

his wont, he gave freely of his labor, his strength, his health. As in Ounalashka, now also he often preached to his congregation in the church, and when possible visited them in their homes, and there in the family—as a father among his children—he told them of the Orthodox religion. The Kolosha learned to love their teacher, and commenced to receive him with a welcome, willingly and attentively listening to his lessons.

Living among the Koloshas, Father John wrote sermons for them in their native tongue and translated the sacred books, which helped much in spreading Orthodoxy among them. The labor of the Reverend John Veniaminov was not lost; the result was that the number of christians in that country increased very rapidly. For five years Father John worked on Baranov Island (Sitkha). His fifteen years of active missionary life (first in Ounalashka, then in Sitkha) was distinguished with the zeal that made famous the first teachers of the Gospel. He always went about his work with great care, and thereby drew to himself the rough hearts of the savages; he would convince, but not urge, then patiently wait for their own petition, asking for baptism. For the children Father John opened schools, and taught them from books he had himself compiled. Finally, besides enlightening the natives with the knowledge of the Gospel, he taught them the different trades of smith-craft and carpentry, and also introduced inoculation (to prevent epidemics among them). In this way he won their hearty sympathy; the Indians loved him. And he really was their benefactor and teacher.

Many years of experience in missionary work convinced our preacher that it was difficult to keep the spirit of Christianity animated in a country, already containing a large number of the baptized, and in which the native villages are so scattered. For this, continual