water; but I shall double the number to make the heat communicate quicker; and likewise by reason of the loss occasioned by the obliquity, under which the light falls on the surface of the water to be evaporated, and because salt water heats slower than fresh. This mirror, whose assemblage would form only a square four feet broad by three high, would be easy to be managed; and if it were required to double or treble the effects in the same time, it would be better to make so many similar mirrors, than to augment the scale of them; for water can only receive a certain quantity of heat, and we should not gain any thing by increasing this degree; whereas, by making two focuses with two equal mirrors, we should double the effect of the evaporation, and treble it by three mirrors, whose focuses would fall separately one from the other on the surface of the water to be evaporated. We cannot avoid the loss caused by the obliquity; nor can it be remedied but by suffering a still greater, that is, by receiving the rays of the sun on a large glass, which would reflect them broken on the mirror; for then it would burn at bottom instead of the top, but it would lose half the heat by the first reflection, and half of the remainder by the second; so that instead of six small mirrors, it Ff VOL. X. would