

porcelain cup, thin as an egg-shell. Eggs variously prepared, a sort of radish preserved or pickled, fish, raw and cooked, boiled bamboo-roots, and shell-fish, formed the first course. Tables about a foot high were



PORTRAIT OF M. COLLACHE IN JAPANESE COSTUME

then brought, and placed one before each guest, who squatted on his heels, if able to do so; which Europeans seldom are, at least, for any considerable length of time. They generally sit on the mats cross-legged. The little tables on this occasion bore each a huge bowl of rice and two lacquered bowls, each containing a different soup, the principal ingredients of which were eggs, mushrooms, vegetables, rice-cakes and tiny fish. Broiled fish was served also, chopsticks, of course, being used in place of knives and forks. The dinner was enlivened

by singing, the performers being young girls, accompanying themselves with odd-looking, long necked guitars of three strings. The