

adjustment, which, in fact, was less solid and precise, but the expence was more consistent with a mere experiment: the mechanism of which was executed by M. Passement.

It is sufficient to say, that it was at first composed of 168 glasses of six inches by eight each, about four lines distant from each other; these glasses moved in all directions, and the four lines of space between them not only served for the freedom of this motion, but also to let the operator see the place where he was to conduct his images. By means of this construction, 168 images could be thrown on one point, and, consequently, burn at several distances, as at 20, 30, and to 150 feet. By increasing the size of the mirror, or by making other mirrors like the first, we are certain of throwing fire to still greater distances, or to increase as much as we please the force or activity of those first distances.

It is only to be observed, that the motion here spoken of is not very easy to be executed, and that also there is a very great choice to be made in the glasses; for they are not all equally good, though they appear so at the first inspection. I was obliged to pick out of more than 500 the 168 I made use of. The method of trying them is to receive at 150 feet distance the reflected image of the sun, as a vertical plane;