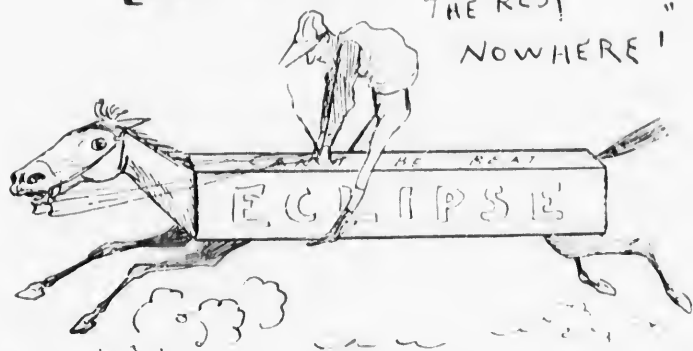


The oldest bank in the world is said to be at Naples, Italy, as the Monte Vecchio at Venice, and the Banco San Giorgio at Genoa, both founded in the 12th century, have ceased to exist, as has also the Bank of Barcelona founded in the 11th century. The Bank of Naples was founded in 1546, and as a State bank with a considerable capital, to which no one lays any claim. As described by the British Consul at Naples, it is a joint stock bank, but with no share-holders.

"John Bull" allows the King of Greece £1,000 a year, and has done so for the last 33 years, so that the entire sum of British money paid to that monarch amounts to £332,000. This country has also lent Greece the large sum of a million and a half, for which it charges only 3 per cent. The country also lent a very large sum to the King of Sardina a long time ago on very easy terms, though Italy is returning that steadily. The Sultan of Turkey, too, received an immense sum of money from the British Government after the Russian war, though it may be that we took the last look at it the day it left the Treasury.

"ECLIPSE" FIRST -
"THE REST
NOWHERE!"



Some soap, like some horses, must take the lead. Eclipse soap has it, for its quality alone has put it there. All shades and grades of society use it: from the chimney sweep to the Lieut.-Governor.

Sesostris erected in the temple of Memphis statues of himself and his wife, 50 feet high, and of his children, 28 feet.

The longest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India, over the River Kistnah. It is more than 6,000 feet in length, and is 1,200 feet high.

Eight aqueducts supplied ancient Rome with water, delivering 10 millions of cubic feet daily. That of Claudia was 17 miles long, and 100 feet high.

London has 1,312 doctors, of whom 60 are women, and as many as 15,512 nurses to minister to its needs; of the latter the great majority (11,032) are women.

The old Norse rune N was called Nyth or Nyd, and meant necessity, compulsion, or knot. The Scandinavian bridegroom drew this rune on the finger-ring of the bride. This Rune standing alone meant either compulsion or marriage.

The cold, by checking vegetable life, and by driving insects to hide themselves, drives the birds to warmer climates, where there is no key to the cupboard; and the heat, by drying up the vegetation, sends them to more temperate climes.

When can donkey be spelt with one letter? When it is "L."