
BISHOP NICHOLAS.

The Head of the Orthodox Russian Church Summoned Home.

Associated Press-Leased-wire Service.

NEW YORK, May 15.—Bishop Nicholas of the Orthodox Russian Church of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, which diocese includes the whole of the United States, is expected in this city from San Francisco the episcopal see. While in the city he will be the guest of J. A. Bellakir. He will sail for Europe next week. His departure for St. Petersburg has greatly stirred up the Orthodox Russian community of this country, as it is rumored that he is not to return; but that a new man will be sent to take his place.

Mrs. Maggahan, the wife of the well-known war correspondent, said: "The work of the Orthodox church in this country is not to win converts. It is rather a pan-Slavish movement, by which all the Slavonic people may keep their old religion and worship together. There are a great many natives in this country who come from the Austrian empire and who, while in that country, acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope and were under the guidance of the Roman Catholic church. They were, however, permitted to use their old forms of mass, to use the old Slavonic in their ceremonies and their parish priests were allowed to marry, in accordance with the laws of the Greek church, by which no man can become a deacon or priest until he has been married.

"When they come to this country they desired to go back to the Orthodox church and hence there are eight of such churches east of Minneapolis, although only one, that in New York, is Russian in nationality. It has been the work of the bishop to organize these churches when calls came from different communities. Bishop Nicholas is a very scholarly man and his retirement will be a great loss to us."

It is probable that an appeal will be sent to the church council in Moscow, asking that the bishop return to this country.
