

the church, near the west door.

Great care should be taken at festival times, like Easter and Christmas, when the church is being decorated with flowers, that the flowers or flower-pots are not put into the bowl of the Font, and that no decoration be applied to the Font which would hinder the due use of it: such as flowers on the edge of the bowl, or on the cover.

FLOWERS.

Flowers are a sign of joy and should be used in church only on festivals. There is a bad habit grown up of keeping cut flowers in churches long after they should have been taken away, when sight and smell are offended by their presence. Dying flowers are in the church what dirty finery is in the individual.—The Churchman's Diocesan Kalendar.

Observations Concerning the American Indians.

THEIR ORIGIN, LANGUAGE, AND BELIEFS.

The subject of America is to many persons of considerable interest. First, because there is a mystery about the origin of its people, and the mysterious and unknown will always attract attention; and also because it is a continent of the future where people congregate from all lands to make new nations in circumstances altogether different to any known before. Now, all things and changes occur in the presence of the sun, and no great events are secret, or even any events: all are talked of or written down for

future use. Our danger is lest history be drowned by a flood of words as the past has been by silence. Let us trust that when the present has become the past, our hopes and visions of a new world will not be as many visions are — through our human infirmity — doomed to disappointment. Oblivion itself would be far better; it has at least its charm and dignity.

To judge correctly about ancient America requires many qualifications. The judge must be well versed in geography, philology, ethnology, and in subjects connected with Ancient History; and few men can excel in all these. Then he must be patient and able to compare things, and through long years arrange his facts before he forms his theories. Then to the faithful student the past will gradually reveal itself and through the imagination live again to make real history. All this is taking place with regard to Egypt, Babylon, Nineveh, Palestine, and other ancient lands, and the same will in time occur with respect to ancient America.

What then are our impressions concerning the inhabitants of ancient America,—for only results can be given in the space allowed us? Are they indigenous to the soil as some teach? There is not a fact to prove this. Some modern writers under the name of science have asserted this. But what is true science? The method of arranging facts, no more and no less. Not making positive assertions and reasoning from them, as is too often