

exhortation was necessary, and yet it was impossible through the lack of priests and insufficiency of means. In order to remove these hindrances, and this could be done by the authority of the Church Government, it was necessary to take steps and intercede. And so Father John decided to go to St. Petersburg for this purpose. Besides this he must apply personally for permission to print his Aleutian translations of the sacred books. Having thus decided, Father John took a leave of absence, and—sending his wife and children to their home in Irkoutsk—on the 8th of November, 1838, he left Sitkha, taking sail in a globe circumnavigating vessel. His voyage continued for eight months; on the 25th of June, 1839, Father John arrived in St. Petersburg and presented his petition for the decision of the Most Holy Synod. Learning that it would take some months before the question of his petition would be taken up, he occupied himself in collecting offerings for the purpose of propagating and confirming the Christian religion in the Aleutian Islands, and for this he went also to Moscow.

In Moscow he presented himself to the Most Reverend Philaret, the Metropolitan—Archbishop. At first sight the Prelate took a liking for the hardworking, industrious missionary. “There is something apostle-like in this man”—he would say when speaking of Father John. More than once, when time permitted, they conversed together alone and the Prelate would listen with interest to the wonderful stories Father John told of his life in the Aleutian Islands. In the fall our traveler returned to St. Petersburg and he was promoted to the office of Archpriest for his long apostolic labors.

But at this time he received the sad news, informing him of the death of his wife. This sorrow weighed heavily upon him. The Metropolitan Philaret, consoling him, advised him to take vows and enter the monas-