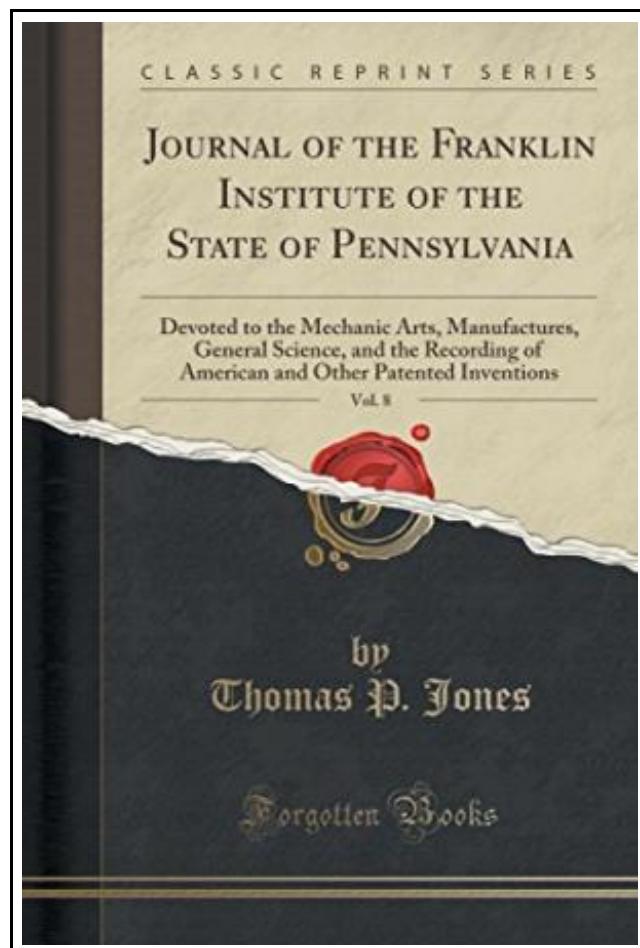


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania, Vol. 8: Devoted to the Mechanic Arts, Manufactures, General Science, and the Recording of American and Other Patented Inventions A cube and a sphere were to be made, and their relative masses ascertained hydrostatically. An approximation as inferior to that which the mathematician has obtained, as matter is inferior to mind. Others have proposed to cut a square and a circle out of a plate of metal, or other substance, both equal in thickness, and then to weigh them, ignorant of the fact that neither the weight or dimensions of such articles is capable of being ascertained with a millionth part of the correctness with which the mathematician has squared the circle. The subjoined account of what has been proposed, and done, upon this subject, is abstracted entirely from Montucla, as contained in his Recreations in Mathematics, translated by Hutton. Montucla divides those who have pursued this inquiry into two classes; the first, geometers, who, aware of the difficulty or impossibility of the problem, have not been led away by illusions, but have confined themselves to the finding out the most exact methods of approximation. The other class, those who scarcely acquainted with the elements of geometry, and hardly knowing on what principle the problem depends, have twisted and turned the circle in every direction, and have laboured, like the unfortunate Ixion, eternally rolling the heavy burden, without bringing it any nearer to its place of destination. When one error is pointed out to them, they soon return with their propositions in a new, but equally contemptible form; and unhesitatingly contest the best established truths...

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