

## MARS.

MARS is generally known by its red appearance, and was named after Mars the Roman god of war. It will be an object of interest only for the first half of the year, as after that it will be so near the sun and so far from the earth as to be unnoticed. At the beginning of the year it will be a little east of the Pleiades or Seven Stars, and it passes eastward through Taurus and Gemini, and on the first of June will be in the nebula of Cancer. It will be an evening star until Nov. 11, and then morning star the rest of the year.

## SATURN.

SATURN will be south of the equator the whole of this year, and its place in the heavens will be between Spica Virginis on the west, and Beta Libræ on the east. In December it will be only a short distance west of Alpha Libræ. On the 16th of April it is nearest the earth, brightest, and in opposition to the sun, and rises at about sunset. It will be  $90^\circ$  from the sun on Jan. 19th, when it crosses the meridian about 6 o'clock in the morning, and on the 16th of July, when it passes the meridian about 6 o'clock in the afternoon. It will be in conjunction with the sun Oct. 26th, being then farthest from the earth and rising and setting with the sun, and invisible. It will be morning star until Jan. 19th, then evening star until Oct. 26th; then morning star the rest of the year.

## MERCURY.

The planet Mercury is seldom seen, as it is never far from the Sun, and hence is much affected with the solar rays. Its density is greater than that of any other planet, being nearly that of lead. This planet is however visible at certain times, when near its greatest elongation east or west of the Sun. On the 8th of April, 7th of August, and 3d of December, it will be at its greatest brilliancy, being in the west soon after sunset. On the 3d of February, 1st of June, and 26th of September, it will be brightest again, and appear in the east before sunrise, the illuminated portion of the planet's disc always being towards the Sun.

## VENUS.

VENUS will be farthest east of the Sun February 25, and will increase in brightness until April 1, being then in the west as evening star. Its position in the heavens at that time will be very near and a little west of the Pleiades, or Seven Stars. Its splendor now begins to decline gradually, and on the 7th of May it will be in inferior conjunction with the Sun, and lost in its superior light. Its dark side is then towards the earth. It next appears as a morning star, exhibiting a long, slender crescent, which rapidly grows wider and brighter, and on the 18th of June it will again be brightest, being then a short distance south-west of the Seven Stars. It will be at its greatest elongation west of the Sun, July 16th. It then passes off towards the superior conjunction, and soon fades.