

appointed on the committee on foreign affairs.
WILSON, James Harrison, soldier, b. near Shawneetown, Ill., 2 Sept., 1837. His grandfather, Alexander, a Virginian by birth, was one of the founders of Illinois, and his father, Harrison, was an ensign in the war of 1812, and captain during the Black Hawk

war. The son was educated at the common schools, at McKendree college, and at the U. S. military academy, where he was graduated in 1860 and assigned to the corps of topographical engineers. He served at the headquarters of the Department of Oregon until June, 1861, when he became 2d lieutenant, and on 19 Sept., 1861, he was made 1st lieutenant. He was on duty as chief



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topographical engineer of the Port Royal expedition till March, 1862, then served in the Department of the South, including the bombardment of Fort Pulaski, and was an acting aide-de-camp to Gen. George B. McClellan in September, 1862, being present at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. He was appointed lieutenant-colonel in the volunteer staff of the army in November, 1862, and served as chief engineer and inspector-general of the Army of the Tennessee till October, 1863, being active in the operations before and during the siege of Vicksburg. He became captain of engineers in May, 1863, and brigadier-general of volunteers, 31 Oct., 1863, and was engaged in the operations near Chattanooga, the battle of Missionary Ridge, and the relief of Knoxville, constructing bridges till December, 1863. Gen. Wilson, after a short tour of duty at Washington in charge of the cavalry bureau, was placed in command of the 3d division of the cavalry corps in the Army of the Potomac, and bore a conspicuous part in the operations under Gen. Philip H. Sheridan from May till August, 1864, including the Richmond raid and combats near Petersburg. He also led his division during the Shenandoah campaign, including the battle of the Opequan, till October, 1864, when he was assigned to the command of the cavalry corps of the military division of the Mississippi, organizing a body of 15,000 mounted men, and contributing largely to the success that attended the armies in the west under Gen. George H. Thomas and Gen. William T. Sherman, particularly by the assault and capture of Selma, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., and Columbus and Macon, Ga., on 20 April, 1865, the date of his promotion as major-general of volunteers. In twenty-eight days he captured five fortified cities, twenty-three stand of colors, 288 guns, and 6,820 prisoners, among whom was Jefferson Davis. Having been mustered out of the volunteer service in

January, 1866, Gen. Wilson was for four years engaged in the improvement of Mississippi river. He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 35th infantry, 28 July, 1866, and brevetted to the grade of major-general, U. S. army, "for gallant and meritorious services" in the capture of Fort Pulaski, the battles of Chattanooga, the Wilderness, and Nashville, and capture of Selma, respectively. He was honorably discharged, at his own request, 31 Dec., 1870. He has been largely engaged in railroad and engineering operations since his retirement from the army. He is the author of "China: Travels and Investigations in the Middle Kingdom" and "Life of Andrew J. Alexander" (New York, 1887); also, in conjunction with Charles A. Dana, "Life of Gen. U. S. Grant" (Springfield, Mass., 1868).—His brother, BLUFORD, served during the civil war as assistant adjutant-general of volunteers, and afterward was solicitor of the U. S. treasury during the "whiskey-ring" prosecutions.