

tal, the lustre being much more dazzling than that of the sun.

The experiments which I have here related, and which were made immediately after the invention of the mirrors, have been followed by a great number of others, which confirm them. I have set fire to wood at 210 feet distance with this mirror, by the sun in summer; and I am certain, that with four similar mirrors I could burn at 400 feet, and, perhaps, at a greater distance. I have likewise, melted all metals, and metallic minerals, at 25, 30, and 40 feet. We shall find, in the course of this article, the uses to which these mirrors can be applied, and the limits that must be assigned to their power for calcination, combustion, fusion, &c.\*

*This mirror burns according to the different inclination given it, and what gave it this advantage over the common reflecting mirrors was that its focus was very distant, and had so little curvature, that it was almost imperceptible: it was seven feet broad by eight feet high, which makes about the 150th part of the circumference of the sphere, when we burn at 150 feet distance.*

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\* It requires about half an hour to mount the mirror and to make all the images fall on the same point; but when this is once adjusted, it may be used at all times by simply drawing a curtain.