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beria, leaving
at many abuses existed in the relations be
een the various independent trading com
ave instructions and the natives, and that it would be
his wisdom ast to abolish the traders' rule, and place
directed his lie whole American traffic in the hands of
of Russian insingle strong company. So Shelikof and
thward, to ke partner, Golikof, were invited to Saint
ablish statietersburg to be presented to the Empress,
ne coast of ho manifested great interest in their pro
set up maicts, and conferred gold medals and swords
south as Ca honor upon them. On September 28th,
tructed to se788, a decree was issued, giving the com
e language, any exclusive privileges of trading and
he Russians, inting in the regions discovered and con
bes they migolled by them. Besides all this a subsidy
men; to colle two hundred thousand rubles was advanced
ther articles on the public treasury, to be repaid in
surveys, buenty annual instalments without interest.

In Siberia Shelikof looked about him for a
kutsk, the can who would carry out his plans, and set
e he placed his heart upon Alexander Baranof, a native
or transmissif Kargapol in eastern Russia. Baranof was
account of orn in 1747, and from his native place went
naps and pla Moscow, where he was a clerk in retail
is work. Thops; in 1771 he set up in business for him
atter up welf, but dissatisfied with his prospects, he

migrated to Siberia in 1780, and took the management of a glass factory in Irkutsk. Later, he engaged in trading on the Anadir river and in Kamchatka, and did a fair business. Being fond of his independence, he at first refused to enter the service of the Shelikof company. So Delarof, a Greek, was appointed in charge of the colony at Kadiak. He behaved with great kindness and justice; but, though visitors of all nationalities praised him highly, he was much too lenient and honest to suit his unscrupulous directors.

In 1789 Baranof lost two of his caravans, and was rendered bankrupt. Shelikof approached him again, and this time Baranof accepted his overtures, and entered the service of the company in 1790. He was excellently fitted for the work he had to do; shrewd, politic, full of courage and energy,



A RUSSIAN BLOCK HOUSE

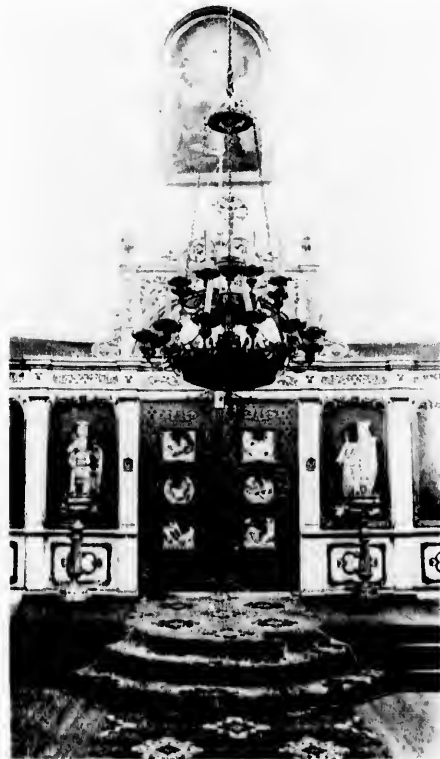


Photo by Partridge

INTERIOR OF RUSSIAN CHURCH, SITKA, ALASKA