

I.

INNOCENTIUS, Archbishop of Kamchatka, the Kuriles and the Aleutian Islands, the ever memorable preacher of Christianity in the extreme East, was elevated to the vacant See of Moscow in 1867, on the demise of the celebrated Metropolitan Philaret. From the distant shores of the Amoor he went direct to the first capital city of Moscow—the heart of Russia.

The town of Anginskoe in the Government of Irkoutsk was the home of Innocentius. The register of the church in Anginskoe shows that "on the 26th of August (old style), 1797, the wife of the sacristan of the church of St. Elias the Prophet, Eusebius Popov, bore him a son who was named John." At five years of age John Popov commenced to study his alphabet, being instructed by his father, who was at the time already afflicted with the disease which brought on his death two years later, leaving a widow and four orphans in extreme poverty. Fortunately the uncle of the orphans, a deacon of the same church, Demetrius Popov, in order to help the orphaned family somewhat, took the little boy John into his own home and continued teaching him. The little one learned so rapidly that in his eighth year he read the epistles in church and by his clear reading afforded much consolation to the parishioners. The mother of the boy, observing her son's success, desired to obtain his father's vacancy for him, in order to support the family; but this did not come to pass. At nine years of age John Popov was brought to