

Longman's Colonial Library. The author is a writer of established reputation, and knows the rules of her craft, as may be seen in this interesting and well-balanced story.

Dawn, by Rider Haggard, is another of the issues of Longman's Colonial Library. It is a very long and complicated story, and has an awful dog called Snarleyow as one of its characters. Indeed, the trials of the heroine and her beauty are quite on a par, and they both extend through many exciting pages.

The August *Lippincott* contains as its complete story "The Last Rebel," by Joseph A. Altsheler. This is an interesting tale of the Civil War, the verse is well up to the average, and a quatrain by Helen Gray Cone, entitled "Desire of Fame," is specially good. The new status of our neighbors is indicated in an article by Fred. Perry Powers, "The United States as a Colonial Power"; this article should be read and appreciated by every patriotic American who sees *Lippincott*, it is so full of sound common sense and statesmanship.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

VENUS, the brilliant evening star, which we all have admired during the mid-summer days, reaches her greatest elongation east of the sun on September 22nd, at a distance of forty-six degrees. When we remember that the sun is then in the vernal equinoctial point we see that Venus, so far to the east, must be in far south declination and does not remain long above the horizon after sunset. When the elongation occurs in the spring months the planet is a beautiful object, high in the heavens for nearly four hours after sunset. In the telescope, Venus is half-moon shape, and not yet at her brightest. Dark tints on the disc have been observed, but the genuineness of the many surface markings, drawn at the now celebrated Lowell observatory, is not yet established.

Jupiter is almost gone into the sun's rays. It will be impossible to see the satellites after the middle of the month, until November, when the planet comes round on the other side of the sun as morning star. Saturn may be still fairly well observed during September, though it is also nearing the sun and setting early in the evening. It has been a magnificent object in

the telescope during the summer, the plane of the ring being at the maximum angle to our line of sight, and therefore broadly opened out.

In view of the rapidly accumulating mass of literature treating of the planet Mars, it is not too early to begin observation in September. He rises before midnight towards the end of September, and if we sit up late enough to see the stars of Gemini we have the little red disc of Mars among them. The opposition of Mars occurs early next year, and, although it will not be a favorable one on account of the planet's distance, yet the giant telescopes, with their high magnifying power and great light grasp, will probably add something more to the stock of knowledge. The latest publication discussing this ever interesting object is from the observatory of Lussinpiccolo, in Istria. Prof. Herr Brenner, a renowned observer, gives a large number of drawings and a map of the whole surface. The remarkable features, called canals, are all shown in his drawings, and also the dark patches, like oases, at the junction of two or more of the straight lines.

To the mathematical astronomer the