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**SQUARING THE CIRCLE.**

The London Court Journal cries out "Eureka"—because it has discovered what it thinks is a never-failing rule for squaring the circle—a rule that mathematicians have been in pursuit of for twenty centuries. We give an extract from the article referred to.—

"If you take a wire twelve inches and a quarter long, the quarter being allowed to unite the two ends, you have a circular wire exactly twelve inches; and if this wire is made to form the true square, each of the sides will be equal to nine square inches. Now if the same wire is allowed to assume the true circle, it is evident that the area of the circle will be the same as it was in the square. For instance, if a wall be built around a city, and it is found to be twelve miles round, the area of that city is nine square miles. Therefore, the square of any circle is equal to three-fourths of its own circumference."

This theory seems plausible, still it is not "founded on fact." The rule only holds good with regard to that twelve-mile circle. The square miles in such a circle are nine. This we suppose no one will dispute. Let us apply the test, however, to a large circle. Let us suppose that the wall around a city measures 24 miles. According to the Court Journal's theory, such a city would contain an area of 18 square miles. Instead of that it would contain an area of over 30 square miles. The Journal must try again before it can claim that reward. A mathematician in Albany has a theory much more plausible. He gets the square of circles by "assuming" that the diameter of the circle is one-third of its circumference. From this diameter he throws away one-fourth. He then takes the remainder and multiplies it by itself which he says gives the square in every case. For instance, take a circle 288 inches in circumference. The diameter of this he calls 96 inches. From this deduct one-fourth—24 inches—and we have 72 left. This multiplied by itself amounts to 5,185, which he says is "just the number of square inches in the circle named." The question now is, is he right?

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