

Among the Saxons, and planted in England long before the
 Conquest. Others, as the Lord of the Staff, list of the Common law
 107. 223. 224 Craig (Gond. lib. 1. c. 17. § 182) Mr Somner (Groat
 of Gavelk 100. 109) Sir Henry Spelman (Groat Mag. Chart.
 fol. 374 and Verb. Groatum Polthum. word) are of opinion,
 that Gonds were first Established in England by the Con-
 quierors Martin Wright (Introduction to the law of Gonds
 Chap. 2) without considering the Ground of these opinions,
 observes that W. I. am, about the 20 Year of his Reign,
 just when the General survey of England, or the Domesday
 book is supposed to have been finished, and not till then,
 summoned all the Great Men and land holders in the
 Kingdom to London and Salisbury to do their Homage, and
 swear their fealty to him, by doing whereof the sacon
 Pleonicher supposes, that at that time proceros & omnes
 prociat tenentes se illi Jucidore, ejusq. facti sunt Vassalli
 so that he reasonably supposed first, that this General
 homage and fealty was done in consequence of some
 thing new, or else that Engagements so important to the
 Maintenance and security of a New Establishment would
 have been required long before, and if so, it is probable
 that tenures were then new, in as much as homage and
 fealty were, and full as Gonds Engagements, binding
 the homager to all the Duties and Observances of a Gonds
 Tenant. 29 He supposed that the General survey of England
 was taken upon or soon after the Conquest of England by
 = Nires, in order to Discover the Quantity of Every Mans free
 and to fix his homage, as the best Reason can be assigned
 why a work of such a Nature was undertaken at that
 time, or indeed why that survey should have been taken
 at all. But the fees or tenures first were Established or
 became a principal branch of the National Policy in the
 time of King William, it is not to be imagined, but that
 even in the sacon times particular proprietors of
 large tracts of land, which they could not cultivate or
 Manure themselves, might let some part of them to their
 Neighbours, under various Acknowledgements or Re-
 =turn

Returns of Service, not altogether Unlike the feudal Returns
 Especially considering that the English sacons being a Colony
 of the Ancient Goths (who first brought the feudal law into
 Europe) may be supposed to have had some Notion of such
 Acknowledgements or Returns of Service. Upon which supposi-
 tion Mr Wright (Ibid) thinks the wide Difference of Opinions
 Concerning the Antiquity of Gonds in England may be in
 some Measure accounted for.

The Monkish Historians, being prejudiced or misled by
 the large possessions of a fudon Acquired by the Normans
 to the prejudice of the English, roundly affirm that William
 ; Violently Dispossessed the English of all their lands, and that
 he disposed of them upon Arbitrary terms of Gonds to such
 of his followers, and in such proportions as he thought fit
 Matthe. Westminister lib. 2. c. 12. Matthe. Paris ad An. 1067
 Relations have been credited by later Writers of learning
 and Note of H. Spelman Groat Verb. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum.
 Epin 13. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum. Groatum.
 may be satisfied, that William did not claim or possess him-
 self of the lands of England as spoils of Conquest, nor did
 Arbitrarily subject them to a feudal Dependance. But as
 the Gonds law was at that time the prevailing law in
 Europe and was then conceived to be the most Absolute
 law for supporting the Royal Estate, preserving Union,
 confirming and suppressing Invidious and rebellions,
 Spelman Polthum. Groat of Gonds 5. 6. William who had
 always Governed by his Policy, with Consent of the
 Common Council of the Nation, made a law (whereof the
 honor is set down in Mr Polsons Notes Edmorum fol. 190.
 & Lamb. de priscis Angl. Legib. 170) Enacting the Gonds
 law itself, not so Romine, but in Effect in so far as it
 Requires the same Engagements to, and Introduces the same
 Dependance upon the King as Supreme Lord of all the
 lands in England, as was supposed to be due to a Supreme
 Lord by the Gonds law. So that it clearly Enacts the
 foundation at least of all the Deductions and Glosses
 that are now treated as part of that law. The law of
 Meas is the 52 law of William, which the Normans