

nences of the pierced range. Another difference exists in the fact that the range of foothills appeared to consist of naked rock, whereas the pierced range is built up of friable disintegration products, and consequently its outlines are more rounded. The only spots in which solid rock is visible in the latter are in the deep-cut gorges of the transverse glens. All these ranges however still preserved the same direction as heretofore, namely towards the N. 60° E.

While the right-hand range continues, mighty and imposing, with outstanding pyramidal peaks, deep gorges, and dark precipitous flanks, the left-hand range practically comes to an end, by breaking up into a multitude of detached hills and peaks, amongst which the higher-lying watercourses of the last of the transverse glens makes its way. Here there was a perceptible fall towards a large open area or expansion of our great latitudinal valley.

A little farther on the spring of Ku-schui-cha (alt., 2669 m.) gushes up between a couple of minor bluffs, and was then encircled by extensive sheets of ice, resembling in the distance a small lake, surrounded by fairly luxuriant fields of kamisch. Properly speaking, there are several springs; the one farthest to the west had perfectly fresh water, while the others were rather salt. The large glen of Ku-schui-cha leads from the vicinity of the springs towards the north-west, having on its right quite an imposing range; this may be regarded as the eastward continuation of the pierced range, which here describes an arc towards the north. Littledale's map of this region is on the whole inadequate; but according to it he appears to have proceeded from the before-mentioned Kakir valley up through the glen of Ku-schui-cha to the spring of the same name; and from that point to Anambaruin-gol (which Littledale incorrectly calls Nan-ambal) his route coincides with mine.



Fig. 255. A FOX-TRAP.

During the course of the day the vegetation in the latitudinal valley increased in luxuriance, until at length the teresken and other scrubby bushes grew as close together as ever they possibly could. Here also there occurred a steppe plant which the natives call *tschaj* = tea), because from it the Tungans are wont to infuse a kind of tea, *tagh-tschaj*, or »mountain-tea». There was also excellent grass in places.

Of faunal life we saw five kulans and a solitary male wild camel; and except these nothing but ravens.

Just above the spring we came upon a couple of *kasghaks*, or »fox-traps», set by the Tungans, who at times use this spring as a base for their hunting-excursions in the neighbourhood. The traps are trenches or oblong stone cists, with a narrow entrance. Inside is a piece of meat to serve for a bait, and when the fox creeps in after it, a large stone falls from a hole in the top and kills him, for the least touch of the meat moves a stick, which brings down the stone through the hole. These *kasghaks* are said to date from early in the seventies, when half Sa-tscheo was inhabited by Tungans, who lived in part by hunting. They used to go up into the mountains and stay there for some time, shooting wild camels and catching foxes. Then, selling the skins in Sa-tscheo, they bought asses, which they afterwards sold at a good profit in Abdal. Perhaps these Tungans also made