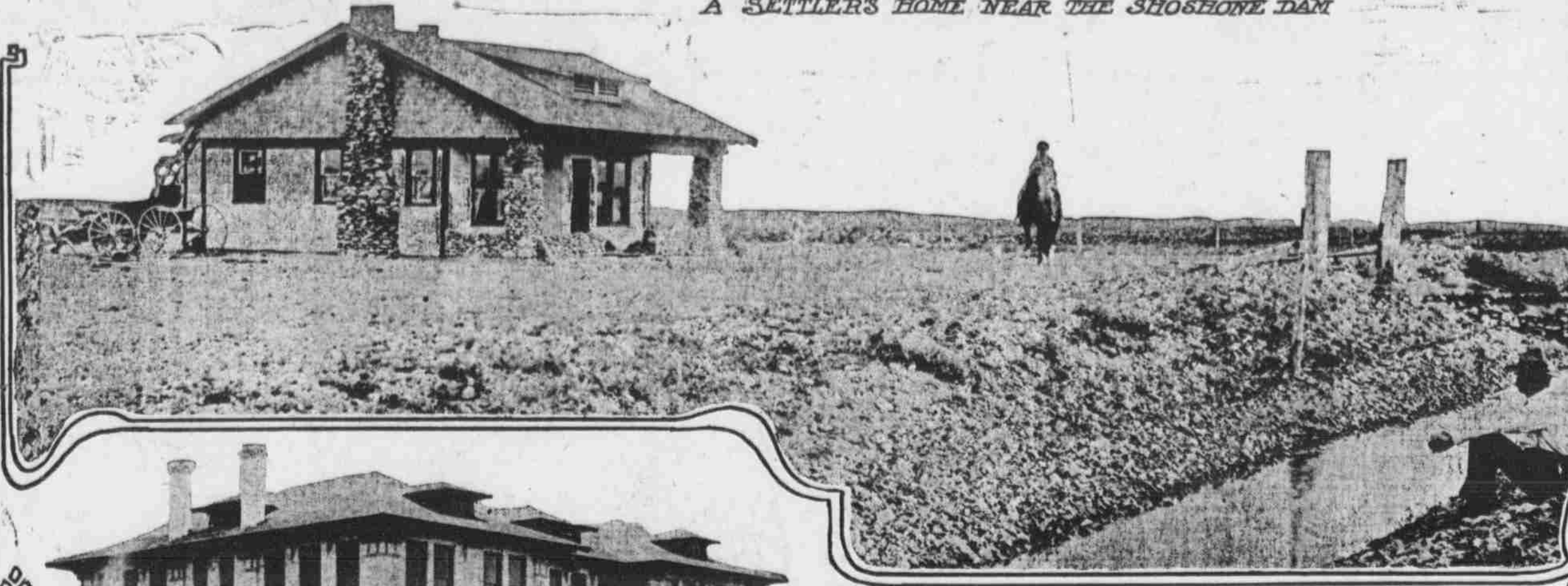


Million Homes to Cluster About New Oases of the West

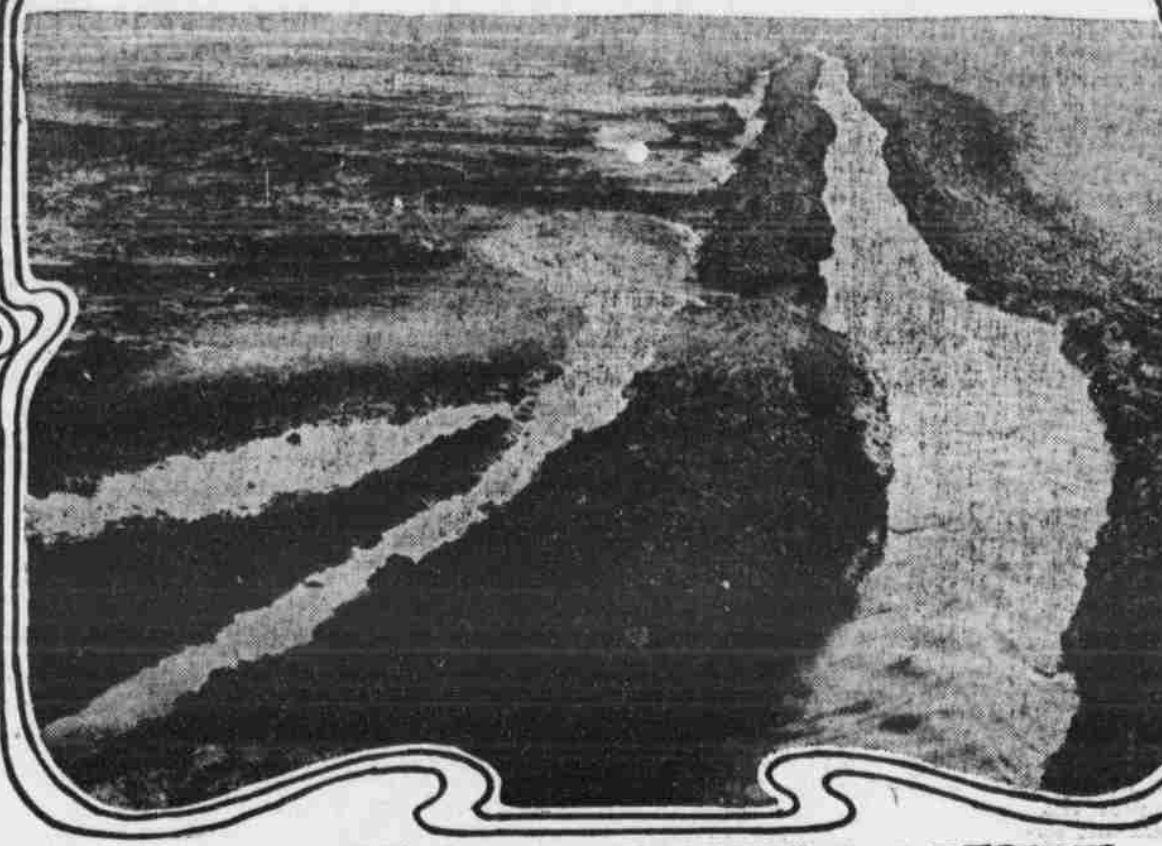
A SETTLER'S HOME NEAR THE SHOSHONE DAM



NEW SCHOOLHOUSE OF THE MINIDOKA PROJECT



CORN CROP OF IDAHO OASIS
60 BU. PER ACRE - 1 1/2 YRS YIELD



UNCLE SAM IS FLOODING THE DESERTS

(Copyright, 1911, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Three years ago he was a stenographer at Washington. He was getting \$1,200 a year and he had one month's annual vacation. He had saved \$1,500 by skimping, and could see but little light for the future. Then he went west on his annual leave and was present at the opening of some government irrigated lands at Huntley, in northern Montana. He dropped into the line of homeseekers and drew an allotment of forty-six acres, with the right to pay for it in ten-year installments.

He resigned his Washington job, and, using his savings, built himself a home. He then cleared thirty-five acres of sagebrush and sowed it to oats and wheat. He set out an apple orchard and between the rows put in 4,000 strawberry plants and some currants, grapes and blackberries. His oats produced sixty-two bushels per acre and the wheat thirty bushels. The apple trees grew. The next year he planted sugar beets on thirty-one acres of this land and the crop therefrom brought in \$3,100. The orchard is rapidly growing and the man already estimates himself worth at least \$10,000.

That is the story of one man's experience on the irrigated tracts of the reclamation service which Uncle Sam is now parceling out to his children. He has already sold thousands of acres on such installments and he has water enough in the big reservoirs lately built to feed 25,000 farms of forty acres each. This land has all been reclaimed from the desert, and it is only the beginning. It is the first fruits of the reclamation service, which has already spent \$60,000,000 in dams, reservoirs and canals. A million acres are now under water, and within the next generation or so more than a million homes will have been added to those of our country.

Some of Uncle Sam's Settlers.

Before I tell you how such farms may be gotten I want to give some stories about and letters from Uncle Sam's pioneers. The reclamation bureau at Washington has a large correspondence from those who have taken such tracts. It publishes the value of the lands and tells what may be made from them. Take the fruit oases of the Pacific northwest. If the information did not come from the government I should not venture to quote it, for the prices seem to be out of all reason. Irrigated fruit lands owned by individuals right near some of the government tracts sell for from \$100 to \$2,000 per acre, and some of the sagebrush nearby is bringing \$50 per acre and upward. This is in the Yakima valley and others of that region where dams can be made at the outlets of mountain lakes, which will eventually give 930,000 acre feet. There is enough water there to redeem a half million acres and there are four or five schemes planned for the Yakima valley alone. There are excellent orchard lands on nearly all of the projects, and the men who have taken up holdings are rapidly growing in wealth.

Engineer Blanchard of the reclamation service tells me of a man named Silver who planted ten acres of orchard near Yakima about six years ago. He netted \$2,700 last year from his fruit and the vegetables which he raised between the rows. In the same region J. O. Shadbolt, a dry goods merchant from Montana, made \$16,000 from the fruit raised on forty-one acres. In 1907 the same orchard yielded a gross of \$29,000 and a net of \$20,000, and in the three years which the man has been fruit raising he has netted \$39,000, or more than \$13,000 a year.

The government reports that full-bearing orchards produce crops of from \$300 to \$1,200 per acre, and that \$300 is less than the average if the trees are well kept. The lands that have been redeemed there are being largely planted to fruit, and millions of trees have been set out in the valley during the last season or so.

Robert McCormick, who was a lumberman in Minnesota, came to this valley ten years ago with 75 cents in his pocket. He worked for a time as a teamster, and with his savings made his first payment on twenty-five acres of the government project. His land was then covered with sage brush. Today it is all in crops and is paying him \$2,000 a year above all his expenses. Last fall he picked seven or eight hundred boxes of apples from a little over an acre, making a yield of about \$800 for that amount of ground. A Wisconsin man the same year sold \$2,700 worth of apples from nine acres of trees.

Here are some letters from Huntley, Mont., where the irrigation projects embrace a total of 20,000 acres. They are not all completed, but the water has been put on large tracts, and several good-sized towns have gone up. This is a land of grain and alfalfa. Wheat averages thirty bushels to the acre, barley from fifty to seventy bushels and oats from ninety to 100 bushels. The oats sell for 90 cents a hundred pounds, and good seed oats bring as much as \$2. There is a grazing country about, and alfalfa is worth \$5 a ton in the stack. It yields from five to seven tons an acre from three cuttings, and is used also to restore the fertility of the soil. A sugar beet factory has been recently established near Huntley, and the farmers are raising beets, getting fourteen tons to the acre, which they sell for \$5 a ton. They can grow 300 bushels of onions or 150 bushels of potatoes on almost any part of the government lands, and there is an instance of one farmer who grew \$50 worth of cucumbers on one-eighth of an acre never before touched with the plow.

In connection with cucumbers I have a letter from Nat Marten of Huntley, who made \$4,200 out of dill pickles, which were raised on less than seven acres of land. He put up 330 barrels of these pickles and sold them at \$13 a barrel. He says that most of the cucumbers were raised by the neighbors on the above land. He paid them 1 cent a pound, and this gave a good profit, as some of them raised nine tons to the acre. Mr. Marten says he expects to double his output next year and to raise most of the cucumbers himself.

Another Huntley man writes that he came from Latrobe, Pa., and that without any experience in irrigation farming got forty-one acres from the government and tilled it alone, with the assistance of his children, the oldest of whom was just fourteen years. His first crop brought him in \$2,400, and he expects to produce at least \$3,000 worth of stuff this year. This man says: "It don't take a big man to do this. I weigh only 132 pounds." His name is W. W. Kessler, and his children are ten.

Not a Bad Place For Children.

A number of these letters show how the babies thrive. There is one from Hermiston, Ore., written by E. P. Dodd, saying that his neighbor, Bushnell, had come there three years ago and landed with a pair of twins in a double baby buggy. He now has four boys and a \$700 house, and at the end of five years will have a \$2,000 property all paid for. A young carpenter bought a given-up homestead of ten acres and has it now paid for, and another has planted twenty acres to alfalfa and grapes.

One of the Hermiston settlers says that he is raising 600 bushels of onions per acre without fertilization and crops of other vegetables are quoted almost as large. This is from the Umatilla project, where water is now available for eleven or twelve thousand acres and where the first settlements were made about four years ago. The locality has excellent banks and schools, Hermiston having an \$8,000 concrete school building, with 160 pupils. There are newspapers, churches and fraternity lodges.

Ostriches and Dates.

Do you want to raise ostriches, figs and dates? There are plenty of chances to do so on the lands which Uncle Sam now offers in southern Arizona and New Mexico. The Roosevelt dam will open up 240,000 acres which will grow alfalfa, upon which ostriches will thrive. It is the same with the Yuma project, farther south, and so also of the irrigation schemes of southern New Mexico. In these regions the country is practically frostless, and oranges, lemons, grapefruit and olives can be easily grown. The lands lie several hundred feet above sea level and the temperature ranges from 20 to 118 degrees above zero.

In some of the tracts the units are as low as ten acres, which is found to be plenty, as crops can be raised all the year round. Irrigation lands bring from \$50 to \$150 per acre, the government tracts varying in cost, according to the expense involved in each project. The government report from Carlsbad, N. M., states that the finest of grapes can be raised, bringing a profit of \$150 an acre, or lettuce and peas will net \$400 per acre, while Bermuda onions are yielding \$5,000 pounds to the acre and readily selling for 2 cents a pound.

These are a few notes as to the profits from Uncle Sam's desert farms. Each of the thirty-four projects

now being reclaimed has its own special crops, varying according to climate and soil, and those who would settle can receive full information concerning them by writing to the government officials.

How to Get a Farm.

But how does one get a farm on these fertile oases? The lands are allotted under much the same terms as the homestead law, save that the settlers must pay the actual cost of erecting the dams and making the irrigation works which put the water upon the lands. They must also pay a small rental cost per acre each year for the use of the water. The payment for the land is made in ten annual installments, the money all going back to the government. When the works are paid for the land and the works will belong to the community, and they will be to a certain extent under the secretary of the interior for the future. The scheme provides against monopoly. No one has the right to own more than 160 acres on any of the tracts and the units of ownership are as low as ten acres. In other projects they are forty and in others eighty.

If the land is taken up under the homestead law, the settler must live on it for five years before he can get a title, and this is so whether the land has water yet or not. The amounts paid for water vary with the cost of the irrigation works needed to re-

deem them, but in no case are they anything like the value of the land when redeemed. It is estimated that the cost of reclamation will amount to about \$30 per acre, and in nearly every project, as soon as the water is on the land, it is worth \$100 and upward per acre. In the case of bearing orchards, as I have said, it may sell for \$1,000 or more.

Our Oases Communities.

The population of these oases promises to be the highest type of American manhood and womanhood. The conditions are almost Utopian. Each settlement will be one of well-to-do farmers, who are carrying on intensive cultivation and making comfortable incomes, with less work than is possible in any other part of the country. The farms, being small, are close together, and the people have a community of interests which leads to co-operation and social organization. They will market their fruits and crops in common, and will form combinations to get the best prices and to raise the best products. This is already being done in the fruit regions. There will also be financial combinations of the settlers to establish factories in their various communities.

Libraries and Schools.

The schools which have already been started upon

these projects are far above the average of those in the country districts in other parts of the United States. In most cases they compare with the schools of the cities. Most of the oases have what is known as centralized graded schools, to which the children are brought in carriages that go daily from farm to farm and collect them. Great care is taken in selecting the teachers, and a high school education may be gotten without leaving the farm.

Among the interesting features of these schools are the gardens and little farms connected with them. The children learn practical agriculture (by raising plants, fruits and grains, prizes being given for the best work. The teaching is all in the spirit of the farm, and its aim is to make the children love the farm and to have them stay on it. In the past the country schools have been managed by city teachers, who have taught the children to despise agriculture and tried to make them leave the farms for the city.

As to the schools already established on the project at Carlsbad, N. M., 500 children are enrolled. The graded school building is of brick, situated in a large park, and the town has recently erected a \$1,500 high school. Belle Fourche, in South Dakota, has two graded schools and a high school, while in Sturgis there is a public graded school with a large attendance. Nearby are the University of South Dakota, the State School of Mines and a state normal school. In Huntley, in northern Montana, there are excellent educational facilities, and the same is true of the other projects of the lower Yellowstone valley. The pupils are taught for nine months in each year, and the state course of study provides for the teaching of agriculture in the four highest grades.

In Yakima the best of common school facilities are to be found in every part of the irrigated regions. There are graded schools and high schools at Ellensburg, Sunnyside and North Yakima, and at the latter place, in addition to the public schools, there are a business college, a school of music and art and a Catholic academy for girls. In all of these projects nine months of school is the rule.

Towns of the Oases.

Nearly every one of these reclamation projects has several towns which are rapidly springing into being. In the Yakima valley they are situated on the government lands and in the country adjoining. North Yakima has over 12,000 people, Sunnyside has 1,500, Ellensburg, 5,200 and Prosser, 2,000. In addition to this there are a number of other towns and villages.

Most of these places have graded streets bordered with trees kept alive by irrigation. They have gas and electric lights and good telephone systems. They publish newspapers. North Yakima has a public library which cost \$80,000, a court house worth \$125,000, and the government is soon to erect a federal building there at a cost of \$250,000.

The chief town in the Umatilla project is Hermiston, which already has 600 people, including a large number of farmers who live there and drive to and from their farms. The place has several big business blocks, two lumber yards, an \$8,000 public school building, and there are in the county twelve banks, with total deposits of upward of \$4,000,000. Hermiston has two banks.

On the Klamath irrigation project the chief town is Klamath Falls, though there are other settlements which are rapidly growing. Klamath Falls has four banks, two newspapers, a high school building which cost \$40,000 and a number of society lodges. The cost of redeeming the land here was on the average \$30 per acre and the maintenance charge 75 cents per acre each year.

Some of the irrigation projects of Idaho are tributary to Boise, the capital of the state, a town which has municipal improvements equal to those of the finest residence cities of the west. There are some small towns on the projects themselves, and the educational, financial and social conditions are among the best in the country. As to Boise, it has six banks, with deposits of over \$6,000,000 and school buildings which represent a property value of more than \$400,000. Its high schools are among the best in the country, the graduates being accredited to all colleges that admit students upon credentials.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Notes of a Second Century Trial

HERE is the court record of a trial that took place in the year of Our Lord 180, before the Proconsul Saturninus at Carthage. The prisoners were a band of Christians, eight men and four women, who had been arrested at Scilli, in Numidia, charged with refusing to swear by the genius of the Roman emperor. They had no stenographers in those days, but they had court clerks, and the Latin minutes of that trial are to be found in the archives of Rome, whence they have been dug out by Prof. Attilio De Marchi, who publishes them in the appendix to his book on the Christian martyrs. Here is a literal translation of the record:

Carthage, on the 17th day of July, Presente and Claudio, being consuls Speratus, Nartzalus and Cittinus, Donata, Secunda and Vestia being led into the hall of audience, the Proconsul Saturninus said: "You can always merit the clemency of our lord the emperor if you turn to good intentions."

Speratus said: "We have never done evil; never have we lent ourselves to works of iniquity; we have never cursed; rather have we given thanks when we were abused, and withal we have respected our emperor."

Proconsul Saturninus said: "We, too, are religious, and our religion is simple; we swear by the genius of our lord the emperor and we pray for his health; this you also ought to do."

Speratus said: "If thou wilt listen to me quietly I will tell thee the mystery of simplicity."

Saturinus: "As I know that thou are about to speak evil of sacred things I will not listen to thee. Swear rather by the genius of the lord our emperor."

Speratus: "I know not the kingdom of this world, but I am a servant of that God whom no man sees nor can see with these eyes. Thiel I never was, and when I was in debt I always paid, for I know my Lord, the King of Kings and Emperor of all peoples."

Saturinus said to the others: "Give up these convictions."

Speratus said: "It is an evil conviction to commit murder, to bear false witness"

Saturinus said: "Do not be parties to such madness as this."

Cittinus said: "We fear none but the Lord, our God, who is in the heavens."

Donata said: "Honor to Caesar as Caesar, but worship to God."

Vestia said: "I am a Christian."

Secunda said: "What I am I want to remain."

Proconsul Saturninus said to Speratus: "Dust thou persist in being a Christian?"

Speratus said: "I am a Christian." And with him all the others agreed.

Proconsul Saturninus said: "Do you want time to decide?"

Speratus said: "In no righteous matter there is nothing to be decided."

Proconsul Saturninus said: "What have you in that box?"

Speratus: "The books and the epistles of Paul, a righteous man."

Proconsul Saturninus: "You have thirty days' time; consider well!"

Speratus said again: "I am a Christian." And all consented.

Proconsul Saturninus read the sentence: "Speratus, Nartzalus, Cittinus, Donata, Vestia, Secunda and the others, having confessed that they live according to the Christian rite, having refused the privilege offered to them to return to the usage of the Romans, and persevering in their obstinacy, are condemned to death."

Speratus said: "Let us give thanks to God."

Nartzalus said: "Today we are martyrs in paradise. Thanks be to God!"

Proconsul Saturninus ordered the marshal to announce that Speratus, Nartzalus, Cittinus, Vestivus, Felix, Aquilinus, Nartanzus, Januarius, Genserous, Vestia, Donata and Secunda are condemned.

All said, "Let us give thanks to God."