

log buildings surrounded by a stockade. The Shelikof company already had a fort, and Saint Alexander, at the entrance of the inlet. It was square, with bastions at two of the corners, and had a gate protected by two guns. Inside were dwellings and rehouses, on one of which was a lookout tower. In 1791 the Lebedef company's ship, Saint George, reached the inlet. The commander beached his ship and began to erect a stockaded fort, to which the name Saint Nicholas was given. At these fortified posts the Russians took

At last the news of their outrages and quarrels reached Baranof, who, though angry, was restrained from taking immediate measures by the fact that Shelikof was a partner in the Lebedef company, and Baranof did not wish to interfere without communicating with his chief. So he contented himself for the present with warning the men at Fort Saint Nicholas that he would not permit any outrages likely to injure trade. In spite of this, quarrels occurred continually, and attacks and ambuscades were almost daily events. Towards the end

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America. About took charge of a company had seen men thither, but company, not wishing grounds encroached on to go on to establish a permanent settlement at Saint George, consisting



RUSSIAN CHURCH AT SITKA, ALASKA

things pretty easily, making the natives go to it hunting for them, and themselves doing little more than guard-duty. The domestic work was performed by the female hostages, helped by the children who had been sent by native chiefs to learn Russian manners and customs at the post. Now and then the and would set out on a marauding expedition, in the course of which they plundered their own countrymen and the natives with cheerful lack of discrimination. The Lebedef men at Fort Saint Nicholas soon became a nuisance and a terror to the whole country, robbing the natives of their furs without payment, pillaging the stores of their own countrymen, and carrying off their native servants and hostages.

of 1793 Baranof received reinforcements which made up the total number of his men to about one hundred and fifty. The Lebedef men were not much fewer in number, were superior to Baranof's men in dash and recklessness, and occupied an excellent position with easy access to supplies. At last Baranof's shipyard at Sunday harbor was in danger, and this roused him to vigorous action. He summoned the commander of Saint Nicholas to his presence, and put him in irons, but he failed to do much to restrain the excesses of the rival traders.

Soon, however, Baranof's hands were much strengthened by his receiving authority to form settlements anywhere in America, and to control the country for five hundred versts