

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH,
LONDON, S.E.,

February 4, 1873.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge your letter of December 20, addressed to me as President of the Royal Society, (which has reached me through the hands of John Marshall, Esq.,) inclosing papers which are supposed to contain an investigation on trustworthy principles of the problem of "Squaring the Circle."

You are perhaps aware that the Foreign Academies, in general, by express statutes, refuse to receive communications on this subject. I do not know that the Royal Society of London is prevented by statute from receiving them, but I know that its practice is unvarying; and, so far as my private judgment is concerned, I approve of that practice. I must, therefore, decline to present the papers to the Royal Society.

I cannot myself give any time to their examination; nor should I think it right to force them on the attention of others. I have therefore thought it best at once to return them entire to Mr. Marshall.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) G. B. AIRY.

JNO. HARRIS, Esq.

MONTREAL, 21st December, 1872.

TO MR. JOHN HARRIS,

SIR,

I herewith return your papers relating to the problem known as Squaring the Circle. I have not received from any of the professors in McGill College any observations on the subject.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) CHAS. D. DAY.