

light reflected by its surface was collected by another concave mirror placed at its focus, and in this consists the essence of the telescope and the merit of its construction. Nevertheless this does not deprive the great Newton of any glory, who first renewed the almost-forgotten invention. As the rays of light are by their nature differently refrangible, he was inclined to think there were no means of correcting this effect, or, if he had perceived those means, he judged them so difficult that he chose rather to turn his views another way, and produce, by means of the reflection of the rays, the great effects which he could not obtain by their refraction; he, therefore, constructed his telescope, the reflection of which is infinitely superior to those that were in common use. The best telescopes are always dark in comparison of the acromatic, and this obscurity does not proceed only from the defect of the polish, or the colour of the metal of mirrors, but from the nature even of light, the rays of which being differently refrangible are also differently reflexible, although in much less unequal degrees.

It still remains, therefore, to bring the telescope to perfection, and to find the manner of compensating this different reflexibility, as we  
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