

no less sudden than destructive ; but we will not dwell on the means of doing mischief, conceiving it to be more our duty to think on those which may do some real service to mankind.

4. These mirrors furnish the sole means of exactly measuring heat. It is evident that two mirrors, whose luminous images unite, produce double heat in all the points of their surfaces, that three, four, five, or more mirrors, will also give a treble, quadruple, quintuple, &c. heat, and that, consequently, by this mode we can make a thermometer whose divisions will not be too arbitrary, and the scales different, like those of the present thermometers. The only arbitrary thing which would enter into the composition of the thermometer, would be the supposition of the total number of the parts of the quicksilver by quitting the degree of absolute cold ; but by taking it to 10000 below the congelation of water, instead of 1000, as in our common thermometers, we should approach greatly towards reality, especially by chusing the coldest day in winter to mark the thermometers, for then every image of the sun would give it a degree of heat above the temperature of ice. The point to which the mercury rises by the first image of the sun, would be marked 1, and so on to the highest, which