

The latest, however, is the simplification of Dutch in South Africa, which is thus made so formidable a competitor with English, that a correspondent of the Celtic Magazine recommends the Kelts of Scotland to simplify the spelling of Gaelic with the same object. Welsh is increasing in Wales aided by the fact that its reading and spelling can be mastered accurately a year earlier than English can.

From the April "Education Gazette," Capetown, we quote from a long article, on the Departmental Examinations, the following references:

'DUTCH. *First Year.* It appears that the simplified "system of spelling has been generally adopted—less than one per cent. using the old spelling. Many candidates, however, have "only dim notions as to what the new system means. They write "New Spelling" at the head of their papers and use in their answers forms "like * * * *."

"*Second Year.*—The results of the examination are on the whole fairly good, although * * * *. The translation into Dutch was "in the majority of cases poor; some candidates seemed to think "that every verb in Dutch is followed by the preposition *voor*, "others that the simplified spelling has no rules at all * * * *."

Sometime it will be our turn to pass through such a stage. Those who have much writing to do, cannot be expected to cripple their fluency by adopting the new forms. Habits once formed are very troublesome things to change. But still all wise people who have to keep to their acquired habit, must be in favor of the speedy coming of the day when our pupils will be introduced at first to the better form of spelling, so that they may have no wrong habits to desire unavailingly to change when they become busy.

PRESENTATIONS TO OUR LIBRARIES.

THE GENESIS OF CHURCHES IN AMERICA, BY JAMES CROIL.

About two years ago, Mr. James Croil of Montreal presented to one hundred of our best school libraries, his splendid "History of Steam Navigation." He has repeated this liberal act again by the presentation of another hundred very finely bound and illustrated volumes on the "Genesis of Churches" in America, in which many of the more remarkable edifices of the continent are described and figured. The thanks of the Education Department were formally and heartily tendered to Mr. Croil, but those using the volumes in these hundred libraries will for many years be thankful for the special knowledge thus put within their reach on a subject interesting to all denominations of our people.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

Our school and college libraries are also under obligations to the Geological Survey of Canada for the disposition of its members and Director to have many of its very valuable publications sent to them regularly.