



NATIVE RESTAURANT BY THE WAY-SIDE.

and to cook his *desayuno* or breakfast; and in case of his *amo's* dining out, to accompany him and assist the host's servants at the table. Thus, from the time we left the house in the morning until our return at sunset, these boys had a pretty easy time of it, and it speaks well for their honesty that although they had access during the day to all parts of the house, I never heard of a single theft of any article of value. The only case of dishonesty in my experience was that of one of my own boys, who borrowed twenty *pesos* in advance wages one day, and decamped the next, with his family to the mountains; leaving my room in perfect order, with my clean clothes laid out for the evening and tub prepared; nor could I find, upon investigation, that a thing was missing from among my possessions. I have not the slightest doubt that he left with a perfectly clear conscience, with the blissful satisfaction of having merely done a good stroke of business; whereas to have taken anything from my room would have shown utter want of integrity, according to Philippine notions.

One of the drawbacks to "Filipinos" as servants, is a peculiar superstition which exists among them, to the effect that the soul of a person asleep has departed temporarily and is taking an independent aerial flight, and that if the sleeper is suddenly awakened, the wandering spirit may not have time to return to its proper place; which is poetic, but inconvenient, for it is utterly impossible to depend upon a servant to awaken one at an appointed time. The most he will do is, to squat down in the farthest corner of the room, and remark at intervals, in a low voice, "*Senor!*" It would require from twenty minutes to half an hour of this sort of thing, to bring an ordinary sleeper to any semblance of consciousness, and there is nothing to do but to make allowance in time for this peculiarity of ideas, for no amount of threats, persuasions, or promises, will induce him to deviate from this method of proceeding.

Our house was a large, roomy structure of two stories, standing in a small garden, about two miles out in the country; the ground floor being used as a carriage and harness room, while the