

you, which is in strange contrast with the wild, rugged scenery around. In front stretch the white settlements of the town. The Greek church is the most conspicuous and interesting object. It is built in the form of a Greek cross, and is surmounted by an Oriental dome over the centre, which has been painted an emerald green colour. One wing is used as a chapel, and contains, besides a curious font, an exquisite painting of the Virgin and Child, copied from the celebrated picture at Moscow. All the drapery is of

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A few old Russians, or "Russian Creoles," present, had an air of being Tolstói's peasants, and entered into the service with great earnestness. The Indian converts were noticeable for their stupid looks and perfunctory motions, evidently understanding little of the service, which was in Slavonic. The candles in the hanging silver lamps (similar to those seen at the Greek altars in the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem) seemed to attract them, and in many



AN ARCTIC FJORD IN WINTER.

silver, and the halo of gold; of the painting itself, nothing is seen but the faces. Through the opening left for the head shows the face of the Virgin, of marvellous sweetness and exquisite colouring. The picture is worthy of a place in the world's great galleries, and it seemed a matter of regret that it is in such a secluded place. The life-size paintings of St. Michael and St. Nicholas on the doors of the altar have elaborate silver draperies and gold halos. The ornaments and the candelabra are all of silver, the walls are hung with portraits of princes and pre-

lates, and the general effect is rich in the extreme. This Greek church claims to have a thousand adherents.

Next to the church in interest is the old Muscovite castle. Here the stern Romanoff ruled the land, and Baron Wrangell, one of Russia's many celebrated Polar explorers, held sway. The old baronial structure is imposing solely because of its commanding position on the top of a great rock, and is interesting on account of its history and the romantic stories that cling about the vestiges of its fast-decaying