FOUR THOUSAND MILES ACROSS SIBERIA ON THE GREAT POST-ROAD

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Four thousand miles across Siberia on the great post-road by Charles Wenyon

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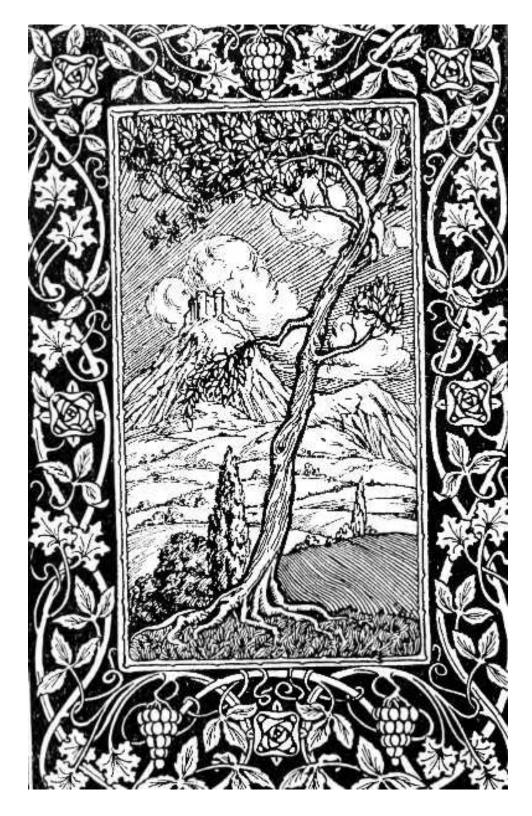
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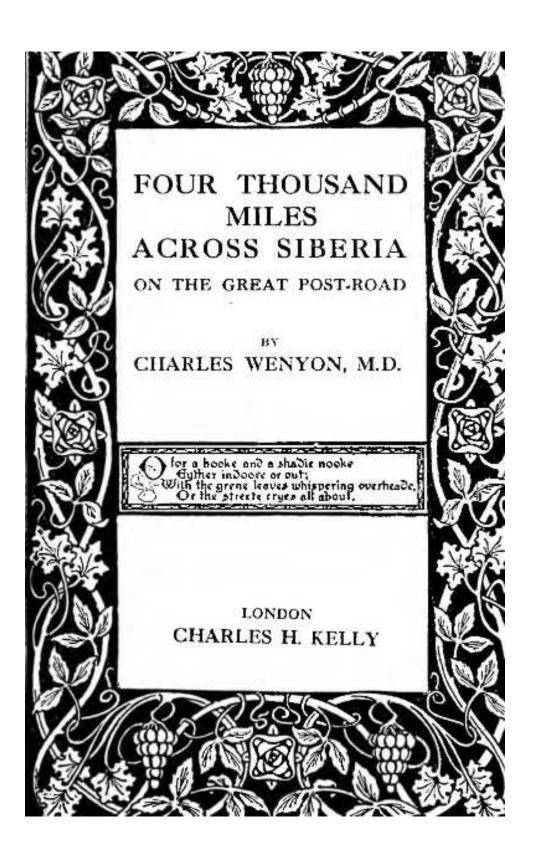
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PREFACE

In the preface to the four earlier editions of this book it was said that the great post-road of Siberia would, ere long, be superseded by the railway, as the old post-roads of Britain had been. That is now an accomplished fact. Express trains run from Moscow to Lake Baikal, and from Lake Baikal to Vladivostock. In the vast and little known regions, north and south, there will not, for years to come, be any more comfortable and expeditious mode of travel than sledge and tarantass. But, cast and west, a journey which then involved many months of difficult and hazardous wayfaring can now be performed in less than half the number of weeks, and with no more hardship and exposure than one may expect to meet with in a firstclass railway carriage, with well-warmed, doublewindowed compartments, and well-appointed sleeping-cars and restaurant. This more rapid and luxurious mode of travel has, however, one drawback. It takes us through the country without seeing it. It does not permit us to