

the light of the sun loses only half by its reflection on a glass mirror.

This first information being acquired, I afterwards sought what became of the images of the sun when received at great distances. To be perfectly understood we must not, as is generally done, consider the rays of the sun as parallel; and it must also be remembered, that the body of the sun occupies an extent of about 32 minutes; that consequently the rays which issue from the upper edge of the disk, falling on a point of a reflecting surface, the rays which issue from the lower edge falling also on the same point of this surface, they form between them an angle of 32 minutes in the incidence, and afterwards in the reflection, and that, consequently, the image must increase in size in proportion as it is farther distant. Attention must likewise be paid to the figure of these images; for example, a plain square glass of half a foot, exposed to the rays of the sun, will form a square image of six inches, when this image is received at the distance of a few feet; by removing farther and farther off, the image is seen to increase, afterwards to become deformed, then round, in which state it remains still increasing in size, in proportion as we are more distant from the mirror. This image is composed of as many
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