecting Phonography as would enable the Board not only to determine upon its value as a branch of public education, and upon the propriety of the further prosecution of the study in our schools; but which would serve to justify the Board for the time and attention already bestowed upon it.

In the frequent interviews had with the many intelligent gentlemen who are so deeply and so disinterestedly engaged in promoting a more extended knowledge of Phonography, the Committee has listened with gratified attention to the able and lucid illustrations, which have been given of the value of this simple, beautiful, and labor-saving art.

A clear and comprehensive treatise on the subject, prepared for the use of the Committee by gentlemen eminently qualified, was read to it, and an opportunity was afforded of witnessing the skillful operations of a very accomplished verbatim reporter. This treatise, together with a large amount of documentary evidence in relation to the value of Phonography, accompanies this report, and the Committee invites the particular attention of the Board thereto.

With a view of ascertaining precisely and officially, the practical results of the study of Phonography in the Central High School, a communication was addressed to the Principal of that institution, requesting him to furnish such facts and illustrations in relation thereto, as he might be pleased to communicate. The very interesting and satisfactory reply of Professor Hart accompanies this report, and is intended, with the documents already referred to, to form a part thereof.

From these premises, the Committee is satisfied of the practical value of Phonography, not only as applicable to verbatim reporting, and of its eminent utility and admirable adaption to the purposes of business and professional life, but of its great importance as a branch of popular education; and that the study of it should not only continue to be prosecuted in the Central High School, but should constitute a branch of study in the Normal or Pupil-Teacher's School.

J. COWPERTHWAIT,	} Committee.
HENRY HERBERT,	
ISAAC LEECH, JR.,	
HARLAN INGRAM,	
D. S. BEIDEMAN,	

*To the Controllers of the Public Schools of the First School
District of Pennsylvania.*

The undersigned having, from observation or practical experience, formed a favorable opinion of the value of Phonography; and believing that advantage might result from its more general introduction as a branch of the education of youth, respectfully request, that a Committee be appointed to examine carefully into the principles of the Art and its capabilities for usefulness: and to confer with such of the undersigned as are familiar with its practice and its advantages.

The high position occupied by the Board of Controllers in relation to the cause of education, makes it peculiarly desirable, that this subject should receive at their hands a patient and thorough examination.

J. K. KANE,
OSWALD THOMPSON,
WM. D. KELLEY,
GEO. M. STROUD,
GEO. SHARSWOOD,
GEO. W. WOODWARD,
JOHN K. FINDLEY,
G. M. DALLAS,
W. M. MEREDITH,
DAVID PAUL BROWN,
SAMUEL H. PERKINS,
ST. GEO. T. CAMPBELL,
JOHN CADWALADER,
P. MCCALL,
CH. GIBBONS,
BENJAMIN H. BREWSTER,
WM. BRADFORD,
GEORGE H. EARLE,
FRANCIS WHARTON,

MORTON MCMICHAEL,
ROBERT MORRIS,
A. CUMMINGS,
WILLIAM BIRNEY,
JAMES S. WALLACE,
PETER FRITZ,
W. L. LANE,
JNO. J. WHITE,
THEOP'S E. BRESLEY, M.D.
WM. BIDDLE,
JAMES R. GREEVES,
M. L. DAWSON,
JOHN W. MOORE,
ROBERT PATTERSON,
JAS. C. BOOTE,
ROBERT FRAZER,
HENRY T. CHILD, M. D.
JOSEPH T. COOPER,
TOWNSEND SHARPLESS.

Office of the Controllers of Public Schools,

FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia, February 28d, 1854.

At a meeting of the Controllers of Public Schools, First District of Pennsylvania, held at the Controllers' Chamber, on Tuesday, February 14th, 1854, a communication was received, signed by J. K. Kane and others, in relation to Phonography, which was referred to a special committee, consisting of

MESSRS. J. COWPERTHWAIT, *Chairman.*

D. S. BEIDEMAN,

HENRY HERBERT,

ISAAC LEECH, JR., and

HARLAN INGRAM.

From the minutes.

ROBERT J. HEMPHILL, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, February 18th, 1854.

To JOHN S. HART, LL. D.,
Principal of the Central High School.

DEAR SIR:—As Chairman of a Committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Board of Control, on the subject of Phonography as a study for our Public Schools, I am desirous of obtaining all the information in relation thereto that I am able; and as the study of this art has long been pursued in the High School, I make this application to yourself, for such facts as you may be pleased to communicate for the information of the Committee. In addition to such details as you may think proper to furnish, or cause to be furnished, I should like to know: How long the study of Phonography has obtained in the High School? the time devoted to it? the classes which pursue it? what teacher is engaged in it? the general progress of the pupils, and its practical result? One of the objections urged against Phonography is its injurious tendencies upon the pupils in the acquisition of a knowledge of orthography; it being alleged that Phonography makes bad *spellers*. It is said, too, that very few indeed make any satisfactory progress in the study, and still fewer are able to put it to any practical use. On all these points I should like to have your views, but I do not wish to confine you to these particular queries, but should be glad the subject might have the widest scope in your replies. I regret to add to your already onerous duties, but I know how willing and how able you always are to fulfil them. I will only add, that I desire to have the Committee together as soon as possible, so as to make an early report, and that I am,

With true regard,

Your friend,

J. COWPERTHWAIT.