

## EARLY MENTION OF COFFEE IN DURHAM.

THE following local notices of coffee occur in the Journal<sup>1</sup> of Timothy Whittingham, Esq., of Holmside, co. Durham. It will be observed that there is considerable variation in the price. It is said that coffee was introduced into England in 1652, ten years previous to Mr. Whittingham's purchases, by a Turkey merchant named Edwards, who also imported a Greek servant accustomed to prepare it, and whom he set up in a coffee house on the site of the Virginian Coffee House in St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill.<sup>2</sup>

1662. Nov. 3. Halfe pound of coffee powder then cost 3*s*.

Then also 1 quarter of coffee from Durham 1*s*.

Nov. 25. Halfe pound of coffee powder cost 3*s*.

Dec. 24. One quarter of coffee powder 2*s*.

At a much later period the supply of coffee at Durham was uncertain. In 1722 Ralph Gowland writes to his son Samuel in London as follows:—"You must send or bring with you some raw coffee. There is little to be had here at present; but wee expect much from Holland."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the possession of his descendant, Mrs. Algood of the Hermitage.

<sup>2</sup> Pictorial Hist. of England, iii., 548.

<sup>3</sup> Letter communicated by Mr. Trueman. "Pray move my Lord Chancellor against the officer that neglects drawing up the decree for Blacket, now 2 or 3 years. It is very scandalous, and yet we must resent it. . . . My wig I very much dislike. It is too thin of hair, not wide enough in the head, and the tyes too short and too thin, soe thin that they cannot be of any service. Therefore I must know what is to be done with it. He must blame himselfe for his folly in not shewing it to you before he sent it down. The hair is the only thing I like of it."