

ent focuses and different degrees of polish, and by comparing the different actions on the same fusible or combustible matters, I found, that at an equal intensity of light, large focuses constantly have more effect than small, and I discovered the same to be the case with refracting mirrors.

It is easy to assign the reason of this difference, if we consider that heat communicates nearer and nearer, and disperses, if I may so speak, when it is even applied on the same point: for example, if we let the focus of a burning glass fall on the centre of a crown piece, and that this focus was only a line in diameter, the heat produced on the centre disperses and extends over and throughout the whole piece: thus all the heat, although used at first to the centre of the crown, does not stop there, and consequently cannot produce so great an effect as if it did. But if, instead of a focus of a line which falls upon the centre of the crown, we let fall a focus of equal intensity on the whole crown, every part being alike heated, then instead of experiencing the less heat, it acquires an augmentation; for the middle profiting of the heat with the other points which surround it, the crown piece
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