

of them, who appeared to be quite satisfied with it. This idea is to freeze mercury in this climate, and with a much less degree of cold than that of the experiments of Petersburg or Siberia. For this purpose the vapour of mercury is only required to be received, and which is the mercury itself volatilized by a very moderate heat in a crucible, or vessel, to which we give a certain degree of artificial cold. This vapour, or this mercury, minutely divided, will offer, to the action of the cold, surfaces so large, and masses so small, that instead of 187 degrees of cold requisite to freeze mercury, possibly 18 or 20 will be sufficient, and perhaps even less to freeze it when in vapour. I recommend this important experiment to all those who endeavour earnestly for the advancement of the sciences.

To these principal uses of the mirror of Archimedes, I could add many other particular ones; but I have confined myself to those only which appeared the most useful, and the least difficult to be put in practice; nevertheless I have subjoined some experiments that I made on the transmission of light through transparent bodies, to give some new ideas on the means of seeing objects at a distance with the naked eye, or with a mirror, like that spoken of by the ancients,