

rugged features and coarse manners beat kind and honest hearts ; and, dull and slow-witted as they seem, their energy of character reveals itself not only in their power of enduring hardship, but in the dogged determination with which they are subduing this wild country to their service. No sooner did the Government hear of a colony of Russians in a region beyond the frontier, than the frontier was extended to include it. The

of the Government, he says, and the ease with which an innocent expression may be construed into heterodoxy, or high treason, make preaching too risky; and in the Russian churches sermons are omitted altogether. In celebrating the Eucharist, the bread and wine are mixed together, and the mixture is administered, both to children and adults, in a silver spoon. While the choir chanted, the frightened children, some of



GROUP OF RUSSIAN PRIESTS.

hardy Cossacks, living, eating, sleeping in the saddle, kept the forefeet of their horses on the receding frontier. And so the Czar's dominion, with the steadiness and persistency of an advancing tide, has spread itself over the vast territories of Northern Asia, until it has become conterminous with the Pacific Ocean and the Japan Sea.

Dr. Wenyon gives a very interesting account of village life in Siberia. The universal surveillance

whom screamed outright, received, much against their will, the sacred elements. What tea-drinkers, the Doctor exclaims, these Russians are ! The Siberian peasantry use what is called "brick-tea,"—which is simply pure tea-dust pressed by hydraulic power into slabs for convenience of transport. It is used in some parts of Siberia instead of money. To prepare a drink of it, a piece is cut off with an axe and boiled for at least a quarter of an hour ; simple infusion