

HOUSE No. 103.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
BOSTON, 7 COURT SQUARE, February 20, 1877. }

To the Honorable House of Representatives.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Order, bearing date of the 7th inst., requesting me "to examine into the petition of the Anderson School of Natural History for leave to reconvey their property to the donor and to wind up their trust," and submit the following Report :—

April 1, 1873, John Anderson of New York conveyed to Louis Agassiz and others the island of Penikese (excepting a small portion which was conveyed by a later deed), together with securities valued at about fifty thousand dollars, in trust for the establishment and maintenance of a school for the instruction of teachers and other students in natural history. The trustees were authorized to apply so much of the endowment fund, of fifty thousand dollars, in founding and establishing said school, as well as for the erection of such laboratories, dormitories and other buildings on the island of Penikese as might be requisite.

By chapter 398 of the Acts of 1874, the trustees were incorporated, and the real estate, in accordance with the terms of the trust, was conveyed to the corporation.

The endowment fund, as well as other funds contributed to the same end, has been exhausted, and the school is no longer

maintained. The trustees are wholly without funds, and there seems no reason for supposing that the school can ever be reëstablished, or that any use of a similar character can ever be made of the island and the buildings thereon.

I see no reason, therefore, why the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted.

CHARLES R. TRAIN.