

without doubt, more celebrated than the merit of the thing itself.

Many advantages may be derived from the use of these mirrors; by an assemblage of small mirrors, with hexagonal planes, and polished steel, which will have more solidity than glasses, and which would not be subject to the alterations which the light of the sun may cause, we may produce very useful effects, and which would amply repay the expences of the construction of the mirror.

“ For all evaporations of salt waters, where great quantities of wood and coal are consumed, or structures raised for the purpose of carrying the waters off, which cost more than the construction of many mirrors, such as I mention; for the evaporation of salt waters, only an assemblage of twelve plane mirrors of a square foot each is necessary. The heat reflected by their focuses, although directed below their level, and at fifteen or sixteen feet distance, will be still great enough to boil water, and consequently produce a quick evaporation: for the heat of boiling water is only treble the heat of the sun in summer; and as the reflection of a well polished plane surface only diminishes the heat one half, only six mirrors are required to produce at the focus a heat equal to boiling water;