PREFACF.

DEEMING the subject of this work, viz: the solution of that geometrical problem which demonstrates the relation of the circle to the straight line, to be peculiarly of public importance, we will briefly state what has taken place in respect to it, and the present position of the matter.

The discovery of the solution was communicated by letter, dated 29th December, 1870, accompanied with demonstration, &c., to the Astronomer Royal. It was afterwards found that the case, as contained in the papers thus presented in the first instance, was in a strictly geometrical sense imperfect and faulty; the solution and demonstration, however, were virtually contained in them, and no objection whatever was made to their form.

The papers were acknowledged, but, after some considerable time, a decisive intimation was received from Greenwich that the Astronomer Royal declined to examine the case.

In the month of January, 1873, the papers were presented to the president of the Royal Society with a formal request (claim) in writing to have the case judicially examined by that Society. The documents were returned with a note from the President, (G. B. Airy, Esq.,) decidedly refusing, as President, to receive the papers or to acknowledge the claim for investigation.

Before this refusal was received, considering that the subject if correctly understood would be found to have

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