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JAMES H. RYAN was born on Fourth Street, this city, February 20, 1856, the son of Daniel and Honora Ryan. After a preliminary course in the Christian Brothers' Academy Mr. Ryan attended Manhattan Academy, Manhattan College, and Rock Hill College, Ellicott City, Md. He received a finished education, and then studied law in the office of H. A. Merritt. Immediately after his admission to the bar he sprang into prominence as a pleader, and to-day has few equals in this part of the State in criminal practice. As the junior member of the firm of Merritt & Ryan he is well and favorably known in this section. He has served as attorney for the village of Greenbush, and this year is the attorney for the Board of Supervisors of Rensselaer County. He is a member of the Bachelors' Club. Mr. Ryan's wife was Miss Ellen McNamara. They have two beautiful children, Mary, aged 5, and Florence, aged 3.