LECTURES
ON THE ART OF
ENGRAVING,
DELIVERED AT THE
ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,

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LECTURE I.

Exordium, containing a brief statement of the Lecturer's object and plan—Early origin and uses of Engraving—Of Chaldean, Indian, Egyptian, and Hebrew engraving—Engraved sacerdotal ornaments of Aaron—Signets—Hieroglyphics—Scarabees—The sarcophagus taken from the French—Conjectures on the ancient mode of engraving on precious stones and other very hard substances—Of Etruscan, Sidonian, and Greek engraving—Shield of Achilles and other classical engravings—Greek gems—Error of confounding Grecian excellence in this or in any art with absolute perfection—Of Roman gem-engraving—Vain endeavours of the Augustan age to revive the art—Causes and consequences of its decline—Summary.
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