

to His Right Reverence and informed him of his willingness to go to Ounalashka. The Bishop was not a little surprised at this; he was sorry to give up an exemplary clergyman.

It must be remembered that at the time this announcement was sent to the clergy by the Bishop, Father Veniaminov, as well as all the clergy, did not so much as think of accepting it. It happened that Father John about this same time became acquainted with a certain John Kriukov, who had come to Irkoutsk from Ounalashka. This newcomer, Kriukov, from the coast of America, had much to tell him of Ounalashka and of life out there and he went so far as to persuade him to accept the Bishop's offer. But no persuasion affected him. How it was that Father John became taken with the desire to go to such a distant land, many years after he tells of it himself in these words: "When that pioneer, John Kriukov, had already bidden me good-bye, and on his farewell-taking still continued to persuade me to go to Ounalashka—and on the same day, taking leave of the Bishop (in whose presence I happened to be then) he commenced telling of the devotion of the Aleuts to prayer and to listening to the Word of God (may the name of the Lord be blessed); I suddenly, it can be said, and completely became inflamed with the desire to go to such a people. I now vividly call to memory, how I suffered with impatience, waiting for the moment when I could inform His Right Reverence of my intention, and he seemed to be surprised, saying only: we shall see."

After a long hesitation the Bishop at last consented. The family of Father John did not so much as suspect the rapid change in his determination. On coming home Father John said nothing of his intentions to his family. But of course, such a sudden turn in his fate could not but reflect itself on him, so that it became