



A BIG HAUL—Concklin.

MARCH

Derives its origin from Martius, so named by the Romans in honor of their chief and important divinity, Mars—the God of war—to whom the month was dedicated. Amongst the early Romans it was the first month of the year, but was changed to its present place in the calendar 251 B. C. In England it continued, however, to be the first month down to the year 1752; the legal year prior to that date commencing on the 26th of March. Indeed, there was ample and sufficient reason for commencing the year with this month, in the fact that at this period nature awakens from her deaden state to a renewal of growth and activity.

FESTIVALS.

ST. DAVID'S DAY, 1st March. So named from the titular Saint of Wales, an individual who performed miracles and introduced pulpits. With Welshmen it is customary on this day to wear leeks in their hats, an observance not very satisfactorily accounted for.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 17th March. Held in honor of Ireland's titular Saint—Patrick, a Scotchman (?) who cursed the country—turning lands into bogs, banished snakes and toads, and introduced poteen and religion. On this day is worn on the person, the shamrock or three-leaved clover, a plant which St. Patrick used as symbolical of the Trinity.

ANNUNCIATION OR LADY DAY, 25th March. Held in commemoration of the angel Gabriel informing the Virgin Mary that the word of God was become flesh. A very ancient institution in the Latin Church; it is yet a very great festival in that of the Roman Catholic.