

selection for a cadetship in the United States Military Academy, the turning point of his life. The Hon. Joseph Fomance, the representative in Congress for the Montgomery District, had the privilege of naming a cadet. A resident of Philadelphia, who nursed ambitious views concerning his son, had moved into the district, and was employing influence to secure the appointment. Among those whose good offices he was desirous to secure, was an eccentric old lawyer, a man of wealth and of much local influence. This lawyer had a high opinion of his Philadelphia friend, and had given him a horse, still fine-looking, but which was too old for the severe work the lawyer required. The Philadelphian was profuse in his thanks, and promised to take excellent care of the animal; and not to work him too hard. Being in Philadelphia on business one day, the donor, to his surprise, saw the horse harnessed to a dray, the driver lashing him to make him pull a load beyond his strength. The lawyer bought him back and rode him home. Passing Mr. Hancock's house, he called that gentleman to the door and abruptly asked: "Mr. Hancock, would you like to have Winfield appointed to a cadetship at West Point?" "Really," said Mr. Hancock, "I have never thought of such a thing. The matter comes upon me so suddenly that I can not answer at once: I must have time to think of it." "Think it over then," responded the lawyer, "and I will call in the morning and learn your decision." A family council was held, and, mainly at Mrs. Hancock's solici-