

matter which it contains ; the fusion, nevertheless, is not so complete as that of other perfect metals, since, in grinding, it retakes the same figure as it had before fusion.

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### EXPERIMENTS ON LIGHT, AND ON THE HEAT IT MAY PRODUCE.

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#### INVENTION OF MIRRORS TO BURN AT GREAT DISTANCES.

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THE story of the burning glasses of Archimedes is famous ; he is said to have invented them for the defence of his country ; and he threw, say the ancients, the fire of the sun with such force on the enemy's fleet, as to reduce it into ashes as it approached the ramparts of Syracuse. But this story, which, for fifteen or sixteen centuries, was never doubted, has been contradicted, and treated as fabulous in these latter ages. Descartes, with the authority of a master, has attacked this talent attributed to Archimedes ; he has denied the possibility of the invention, and his opinion has prevailed