

## THE CHINESE CLASS.

SHAFTESBURY HALL.

(THIRD NOTICE.)

The more that lay-labor, as it is termed, is contrasted with the average ministerial, the more manifest will be its comparative simplicity, sincerity, and power; in making such a remark, it may be well to add that this is attributable to the several ecclesiastical systems, rather than to the men they mould; lay persons appear to some of us to occupy about the same relation to the ordinary "minister" that a plant in its natural state does to an exotic; the piety of the minister is necessarily more or less professional and forced, his religious studies are likewise warped by the views of the sect which has trained him for a special purpose, and the inevitable consequence is that his pulpit-production is as definitely the result of his training, as are those dwindled and diminutive oranges, which we are wont to see in a conservatory, and the flavor of the essays is but too apt to correspond with that of the oranges. These being the sentiments of the writer, he does not deem it necessary to apologize for inviting his readers' attention to the progress which has been made, in respect to the class of Chinamen, since he last had the satisfaction to notice the proceedings of the class. On entering the room, he observed that the table, instead of being a moderate sized one, in the centre, extended from end to end of the room, and that chairs were packed together all round it; as he was there before the time of meeting, he examined the various illustrations of Bible manners and customs, and the texts with which

the walls are suitably adorned, among which he observed that two present the passages "Jehovah Jireh," and "Ebenezer," in large Chinese characters. An harmonium too was among the accessories to the furniture of the room. As the Chinamen successively arrived, they came in with the broadest of grins: one of the oldest attendants of the class, on learning that his lady-teacher was prevented coming by indisposition, made for the door, for Chinamen don't believe in change (of teachers); he however was induced to remain, and at first he condescended to allow another lady-teacher to instruct him, but he was not long before he was ungallant enough to dismiss her, and actually displayed his bad taste by requesting the writer to take her place; probably he was not aware that it was the editor of two obnoxious little journals, on whom he conferred his favors. As the English sentences which were the subject of the lesson, were accompanied by a Chinese translation, the writer had the privilege of being instructed in the celestial language, by way of reciprocity. It was highly satisfactory to see so many as sixteen of these poor fellows, each with a teacher of the opposite sex, and the whole party so exceptionally happy and cheerful. Nineteen were expected, and there are but twenty in the city. Their natural cleverness is amazing, and as most persons reason from their own experience, they will perhaps be slow to believe that one of them wrote well in English on a slate, and he had only tried to write once before; this fact was assured both by his teacher and by Mr. Morse, the genial superintendent of the class. Another of the pupils, of