

ELDERS QUORUM ORGANIZED.

The Elders of the Twenty-third ward, heretofore members of the Seventh quorum, met in the Latter-day Saints' hall of the above named ward on Sunday evening, October 30, 1892, and were organized under the title of the Twenty-second Quorum of Elders of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, with the following named brethren as the officers thereof: James Stacey, president; Carl August Carlgren, first counselor; Peter Ohlin, second counselor, and Joseph Burns, secretary.

The brethren were unanimously sustained to act in their respective positions, and were set apart to labor therein under the hands of President Angus M. Cannon, the presidency of the Seventh Quorum of Elders and the Bishopric of the Twenty-third ward.

The Seventh quorum of Elders have furnished members for two other quorums within a year, viz., the Twenty-first and Twenty-second, and still have a full quorum of ninety-six. Much interest was taken in the meetings of the Seventh and Twenty-first quorums. The newly created quorum starts out with excellent prospects.

President Angus M. Cannon delivered some very timely and encouraging remarks regarding the every-day duties of the people of God; necessity of serving Him with an undivided heart, and the carrying out of His will at all times in preference to our own.

DWARF TRIBES SOUTH OF MOUNT ATLAS.

[Asiatic Quarterly Review.]

On September 2nd last a paper on "Dwarfs and Dwarf Worship," referring to some of the proofs that had come to light that there must be dwarf tribes in Southern Morocco, was read by myself at a meeting of the ninth Oriental congress in London.

A new light was subsequently thrown on the subject of dwarfs by Sir George Humphrey, professor of medicine in the University of Cambridge. Dealing merely with European, i.e. non-racial dwarfs, he divides them into two classes, "true dwarfs" who differ from their race only in size, and dwarfs from rickets who are stunted, and generally malformed and feeble. His statements that neither of these classes transmits its small size to the children, disposes of the theory that the dwarfs met with in Morocco are merely a few families of ordinary dwarfs. Far from being stunted and deformed, through rickets, they are very strong, extremely courageous, and wonderfully active, and are, it is stated, feared by the other Moors. Nor can they be true dwarfs. This class is so extremely rare that France and England possess each only one skeleton, and the chance of meeting with a true dwarf in a sparsely settled country like Morocco would be very remote. If, then, a dozen dwarfs, not stunted or deformed by rickets, have found their way to Northern Morocco, the inference is conclusive that they cannot be "true dwarfs" but must be racial and connected with some dwarf tribe.

But any doubt that might at first sight seem to exist on this point is settled when I mention that the dwarfs

seen in Morocco are not diminutive Moors, resembling their countrymen in everything except size, but are so strikingly distinct from the other people of Morocco, that even if they were not dwarfs, we should have to set them down as a different and peculiar race. Among the points which distinguish them from Moors, Arabs, Jews, Berbers, Negroes and Mulattoes of Morocco are the following: Their wonderful agility, a reddish complexion which is characteristic of almost all dwarf races, and the peculiar woolly hair growing in tufts which distinguishes nearly all dwarf races and their offshoots. They differ even in dress, etc., and shave their faces—an abomination to Moslem Moors. In all these particulars, as well as in size, they are precisely similar to the dwarfs of Central Africa.

So far, at least, as early ages are concerned, the idea is not a new one that dwarfs once existed south of Mount Atlas; for it has for some years past been a subject of contention between French geographers and French anthropologists. The former maintain that the place described by Herodotus, where the Nasamonian explorers were captured by dwarf Troglodytes, must have been an oasis in the northwestern part of the Sahara, not far to the south or southeast of Morocco.

The country of the Nasamonians called by Procopius, Zaba, is now known as the oasis of Mzab. According to Herodotus, some young Nasamonian explorers went west for many days until they reached an oasis where they were captured by a dwarf race of Troglodytes, who were all necromancers, and lived on a river that ran from west to east.

The dwarfs mentioned by Aristotle cannot have lived in Equatorial Africa, as they possessed a remarkably small breed of horses.

The rock-cut chambers in the Atlas, whether intended for storehouses, or for residence, or for refuge, are so uniformly five feet high, that they most probably were made by dwarf Troglodytes.

The views of French geographers on this subject were contested in an able article on the Pygmies of Antiquity in the last number of the *Review Historique*, on the ground that we can find no trace of there ever having been dwarfs north of the Sahara. By an odd coincidence a letter was received by me in that very month from Mr. Thomas Martin in which he said that having become familiar with the peculiar click in vogue in the speech of South African tribes who have inherited or derived it from the Bushmen, he was surprised in 1888, at hearing in Mogador, a port on the southwest coast of Morocco, some natives from Sus and Sabara using clicks similar to those of South African races. He naturally came to the conclusion that the Bushmen must have in early ages found their way as far north as Mt. Atlas.

The President, in the course of his paper on my pamphlet, drew attention to the peculiar indentation in dwarf skulls at the base of the nose. If this is confined to the skulls of African dwarfs, it would seem to indicate that it may possibly be connected with South African clicks either as cause or effect. He also very properly con-

nected the dwarfs seen in Morocco with the Akkas of the Mombuto country. There cannot be a doubt that there is an extensive district to the south of Morocco, bounding southerly on the Sahara, which is called Akka, and which is said to be the headquarters of the Atlas dwarfs, and, also, that there is another Akka on the shores of the Albert Nyanza, which is also inhabited by a dwarf race called Akka. Which was the original Akka? Quatrefages mentions a tradition among the dwarfs of Equatorial Africa that their ancestors came from the northwest, i.e., from the direction of Morocco.

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Opals taken out of the Snake river mines are being offered for sale on the streets of Boise city.

There are between 200 and 300 men in the White Hills, Mojave county, A. T., engaged in mining and other pursuits.

A contract has been let for the building of fifty additional miles of the Yuma, San Diego and San Quintin railroad.

Snowstorms in the vicinity of Mt. Sherman, in Wyoming, caused the Union Pacific trains considerable trouble yesterday.

A movement is on foot to form a new county in Arizona from the counties of Maricopa and Yuma with Gila Bend as the county seat.

Cattle are dying on the Grand county, N. M., ranges, and the losses will be probably heavier than has ever been known there before. The grass is literally dried up.

Hagglin's three cars of racers went west yesterday morning attached to the Central Pacific passenger. The horses have been resting here two days after the long ride.

Twelve cars of cattle for John Sparks from Laramie went west yesterday as far as Tacoma, where they will be unloaded and reloaded with range horses for the eastern markets.

During the last year the taxable property to Sutter county has increased in value \$25,000, and the tax rate has been reduced from \$1.30 to \$1 on the \$100—the lowest rate in the state.

There is some talk around town about the Burlington & Missouri buying the Cheyenne & Northern, but the best informed say there is nothing in the story.—*Cheyenne Leader*.

A ferocious wildcat weighing over twenty pounds and measuring over four feet long was recently captured by L. D. Gale near San Antonio creek, about six miles from Petaluma.

The funeral services over the remains of John G. Chambers were held in the Fourth ward meeting house, Sunday, October 30th, Bishop E. Stratford presiding. There was a large attendance.

Mrs. Arcadia Baker has recovered \$40,000 damages in the superior court at Los Angeles, from the Southern California Railway company for the overflowing of her land by the Los Angeles river, caused by an embankment of the defendant company.