

by this means all the advantages possible, that is, those of the acromatic to that of the elliptical or hyperbolical telescopes, and we should profit by all the quantity of light each planet reflects to our sight. I may be deceived; but what I propose appears to be sufficiently founded to recommend its execution to persons zealously attached to the advancement of the sciences.

Employing myself thus on these reveries, some of which may one day be realized, and in which hope I publish them, I thought of the Alexandrian mirror, spoken of by some ancient authors, and by means of which vessels were seen at a great distance on the sea. The most positive passage which I have met with is the following.

“ Alexandria in Pharo vero erat speculum e ferro sinico. Per quod a longe videntur naves Græcorum advenientes; sed paulo postquam Islamismus invaluit, scilicet tempore califatus Walidfil: Abdi-I-melec, Christiani, fraude adhibita illud deleverunt. Abu-l-feda, &c. *Descriptio Ægypti.*”

Having dwelt for some time on this, I have thought, 1. That such a mirror was possible to be made. 2. That even without a mirror or telescope, we might by certain dispositions