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WILLIAM J. ROCHE was born in this city in 1853. His parents were William Roche of Castletown Roche, County Cork, Ireland, and Margaret Guiry, a native of Bride Bridge, Parish of Castle Lyons, in the same county. William Roche came to this country in 1841 and Mrs. Roche in 1845. William J. Roche has always lived in Troy. After a thorough course at the Christian Brothers' Academy he commenced the study of law with Townsends & Browne. In 1878 he was admitted to the firm upon the retirement of Mr. Browne, and continued until the firm was dissolved in 1880. A new partnership was formed by Mr. Roche with Hon. Martin I. Townsend, which firm still exists. On Oct. 10, 1883, although barely thirty years old, Mr. Roche was appointed to the responsible and exacting position of city attorney. He discharged the duties of the office with marked ability, serving until February 7, 1886. He was appointed city comptroller December 21, 1886, to fill an unexpired term, and was appointed for the full term of three years January 29, 1887. Comptroller Roche took an active part in the movement which culminated in the passage of the Public Improvement Bill, and to him much of the success of the measure is due. He has codified the laws of the City of Troy, a bill covering which is pending in the Legislature. Comptroller Roche is a member of the Robert Emmet Association and the Alumni Society of the Christian Brothers' Academy. Of each of these organizations he has twice served as president. He was married in 1880 to Miss Mary L. Champion, a native of New York City. They have four children, all boys, the oldest being seven years of age. Comptroller Roche has ever been actively interested in the meetings for the relief of distress in Ireland, and in aid of the Home Rule cause. He represented the Troy branch of the Irish National League of America in the national conventions of that body held in Philadelphia in 1883 and in Chicago in 1886.