

land of America and the islands from Kamchatka west to the coast of America, and south to the shores of Japan. No rivals, even though having posts already established within these limits, if not united with the Russian American company, were permitted to do any of these things. The civil and military authorities stationed at these places were ordered to give help and protection to the officers of the company. In return for these large and exclusive privileges the company bound itself to maintain a mission of the Græco-Catholic church, the members of which were to accompany all trading, hunting, and exploring expeditions, where an opportunity for Christianizing natives might occur. The company also undertook to encourage agriculture, cattle-breeding, ship-building, and other industries among the Russian settlers in America, and to maintain friendly relations with the natives.

The news of the organization of the Russian American company reached Baranof at a time when things were looking very black for him. He was suffering from ill health, his men were short of provisions, one of his sloops had recently been wrecked, and parties of his hunters attacked and killed by the Thlinket Indians. His drooping courage was revived, and amid many dangers and hardships, he made his way to Norfolk, or Sitka sound, and landed at a place called still Old Sitka, about three miles to the north of the present town. A Sitkan chief coming up to ask his purpose, Baranof replied that the Emperor of Russia wished to establish a settlement for trade there. The chief gave him a small piece of ground, on which Baranof erected a strong two-story building, guarded by a palisade and two block-houses, and named Fort Archangel Gabriel. In the autumn of 1800, Baranof, having fairly started the Sitka settlement, returned to Kadiak.

Matters did not long remain quiet at Sitka after Baranof's departure. The natives were supplied with guns, ammunition, and spirits, by English and American vessels trading with them, and soon became bold enough to form the plan of attacking and destroying the Russian settlement. To this end they secured allies from the Alexander archipelago and the Stikine River district. In June, 1802, the barracks and fort were attacked by large numbers of natives, while

most of the garrison were out hunting. The commander and many of his men were killed; the cattle-sheds and warehouses were taken and set on fire, and also the ships lying at anchor off the settlement. Three Russians and five Aleuts managed to escape to an English ship, whose captain made the Sitkan chiefs drunk, and recovered a large quantity of the valuable sea-otter skins which the natives had pillaged from the post. With these he sailed to Kadiak, where he received ten thousand rubles (nearly eight thousand dollars) as salvage.

In 1803 Baranof received the news of his appointment as a shareholder in the company, and of permission to wear the gold medal of the Order of Saint Vladimir. But gratified as he was at these marks of imperial approval, he was burning with anxiety to recover Sitka. With this purpose he directed his lieutenant at Yakutat (where the company had a block-house and stockade for the Siberian agriculturists in their service) to build two sailing-vessels. In 1804 he started out with an expeditionary force, consisting of eight hundred Aleuts in three hundred bidarkas, and one hundred and twenty Russians on board four small vessels under the command of a lieutenant; Baranof himself commanding the sloops Ekaterina and Alexander.

Soon after Baranof had left Kadiak, a ship named the Neva came out from Kronstadt to Kadiak. Not finding Baranof there, her commander, Lisiansky, sailed after him to Sitka, where his aid proved very welcome. The Sitka natives had taken up a strong position on a bluff, called Katlean's rock, or the Kekoor, at the mouth of Indian river. Here they occupied a fort built of logs and protected by a breastwork two logs thick.

The Russians landed and attempted to take the stockade by assault, but the natives made a brave resistance, keeping up so good a fire that they killed or wounded twenty-six Russians, among whom was Baranof himself. Next day Lisiansky assumed the command, and attacked the natives so vigorously that they offered to make peace, and promised to give hostages and to evacuate the fort. But as they showed no signs of giving up the stronghold, guns were brought up on a raft and trained upon the fort. The natives endured the strange and unwonted sounds of the