

Pergolas I am unable to find in any Romance lexicon. The word is applied to vines.

What is Gavelkind?

H.

Gavelkind is a species of land tenure. The term is applied to the agrarian system of the Irish Celts, and also to the agrarian system in certain parts of Britain, chiefly Kent. Irish gavelkind and English gavelkind are, however, of very different natures.

Irish gavelkind.—The early Celtic inhabitants of Ireland were partitioned into clans or tribes, each looking back to a common ancestor, from whom they claimed kinship. Large clans were subdivided into smaller groups. These groups corresponded to the Roman *gens* and the Greek *tribe*. The unit social and political was therefore the family group or *Sept*. The system of succession among the Irish Celts or *gavelkind* is similar to that still in vogue among the Zadrugas of Servia and the joint-families of India, and resembles the *compagnie* or *Frerescheux*, the "coteries" and fraternities of medieval France, which lived in one house, tilled land in common, and shared its produce. [The primitive community, as displayed in the earliest Teutonic villages, and now in the *mir* of Russia, and the *sawaks* of Java, had given place among the Irish to a different polity, the family property of the *Sept*]. According to the custom of *Irish gavelkind*, "when a member of a sept or clan dies, leaving property, the chief makes a new distribution of all the lands of the *sept* among the different households, who thus obtain a large number of parcels. Succession in the direct line is accordingly still unknown; the collective succession of the clan is the system in force, and women are entirely excluded."

Gavelkind as established in Kent is a very different thing. By it, if the head of a family, in the ordinary sense of the term, dies intestate, the estate does not descend to the eldest *son* but to all the *sons* in equal shares. This

resembles French law. There were other conditions attached to Kentish *gavelkind*. One of the most important declared that no escheat or forfeiture resulted on attainer for felony.

The etymology of *gavelkind* is usually given as A. S. *gafol*, tribute and *kind*, the ordinary suffix. This is an error. The word is the Irish *gabhaltaine*, which signifies "accepted from the tribe," that is, family-tenure.

CON. ED.

List of New Books Received

New Books, from 1st December, 1882.

Civil Engineers Society, London, England.—Vol : LXX.

Dawson (Dr. J. W).—Fossil Men.

Thomas.—Coal Mine-Gas and Ventilation.

Miller.—Elements of Chemistry.—2 vols.

Warren.—Mastodon Giganteus.

Tasse.—Les Canadiens De L'Ouest.—2 vols.

Photographs of Lake Memphremagog.—Notman.

Hatch.—Aristotle's Moral Philosophy.

Hatfield.—Theory of Transverse Strains.

Wood.—Theory of the Construction of Bridges.

Corliss Engine.—Uhland's Treatise.—4 vols.

Harvard University Catalogue.—1882-83.

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