cients, and by the effect of which vessels could be perceived from the port of Alexander, as far as the curvature of the earth would permit.

Naturalists at present know, that there are three causes which prevent the light from uniting in a point, when its rays have passed the objective glass of a common mirror. The first is the spherical curve of this glass, which disperses a part of the rays in a space terminated by a curve. The second is the angle under which the object appears to the naked eye: for the breadth of the focus of the objective glass has a diameter nearly equal to the chord of which this angle measures. The third is the different refrangibility of the light; for the most refrangible rays do not collect in the same place with the lesser.

The first cause may be remedied by substituting, as Descartes has proposed, elliptical, or hyperbolical, glasses to the spherical. The second is to be remedied by a second glass, placed to the focus of the objective, whose diameter is nearly equal the breadth of this focus, and whose surface is worked on a sphere of a very short ray. The third has been found to be remedied, by making telescopes, called Acromatics, which are composed of two sorts of glasses, which disperse the coloured rays differently;