

making large concave, spherical, parybolical mirrors, or of any other curvature whatsoever, regular enough to burn at 150 feet distance, we shall easily be convinced that they would not produce but nearly as much effect as mine, because the focus would be almost as broad ; that besides, these curved mirrors, if even it should be possible to make them, would have the very great disadvantage to burn only at a nigh distance, whereas mine burns at all distances ; and, consequently, we shall abandon the scheme of making mirrors to burn at a great distance by means of curves, which has uselessly employed a great number of mathematicians and artists, who were always deceived, because they considered the rays of the sun as parallel, whereas they should be considered as they are, namely, as forming angles of all sizes, from 0 to 32 minutes, which makes it impossible, whatsoever curve is given to a mirror, to render the diameter of the focus smaller than the chord, which measures 32 minutes. Thus, even if we could make a concave mirror to burn at a great distance ; for example, at 150 feet, by employing all its points on a sphere of 600 feet diameter, and by employing an uncommon mass of glass or metal,