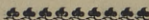


MILITARY.



MILITARY at the A. & M. College is sadly on the decline and it will take about twice as long to restore it to its old standard as it has taken it to drop to its present position. Of course, there is an excuse made for this, a very good one, indeed, and that is that a citizen as commandant cannot command the respect of a United States officer. I say this is impossible, for it is not, but the main reason is because they have either never gone through the ordeals of good hard discipline or that they are naturally too lenient.

Some believe in moral suasion, others in harsh punishment. Neither will do when carried to an extreme, and only a level-headed, able-bodied man can neither be too lenient nor too harsh. This is almost impossible and stands right up with there is no such thing as perfect.

Have recently received notice from the Inspector General that he will make us a visit some time in May and, to use a strong expression, there has to be some tall old drilling done before he gets here.

Fellows, put on your best military bearing, get your hair cut short, and look after every minor detail that can be found fault with, for as little as they are they are the first defects to be noticed and count that much against us. Would suggest that the captains of the respective companies have meetings of their officers and discuss the different movements, both of field and manual of arms. It will help each and

everyone of you. That is what is the matter with you now; you try to be independent, but you can always take it to be a fact that two heads are better than one.

Now, for the next six weeks let everybody pull together, and if you will do it with your whole heart and soul, we will surprise someone Commencement; for there are some great tacticians who make an annual visit here every June and the majority of them are graduates, and let us not give them a chance to say that they used to do better than that when they were here, and so-and-so was commandant. We can do it if you will only try.

The President has received notice from the Chief of the Commissary Department that he will return to us the two cannon that were called away in April, 1898. If we could only get hold of a few blank cartridges, we might have a right decent sham battle here Commencement.

What is the matter with the Foster Guards? They started out with the determination of having the best drilled company that was ever organized in the State, but for some reason or other they came to a standstill. Foster, that should never be. Get out and drill morning and evening; you need it, and will never put up a crack drill unless you do. It is expected of you both from the College and from friends outside, who all take great