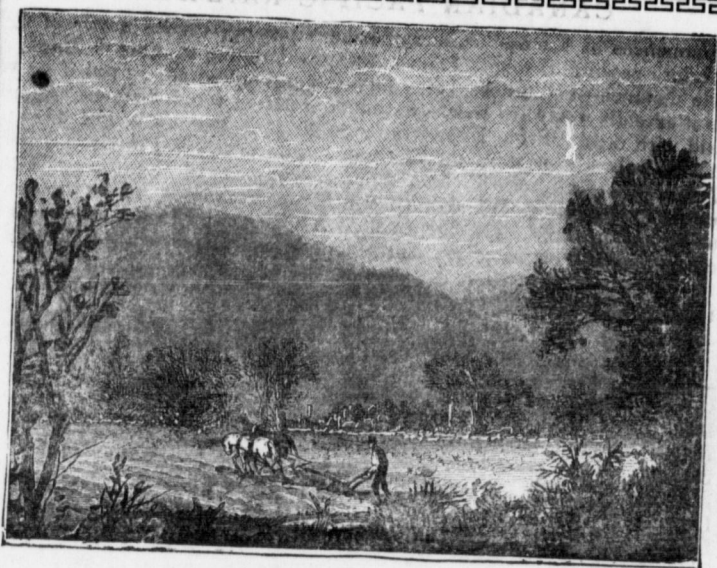




Ploughing. — J. D. Woodward.

APRIL.

In the ancient Alban calendar, with a year of 10 months, it stood first. In that of Romulus, it had second place, and in Numa's 12-month calendar, the present or fourth position. By the Romans it was called Venus' month, obviously because of nature's reproducing powers being set agoing at this season, and the probability therefore is, that its name is derived from Aphrodite, the Greek name of Venus, and thus Aphrilis -- April.

FESTIVALS.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY, 1st April. The custom of "fooling" cannot be traced, but probably originated from the very earliest heathen times, its practice being so widely prevalent over the earth and confined to the same date, as denoting a very early origin amongst mankind.

PALM SUNDAY, 2nd April. Held in commemoration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, when the people met him with palm leaves, &c. It is on this day that members of the Church of Rome carry in their hands to church, sprigs and slips of willow and evergreens, when high mass and religious ceremonies are performed.

GOOD FRIDAY OR PASSION DAY, 7th April. Held in commemoration of the Crucifixion of our Lord. In the Roman Church it is celebrated with peculiar services—the adoration of the Cross, special mass, &c. It is also celebrated in the English Church with solemnity. On this day the custom of eating "hot x (marked) buns" is observed.

EASTER SUNDAY, 9th April. A festival now celebrated in commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ, but of whose origin and the proper time for its celebration is a moot question. Connected with it in ancient times were observed many old customs, one in particular, the "paschal or pace" eggs—symbolic of the revivification of nature—which were colored with dyes and presented to one another, or used in games, rolling them on the grass.