



NATIVE RESTAURANT BY THE WAYSIDE.

gracefully yield all "coolie" labour, such as lifting and carrying, to the Chinamen.

The principal and all-absorbing amusement of the natives, in fact, what may be called their national sport, is cock-fighting; and his fighting rooster is as much, if not more, an object of solicitation and care to every Filipino, as his family itself. In Manila there is a large building of bamboo and nipa, erected solely for this diversion, and the uproar which arises from it every Sunday afternoon can only be compared to that heard at a league baseball game at home. A native so unfortunate as not to own a fighting-cock would be an object of scornful pity to his neighbours; and it is difficult to walk the streets in the native quarter without stumbling at every few yards over a pair of feathered combatants, having a trial battle under the watchful care of their owners.

The population of Manila is about 270,000, including natives, Chinamen, and Europeans; the Chinese forming a very large proportion. Naturally, of the Europeans, the greater number are Spaniards, and there is also a large colony of Germans and Swiss; the Englishmen and Americans are in the minority.

There are churches on every corner, of all sizes and descriptions, generally in a state of dilapidation owing to earthquakes; and also an English club, which includes most of the Americans among its members.

Picturesque as life may seem in the islands to one who has never tried it, with these strange scenes and people, and the lazy, luxurious ways of living, there is a sense of monotony and loneliness about it which cannot be overcome by one from northern climes. Out of the track of the great steamship lines, the islands are seldom visited by