

In fact, internecine strife exists to a marked extent in all the states of the proposed federation. When the forces of San Salvador were covering themselves with glory in driving the Guatemalans back, the Salvadoran general was compelled to hasten to the capital with a force to prevent it from being sacked by an army of Indians under Rivas. The latter had been banished under the Menendez administration, but on the accession to power of the Ezetas, he proffered to raise and lend an army of Indians against Guatemala. President Ezeta accepted the offer, and Rivas organized an army of 6000 Indians, described as being of a fierce and warlike nature. But instead of using this army against Guatemala, Rivas turned traitor and attempted to capture the capital while General Ezeta was occupied in following up his retreating foe. The promptness and success with which Rivas' treachery was suppressed and punished added greatly to the glory of General Ezeta and the prestige of his brother's administration. Rivas was shot and his Indians disarmed. One report says that Rivas was killed in battle and another that he was executed. It is asserted that papers were recovered from him proving that President Bogran of Honduras was in league with him, and intended to aid him in the effort to overthrow the Ezeta administration. This report renders uncertain the attitude of Honduras.

Guatemala has been weakened very much ever since the war began, by internal divisions. Open revolts against the Barrillas government have occurred repeatedly, in different localities, and treachery was developed in his cabinet in the person of one of his ministers named Sobrel. There have been reports of his fall and flight, but these were untrue.

One dispatch stated that Barrillas was conscripting all males who could bear arms, and it is likely that he resorted to desperate measures of defense against the victorious Salvadorans. Early this month, to add to the horrors of war, smallpox broke out in the Guatemalan army, and its victims were reported to be very numerous. Since about the first of this month, representatives of foreign governments have been conferring together at the city of Guatemala, endeavoring to formulate a basis upon which peace could be established. There have been no important bat-

ties fought since this proceeding was begun, and there seems to be a feeling of hope and expectancy that foreign diplomats will be successful in negotiating a peace. Each army is, however, engaged in bettering its organization and recruiting its strength, and should peace negotiations fail the war will likely be carried to desperate extremities.

Of the actual cause of the war accounts differ, and it is likely there was more than one. It is said that since 1885 San Salvador has paid to Guatemala an annual tribute of \$50,000, and that, on the refusal of President Ezeta to pay this sum, Barrillas inaugurated coercive measures. Ezeta also charges Guatemala with having, in an arrogant and unwarranted manner, assumed the right to interfere in the internal affairs of San Salvador for the purpose of regulating them, and determining in whose hands the government should vest, and he claims the right to resent and resist such interference.

In behalf of Barrillas it is claimed, however, that he sought only to maintain a confederation which had been entered into with due solemnity by all the Central American states, and there is reason to believe that he sought to enact the role of a Bismarck in effecting a union of states. But it is evident that the five republics of Central America are not yet in a condition to unite in a strong confederation. They are too thoroughly honeycombed with the elements of strife and division to admit of such a consummation in the near future.

PURE POLITICS.

ALLEN G. THURMAN is an honored name in the history of American politics. His views are of value whether they be read by Democrats or Republicans. He has been giving some of his ideas on simple political matters to a club of Columbus, Ohio, which is called by his celebrated name. We append here an extract or two, not because any new principle is conveyed therein, but because the ideas are good and expressed in a forcible manner which every reader can understand. He says:

"By the ballot is meant the manner by which people are supposed to express their sovereign will; or, in other words, the ballot is a medium by which they delegate their sovereign power to others; for it must always be remembered that while, theoretically, under our form of government, the people govern, yet, in reality, they do not, for this sovereignty or

power possessed by them can only be exercised by them at certain times; that is, when it has reverted to them from those to whom it had been delegated by them. The people, then, do not, in reality, govern, but are separate and distinct from the government. Therefore, it follows that, as the people are, in truth, only sovereigns upon days of elections, any surrounding conditions or manner of conducting elections that interferes, either directly or indirectly, with their being able freely and absolutely to exercise this sovereignty, cannot help but deprive the people of the power which belongs to themselves, at this the only time when they can exercise it, and indirectly transfer it to some other power.

"This, then, brings us to the question, Why do the people exercise this power, or right of suffrage? To which the answer evidently is: For the purpose of saying who shall administer their affairs; that is, who shall hold their offices. Now, at present, do the people say who shall administer their affairs? Theoretically they do, in truth they do not; and until this be true in fact as well as theory—until you can provide a way by which the people can absolutely say who shall administer their affairs, and not be compelled, as they are now, simply to ratify the actions of men who are principally interested in fleecing them. Neither Lallot nor municipal reform, as they are popularly understood, will amount to anything other than that they are steps in the right direction."

In regard to the place where government by the people should begin, he remarks:

"Here, then, is the place to begin. Throw every practical safeguard that can be conceived of around these primary elections. Make them so that the people themselves can, if they wish to, say who shall be the candidates for the different offices. Make them so that it will be an impossibility for any ring of politicians to select candidates far in advance, and then, by manipulation of one kind or another, make it impossible for the people to vote for any other with the hope of success.

"Now, to bring this about the first thing that is necessary to be done—it can not be done without it—is not only to improve the manner of casting out ballots, but also to provide how the candidates, to be voted for at the primary elections, shall be named. Both of these features could be incorporated into one law, and the Australian system should be the type followed. In addition to the machinery to be used upon the day of election, every one should be required to register before being allowed to vote at a primary. Primary elections of all political parties should be held on the same day and at the same polling places. The polls should be kept open all day, and that day should be made a legal holiday. A precinct should not contain over two hundred voters."

There may be wide differences in opinions as to the holding of primaries all on the same day, and as to other minor matters connected with elections. But it is certain that some other methods than those in vogue should be adopted, to bring about the reforms which all thinking people see are necessary, in order to take away the control of af-