

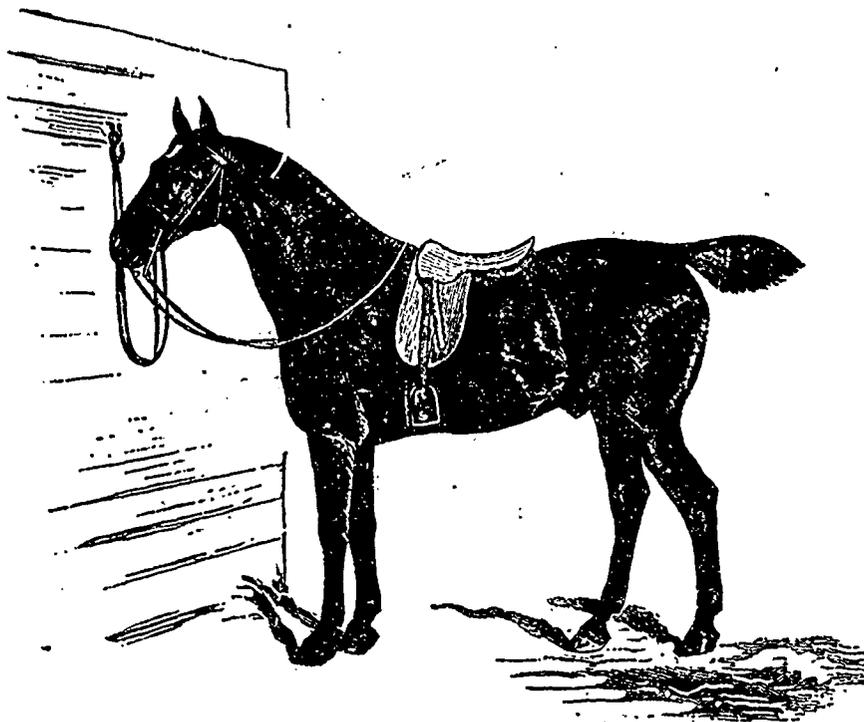
but it is clear, from the papers, that the English dairy-farmers are puzzled what to do with this immense sum!

If what I hear is true, it is proposed to invite the government of the province to establish a "Laboratory of Agricultural Chemistry" in connection with one of the classic colleges. Nothing can be better. It is a thing I have long wished for, as I very often want analyses done, and there seem to be no funds for the purpose. But if we do have a public laboratory started, I do hope and trust it will confine its operations to feasible work.

What use, for instance, would there be in "determining the fertilising elements of our soils which, here, in the province of Quebec still yield good crops of wheat, and thereby finding out what elements must be added to such of our soils as have become sterile, for the purpose of restoring them, as far as possible, to their primitive fertility?" when we know

As for receipts for feeding stock, I fancy farmers, though they may not make use of their knowledge, have but little to learn on the subject. At all events, I do not think the purely theoretical teaching of the chemist is equal in value to the practical knowledge of the man who has been feeding stock all his life.

The above pp. were written before I saw Mr. Barnard's well considered article in the *Journal d'Agriculture Illustré* on the Abbé Chartier's letter to the Hon. Premier of the province, requesting him to establish a "station agronomique" in connection with the College-farm at St. Hyacinthe, of which the Abbé is the Procureur, or manager. I entirely agree with Mr. Barnard in his earnest desire for "the establishment of an experimental station, provided that it is placed under the superintendence of conscientious men, interested in the success of agriculture;" but I disagree on-



A TYPICAL ENGLISH HUNTER.

perfectly well, 1st, that *no analysis* of a soil will tell us what is wanting to make it yield crops of any kind, since a soil may show by analysis ever so many cwts of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, &c., per acre, and yet these elements may be in such an inert condition that they are not available for plant-food; and, 2nd, when the practical experiments of Lawes and Gilbert, of Voelcker, and of Aitken, in England and Scotland, have shown us all that we want to know of the matter.

The analysis of chemical manures would be of the greatest utility, provided always that it be full and explanatory. For instance: when I am told that a certain manure contains 4% of nitrogen I want to know the source of that nitrogen, whether derived from blood, from sulphate of ammonia, from nitrate of soda, or from leather or shoddy: worth in the three first cases 14 cts to 16 cts a pound, in the last two, hardly anything for the crop sown in the first year of their application!

The waste matters of our factories, &c., have been too well studied during the last 40 years to need any further investigation.

tirely with many of the rev. Abbé's positions, and I hope that all my readers who understand the French language will take the trouble to send to the publisher for the French Journal of the month of August, and study Mr. Barnard's observations on the Procureur's proposals, in all of which observations I entirely concur. I will, if possible, condense the leading passages of Mr. Barnard's article for the ensuing number of that Journal, but the whole is so convincing that I fear any condensation will fail of doing full justice to the subject.

One passage of the Abbé's statement I cannot refrain from quoting: "We have remained stationary even if we have not fallen into the rear." By which, I suppose, is meant, that we have made no progress during the last few years! *Is this the case?*

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

We give herewith the portrait of a very excellent English "hunter"—a brown gelding named Champion—to whom was awarded what we should call the sweepstakes prize, in the hunter class at the Royal Agricultural Hall Horse Show at