

# ...THE A. AND M. TRIUMVIRATE...

## FIRST MEETING.



ONE beautiful evening in the month of March, when old Sol had bade us adieu and everything was hushed by the swell lullaby of Mother Nature, announcing the coming of Spring, when the whole world seemed glad, three Cadets strolled away from the Mess Hall of A. & M., with hearts as gay as larks. Little trouble had they just then. Hard lessons were to be conquered sometime during the next four hours, but the consciousness of lessons were not with them as they strolled off arm in arm to Z——'s room for a chat. Even they had no thought of the future "chat" that awaited them in the cozy little room in barracks.

When all were seated Y—— says to X——: "Mr. X——, we will hear your experience first," jokingly intimating that an experience meeting would presently be in progress, one of those good old meetings like those the sturdy Puritan folk had in the early days of America, a meeting where "good" is the subject of discussion, talks of schemes to do more good, and to make those with whom they come in contact happier, freer and nobler, a meeting where good is looked for and fault is left undiscussed. For holding people up and blaming them and discussing their faults and bemeaning them is like the seven-headed Dragon with which Hercules battled. Every time a cruel blow is struck to cut off a head seven more spring up in its place. In other words, "overcome evil with good." As has been mentioned, the idea of an inspiring conversation was not thought of when the president called on X—— to give his experience.

These three had no idea of the inspiration that could come from a free-for-all talk on good things. "We are a part of all we meet," says one. "Correct," says another; "when a good man is thrown among a lot of bad ones he must be very strong if evil doesn't overcome. Also, I know of an instance where evil was overcome by good association. In the city of Austin, there was a very insignificant wretch who it seemed could do nothing except meanness. When he was lucky enough to get money it went for sensuality and whisky. Well, that much-jeered-at Salvation Army came upon him and took him in charge. Now he is sober and industrious, and holds an honorable position. That shows what good associations will do for a person." "That's right," says Mr. Q——. "I was given all of the advantage of Christian surroundings while young. I attended a good Sunday-school class on Sunday instead of being a loafer on the streets and a nuisance to police authorities. And I can't help feeling its influence and noticing that the noble Christian character is admired by all the cadets of the campus. Although some are so thoughtless as to jeer at it, they secretly admire it, as all true men do. Also I've noticed that when I go out now with a crowd of boys and curse and use vulgar language I can't help feeling ashamed when I duly consider what I've done. When these bad words go out they not only degrade my higher and better thoughts, but they sow the seeds of vice in the characters of those who hear me. In other words, I am lending aid in ruining