

Coyne, James Henry, Barrister-at-law, St. Thomas, was born at St. Thomas, Ont., October 3rd, 1849. He is a grandson of Henry Coyne, who, emigrating from Belfast, Ireland, in 1810, settled for a few years on the banks of the Hudson river, and then, attracted by the glowing reports of the Talbot settlement in Upper Canada, removed thither in 1817, and took up a grant of land in the township of Dunwich, where he resided until his death in 1852. He brought up a large family, and his numerous descendants are now to be found in many places in the western peninsula of Ontario, and in Manitoba. His fourth son, William, was born in Dutchess county, New York, in 1816, and was but a few months old when the family removed to Dunwich. He married, in 1846, Christina, daughter of Daniel Patterson, a native of Argyleshire, who had come to the Talbot settlement about the year 1819, taken up land in Aldborough, but after a few years succumbed to fever. Daniel Patterson's descendants are numerous in Aldborough and the adjoining townships of Orford and Dunwich, and include many of the prosperous farmers of the old Talbot district. Wm Coyne resides at St. Thomas, where he has been a prominent merchant for nearly fifty years. Amongst his early recollections is one of a visit to the site of the City of London (then known as the Forks of the Thames) at the time when there was not a single house erected, and it was necessary to follow a blaze in order to find one's way through the woods, where is now a city of 30,000 inhabitants. James H. Coyne is the second son of William and Christina Coyne, and was educated at the common school in his native town, until he was eleven years old, when he passed into the Grammar school, then under the charge of Mr. (now Rev.) Nelson Burns, M.A. At fourteen years of age, he matriculated in the University of Toronto, carrying off the first general proficiency scholarship, and first class honours in classics, mathematics, French, etc. Owing to his extreme youth, he did not enter University College until 1867. He devoted himself chiefly to classics and modern languages, and after gaining numerous scholarships and prizes at the university and college during his undergraduate course, graduated in 1870, carrying off the Prince of Wales' prize for general proficiency, the gold medal in moderns, a silver medal in classics, the French essay prize, and first-class honours in history and ethnology. In 1884 he was elected by his fellow-graduates a member of the Senate of

the university. After graduating, the subject of this sketch entered the law office of Colin Macdougall, Q.C., at St. Thomas; interrupted his law studies for a year to take charge of the Cornwall High school, where he was headmaster during the year 1871; returned then to Mr. Macdougall's office for a year; and then removed to Toronto, where he served for two years in the office of Bethune & Hoyles. He was admitted to the bar in Michaelmas term, 1874, passing first without an oral, both as barrister and as attorney; and at once entered into partnership with his former principal, Mr. Macdougall, at St. Thomas. The law firm of Macdougall & Coyne existed until 1880, when it was dissolved. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Coyne entered into his present partnership with J. Mann, under the firm name of Coyne & Mann. During the Fenian excitement of 1866, Mr. Coyne joined the St. Thomas Rifles, and served during three campaigns in that year: first at London, during March, when some thousands of regulars and volunteers were brigaded there; then at Port Stanley and Sarnia in June; and finally in camp at Thorold in August, where he acted as quartermaster-sergeant to the Provisional battalion of volunteers, who were then brigaded with regulars and other volunteers under Wolseley. The following year, he joined the famous University company of the Queen's Own Rifles, of which he remained a member until his graduation. Mr. Coyne is a member of the St. Andrew's Society of St. Thomas, and after holding the positions successively of second and first vice-president, became president of it during the year 1883 and 1884. He has always taken a great interest in the politics of his country, and has filled various offices in the Reform party, to which he belongs. In the year 1882, he was president of the East Elgin Reform Association. He was a member of the great Reform convention, at Toronto, in 1883, and was selected to speak to one of the resolutions passed by the convention. He also attended the Young Liberal convention of 1885, as a delegate. Mr. Coyne is a member of the St. Thomas Free Public Library Board. He was also a member of its predecessor, the Mechanics' Institute board. In 1876, owing to a serious illness, he was obliged to give up work for a year and a half. Eleven months of this vacation were devoted to a visit to Europe. Visiting in succession, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, the Rhine, Switzerland, France and Italy, he not only recovered his health, but was able

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