



RUSSIAN CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND AT KADIAC

bombardment during the day, but at night, after killing their dogs and strangling their infant children, that no sound might show their purpose, they secretly abandoned the post, which the captors burned.

The Russians then set to work to provide permanent quarters for themselves; they constructed three substantial buildings with a stockade having block-houses at each corner; kitchen-gardens were planted and cattle introduced. The name of New Archangel was given to the settlement. Part of the stockade separating the Russian quarters from the Indian rancherie remained until a recent date. The natives entered into a treaty with the Russians and were presented with cloaks and medals. In the autumn of 1806 Baranof returned from New Archangel to Saint Paul, leaving Kuskof in command, with orders to build ships and to finish certain structures already begun.

During the year 1803 (the year after the capture of Sitka by the natives) Baranof, ever desirous to extend the operations of the company, was pushing forward in the direction of the Spanish colonies, and especially of California. Baranof lent to an American captain named O'Cain twenty bidarkas and several hunters in charge of Shutzof, an employee of the company. Shutzof was instructed to take careful observations of the inhabitants of the coast of California, and to look out for new hunting-grounds. The

American vessel left Kadiak at the end of October, 1803, sailed down to San Diego, and thence to the Bay of San Quintin in Lower California, where about a thousand skins were secured. The results of this expedition were so satisfactory that Baranof was induced in 1808 to furnish Captain Ayres, of the ship Mercury from Boston, with twenty-five bidarkas, to hunt in islands not known before. The ship was to be out ten or twelve months, and on her return the proceeds were to be equally divided. On the way south sea-otter and beaver skins were procured by barter from the natives of the Charlotte islands and at the mouth of the Columbia river. Thence the ship proceeded to San Francisco and San Diego, and came back with more than two thousand skins.

Between 1806 and 1812 Baranof entered into several similar contracts with American captains. In 1808 he sent two vessels to the coast of New Albion, a land of vague extent, the southern limit of which was somewhere between Point Reyes and San Diego. One of these was wrecked at the mouth of Quay harbor, and the other, commanded by Kuskof, returned after an absence of about a year with more than two thousand otter skins, and the information that the coast had many localities suitable for agriculture and ship-building, and that the whole country to the north of San Francisco was unoccupied by any European power.