

The Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Beverly for the year ending
March 1851, submit the following report to the Town at their
annual town meeting.

The number of persons who have been in the Poor House
in the year to which this report refers is fifty one

viz 25 Men 16 Women and 10 Children - There are
now in the House 27 persons. of whom are 13

men 11 women and 5 children. Of these
27 persons, eight are lunatics, one an idiot
and one non compos - More than one third part

of the whole number being thus incapacitated to take
care of themselves by mental impurity or derangement

of the faculties of the mind - The average number of
persons in the House for the year ~~is~~ is about thirty

and one person has been committed to the House during the year and
one more during the year and one person who was committed to the House
the conduct and behavior of the persons in the House

has been generally orderly and decorous - This has
been observable not only during the past year but

for every year since the facilities for procuring intoxicating
liquors have been so very much diminished within the town

- Intemperance still continues to be the principle cause
of pauperism in this ^{town} as in every other ^{part of our} ~~town~~ ^{land}

During the past year it has been well ascertained that
spirituous liquors have been sold by retail at certain

places within the town in violation of the laws of the
State, but it is believed that the sale at the places alluded

to is now suspended - Continual efforts are requisite
to counteract the cupidity of individuals whose covetous

troubles do not prevent them from ^{occasionally} ^{resorting to} ^{the} ^{sale of} ^{spirits}
its entire disregard of their fellow creatures - These efforts

may always be successful within the limits of the town
while those who make them are encouraged and

supported by a wholesome public opinion and we
are not without good hopes that the prevalent opinion

in the towns around the City of Salem may ere long
be so felt within that City as to put a stop to the traffic

in spirituous liquors in the manner in which it is
there now conducted and thus relieve us from the

evil which we now suffer in this town by the easy
communication between it and that City whereby

moderate drinkers of spirituous liquors, hard drinkers
and drunkards, without very great difficulty obtain
their supply of these liquors - While from half to three
quarters of the pauper expenses of the town continue to be
occasioned by intemperance, it must ^{be} ^{obvious} ^{that} ^{it} ^{must} ^{continue} ^{to} ^{be} ^{the} ^{principal} ^{cause} ^{of} ^{pauperism}
necessarily claim the attention of the Overseers of the Poor
with respect to its suppression or to its diminution -

That the Overseers of the Poor have realized the justice
 of this claim upon them, the whole series of their annual
 reports from 1804 to this time, a period of thirty seven
 years, witnesseth. During that period, opinions in
 regard to the effects of spirituous liquors when used as
 a common drink has been gradually changing,
 and so far as this change has ^{progressed} ~~advanced~~ in this town
 their ~~annual~~ reports may with justice, be allowed to
 have contributed in some good measure, to its
 progress. ~~The~~ ^{the} ~~reports~~ ^{reports} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Overseers~~ ^{Overseers} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Poor~~ ^{Poor} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~year~~ ^{year} ~~is~~ ^{is}
 the amount of orders drawn upon the Town Treasurer
 by the Overseers of the Poor for the year is
 of this amount two hundred twenty dollars ³¹ has been
 expended ^{on account of} for persons who have been chargeable but
 were not at the time in the Poor House

Copy of the Report of the
 Overseers of the Poor
 March. 1841