

ing the newly converted. But old age and poor health already compelled him to think of rest. He asked to be relieved and to be given quarters for rest. But his pastoral cares were not to be ended this time, and the will of God prepared for him another duty.

In 1867 Philaret, the Metropolitan of Moscow, had passed into eternity, and for a long time it could not be decided as to who should be appointed successor to the great Prelate. At last the election was held; the Archbishop Innocent was appointed to succeed the deceased Metropolitan. The Most Reverend Innocent was shocked with greater surprise than any one else. Having read the dispatch, he changed in the face, and for some minutes fell into deep thought. He then secluded himself for that day, and during the night he prayed long and fervently upon his knees. He was taken with wonder over his own destiny; the son of a poor village sexton, who at one time was unable to become the sacristan in place of his father, comes to be one of the first hierarchs in the great Russian Church—a Metropolitan in Moscow!

In sincere humility, notwithstanding his poor health, Archbishop Innocent accepted his new appointment and began to prepare for the way.

It would be needless to say with what expressions of joy and veneration the inhabitants of the cities of Siberia had met and seen him off on the way through which he must pass. It was the first time in their life they had seen a Metropolitan, and the last, as the Prelates who are invested with such high dignity, do not visit these distant places. With especial triumph he was waited upon in his own native Irkoutsk, where, owing to washouts, he had to remain for a considerable time, during which he offered the Liturgy several times, together with other Bishops who were there. Finally at 9:30 o'clock, on the evening of the 25th of May, 1868,

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