The Burlington Free Press.

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BURLINGTON
FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER [illegible]

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The disposition of the members of the Senate and House on the Standing Committees, is always attended with difficulties and often to considerable mortification. Local influences or personal desires are more or less in the way of correct decision in some cases, and a want of thorough acquaintance with the general qualifications and peculiar aptitudes of new members lead to mistakes in others. Party differences also must enter into the determination. There seems to have been a strong feeling among Western members of the present Congress that a disproportionate amount of influence in shaping the direction of the different committees of the last Congress, was given to the Eastern states. Probably this feeling led to some of the changes in the position of the old members and some positions of influence which were occupied by Eastern men are now filled by those from other parts of the nation. It is to be hoped however that in several committees, more of greatest importance in relation to our public affairs the chairmen in the 38th Congress retain their places in the 38th. For instance, in the Senate, as before, Mr. Sumner of Mass. is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign relations; Mr. Wilson of Mass. is again Chairman of the Military Committee; Mr. Trumbull of Ill. is again Chairman of the Judiciary; Mr. Wade of Ohio is again Chairman of the Committee on Commerce; Mr. Fessenden of Maine is chairman of the Committee on Finance; Mr. Grimes retains his former position as Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads; and Mr. Foot retains his position as Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands. In the House some changes have taken place. We see that Mr. Dawes is now Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means; Mr. Stevens of Pa. again occupies the place of Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations; Mr. Julian of Ind. is again Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands; Mr. Washburne of Ill. is again Chairman of the Committee on Commerce; Mr. Washburne of Wis. is again Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads; Mr. Morrill of Vt. again occupies the place of Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means; Mr. Morrill of Vt. is now Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Morrill of Me. is again Chairman of the Committee on Public Expenditures, on which committee the 4th place below is occupied by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, occupying the place of Chairman, formerly held by Mr. Stevens of Pa.; Mr. Woodbridge of Vt. has a place on the same committee. On the whole we believe a generally good feeling prevails in Congress as to the arrangement of the committees in both bodies. From the number of important Bills and resolutions already introduced it is apparent that several of the committees have enough already in hand to occupy their attention for some time.

Our Washington letter gives an item of information of special interest to the people of this State. We refer to the decision of the Provost Marshal General that the men enlisted for the 17th Regiment and new battery shall be credited to the State on its quota under the last call. This arrangement ought to operate as a fresh stimulus to exertion in all parts of the State, and to insure the completion of the quota—and as a part of it the filling up the ranks of the 17th Regt and the new Battery,—without deduction or discount, as the bankers say, either in the number or the quality of the men required. If a few score of good men over and above the number demanded are enlisted, so much the better. Doubtless the proper officers on the arrangement just made will be issued from the Adj. and Inspector Genl's office without delay. The people of Vermont are under obligations to Senator Foot for the attention he has given to our proper interests in this matter.

[illegible] SMALL.—The Rebel Captain Robert Small, who ran the steamer Planter out of Charleston Harbor about two years ago, is again in the service of the Government, was in Charleston Harbor about two weeks ago in command of the steamer Crystal Hill, flag-of-truth vessel, and is now in Hilton Head, flag-of-truth vessel, as follows:

"Hilton Head, Dec. 6, 1863.

"To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune:

"Sir—Yesterday I had the honor to meet Mr. Robert Small, who is the pilot who took the steamer Planter out of Charleston Harbor about two years ago, and who is now