

military purposes, principally, has placed a cordon of post-stations from sixteen to twenty miles apart. A few yemshiks, as the post-keepers are called, are put in charge of the station, which is often situated in such a lonely region that they are the sole inhabitants for many miles. A few log huts which serve as yemshik's dwellings, travellers' house, and stables, surrounded by a rude

tained one of these, Dr. Wenyon humorously describes his start.

Good-bye, said one of my friends, I never expect to hear of you again.

One told me that I should be arrested as a spy, and perish miserably in a Siberian prison ; another that I should get lost, and die of starvation in the depths of the forest ; others feared that I should be drowned in some of the



ON THE GREAT POST-ROAD.—INTERIOR OF SIBERIAN PEASANT'S HOUSE.

stockade, constitute all the buildings of many a post-station. At these stations officials travelling on urgent business expect to find vehicles and teams ready for them on the shortest notice, and the communications between one military post and another are thus maintained in great efficiency. Civilians, wishing to travel, must apply to the Government for a license, or passport. Having ob-

great rivers; or be devoured by wolves; or kicked to death by wild horses; or murdered by escaped exiles.

From one town to the next is sometimes as far as the whole length of England; and, when I thought I had covered at least half the ground between the Pacific Ocean and the Urals, I saw inscribed on the Government notice-board at a post-station—"To St.