

## Dennis J. Whelan.



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DENNIS J. WHELAN, mayor of Troy, was born in Ireland September 1, 1846. He was brought to this country and to Troy when only four years old, and here he has ever since made his home. He was educated by the Christian Brothers. While serving his apprenticeship at the plumber's trade the civil war broke out. He was only a boy, but as time wore on and the North and the South came into more deadly conflict, he could not resist the patriotic impulse which fired his heart. He enlisted in the Twelfth New York Cavalry, Capt. Savage commanding, and served his country for two years. At the close of the war Mr. Whelan finished his trade, and for twelve years thereafter worked steadily at it. In 1869 he married Miss Catherine Regan. The union proved a most happy one. In 1876 Mr. Whelan threw down his plumbers' tools and began the manufacture of soda water and other temperance drinks. This venture was successful. He is still in the business and occupies a large establishment at Nos. 104 and 106 Jefferson Street. In March, 1880, Mr. Whelan was elected an Alderman from the Eleventh Ward for the short term. He was reelected in the fall of 1880, and was returned to the Common Council in 1882 and 1884. In March, 1882, he was chosen president of the Common Council. He was chosen again in 1884, and in 1885 was unanimously reelected, the Republican minority supporting him most heartily, at that time an unheard of thing in local municipal affairs. While acting as president of the Common Council in 1885, the Quigley police force was legislated out of office, and by act of the Legislature the power to appoint the new commissioners was vested in Mr. Whelan. In 1886 he was chosen mayor and he has since held that office. The crowning act of his successful administration of municipal affairs came in the spring of 1889, when, through his patient efforts, a Citizens' Association was organized and a bill passed in the Legislature authorizing the expenditure of \$850,000 for public improvement. The commission appointed by the mayor, in conformity with this act, gave universal satisfaction, and the gentlemen comprising the commission are now hard at work mapping out trunk sewers and pavements for the city. This year the sale of the city lots below the Poestenkill was authorized. Upon them are now in process of erection a new engine house and a new station house. A large public school building has been ordered erected in the Pawling Avenue district of the Fifth Ward. Mayor Whelan has been a successful man, and he possesses the confidence and respect of all classes of citizens.

*W. H. H. H.*