

If you wish to make micrometric measurements - or to find stars - or planets in the day-time - or minute objects at night, not readily discoverable by maps, then there can be no question that the spectorally mounted achromatic is the instrument you ought to possess - & the sum you have mentioned - especially with an object-glass in cell from Clark or Cooke, & a tube, eyepieces, & stars by some cheaper maker, would do it very nicely - on a second-hand instrument might be met with at a low price answering every purpose. -

But if your object is - like mine - merely what is called Star-gazing - the viewing of the wondrous exploits of Creation under ordinary circumstances, it might be worth your while to consider, before finally deciding, the comparative merits of the silvered glass reflector. You have probably heard of this beautiful instrument, which has been for some years sold in Paris, & is now beginning to attract attention in this country. At present it is only in the hands of amateur makers, but their success has been remarkable. One of at least 8 inches clear aperture may now be purchased in Liverpool for about £26 or £27, (carriage & packing not included.) As far as looks go, it is certainly a very common & clumsy looking affair - being merely a great square tube of stained deal, mounted on a very plain ^{wooden} stand - & if you regard appearance I could not say much for it. But the Newtonian reflector, under any circumstances, is a singular looking instrument, & there is nothing peculiarly awkward about this but the squareness of so large a tube - (you might of course have it made octagonal, but not for so small a price - on circles of turned iron, but with no advantage.) I must tell you however that I have never seen anything with it, or with any silvered glass speculum