

vador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, are noted for the quarrelsome nature of the elements of politics and population embraced in them, and for their proneness to indulge in revolutions and political feuds. That governmental affairs in these states should be in a chronic state of uncertainty is not to be wondered at when the character of the population is considered. The total inhabitants of the five States number about 2,500,000, and only one in one hundred is a full-blooded white man. The whites are nearly all Spaniards, and possess the traits of that race. About half of the population are Indians, and the remainder are negroes and mixed races.

The student of history would hardly regard such material as this the most available for the construction of the more advanced and enlightened forms of government, nor would he regard it as strange that, under republican institutions, such elements of population would manifest a proneness for strife and turmoil. To hold ignorant and mixed races, especially the colored ones, under orderly control, a centralized form of government is generally deemed requisite. It prevents demagogues from inciting the populace to uprisings, an evil from which the States of Central America continually suffer.

But it is a fact that the people of these states are making tangible progress politically. They are learning by what they have suffered. They are recognizing the evils that have been inflicted upon them by ambitious upstart leaders, who have fomented the uprising and revolutions that have wrought so much damage and misery, and are trying to solidify their governmental fabrics in a manner to prevent a recurrence of such events.

Recently a congress of representatives of the five Central American governments has been holding sessions and adopting measures for the mutual welfare. This congress has been laboring to perfect and advance a scheme looking to the erection of a federation of these sovereign states, somewhat after the model of the American Union. It is proposed to call the federation "The States of the Republic of Central America," and to start its governmental machinery in September of next year. The presidential term is to be one year and will be filled by the governors or presidents of the five republics in succession. The federal legislature will consist of fifteen members, three

from each state, one to be appointed by the president of the state, and the other two to be chosen by the state legislature. Each state will retain its sovereignty, modified by powers conceded to the central organization, and will retain substantially its present form and modes of government.

It is not yet known that such a federation will be established; but it is claimed that the predominant sentiment in all the states except Costa Rica is in favor of it. In the latter an anti federal sentiment prevails. Such a union would be a great move in the direction of progress. It would impart stability and a settled character to Central American affairs, would encourage enterprise and immigration, and in many ways would result beneficially to the people of all the states.

Religious liberty would beyond doubt be thoroughly established as one of the results of such a union, and thus would preparation be made for the religious advancement of the aboriginal portion of the population, which will certainly take place in a comparatively short time, to a degree that will render them an enlightened, civilized and liberty-loving race. The trend of current events on the American continent is in the direction of fulfilling the purposes which the Almighty has foreshadowed in the Book of Mormon, and the revelations He has given through Joseph the Seer.

THOUGHTS OF YOUNG UTAH.

THERE are wisacres among the "Liberals" who try to make themselves believe they can divine the reflections of young Utah in the present controversy. In substance, their estimate of the thoughts of the youth of the community is that they have concluded that the "Mormons," as a body, are about to be crushed, and that the younger element, seeing the impending collapse, will break away from their moorings to avoid disastrous consequences.

Those who reckon thus calculate upon an erroneous hypothesis. If the young people were made of the poor stuff the "Liberal" prints have credited them with being composed of, they would be likely to desert their friends in a crisis. Brave men never do that; when they leave the political ranks of the party with which they have affiliated, it is in peaceful and not in turbulent times.

The fact is that many young men who heretofore were unable to per-

ceive any great distinction between the status of the People's Party and the "Liberal," have recently had their eyes opened. They have seen in a strong light the efforts that have been made to cover their parents and friends with odium and rob them of their rights. They know that their relatives and friends are the antithesis of the class of people the demagogues of the "Liberal" party have represented them as being. They also know that the "Liberals" are as clearly aware of this as they are. They propose to resent this injustice in a mild but effective shape by turning out at the approaching election and voting for their friends and the friends of good government.

Many young men whose affiliation for the People's Party previous to the recent developments before the District Court was doubtful, have wheeled into line and will stand by it manfully.

THE "BEE" IS RIGHT.

IT is refreshing in these times to find a newspaper that has the courage to admit that the "Mormons" have rights under the Constitution, that ought to be recognized, and which stands upon the indisputable ground that to treat them otherwise is dangerous business. The denial of the rights, that belong to any one class drives a wedge that leads to the splitting of the Republic. Among the journals that take a correct and independent stand on this subject is the *Omaha Bee*, which, in speaking of the recent proceedings in the Third District Court before Judge Anderson, says:

"The issues involved touch some of the fundamental principles of republican forms of government, and it is doubtful whether the Supreme Court of the United States would sustain a new departure that might establish a very dangerous precedent. Under the intense pressure of anti-Mormon opinion, and in the heat of a political contest, the lower courts of Utah may have passed the boundaries that have been set by the founders of our government in the bill of rights that prohibits religious tests, and guarantees to each man the right to be considered innocent of any crime until he has been adjudged guilty after due trial by a jury of his peers.

"Our naturalization laws are uniform. Congress cannot legally prescribe a different mode of naturalization for Mormon aliens than it does for aliens of other creeds whatever their nationalities may be. Any act that makes religious belief a test for acquiring citizenship would be unconstitutional on its face. Treason against this government cannot be presumed. Men may talk what they please and believe what they please. If taking the endowment oath makes them conspir-