

JAMES M. HARVEY. The position occupied by any town is due to the energy, enterprise and judgment of its business men. The leading and representative grocer and boot and shoe dealer of Blairsville is James M. Harvey, as very energetic and remarkably successful young business man. He was born in Derry township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1854, and is a son of John C. and Margaret (Keelan) Harvey. John C. Harvey was born, reared and educated in Ireland. He came, about 1840, to Pennsylvania, where he settled in Derry township, Westmoreland county. He became a stage-driver on the old pike between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. When the railroads superseded the pikes as routes of travel, he turned his time and attention to farming in Derry township, Westmoreland county, and Burrell township, Indiana county. He was a member of the Catholic church and always supported the democratic ticket after coming to the United States. He was a thorough-going and honest man and died April 12, 1878, aged fifty-five years. He married Margaret Keelan, daughter of Patrick and Mary Keelan, and born in Derry township, September 15, 1826. She is a member of the Catholic church and resides now at Blairsville with her children: James M., Rebecca, Maggie and Mary.

James M. Harvey was reared on his father's farm, and received his education in the catholic schools of Blairsville, which were then, as they are now, under the charge of experienced and competent instructors. Leaving school at fourteen years of age, he entered the general store of Nicholas Maher, of Blairsville, as a clerk, and remained with Mr. Maher for thirteen years. During that period of time he successively promoted to book-keeper, and general manager of the store. In 1882 he left Mr. Maher and opened a small grocery store. Conducting his business on strictly legitimate principles, he soon acquired a patronage which enabled him to increase his stock of goods. In a short time his grocery trade had so increased as to justify him in embarking in that line of business on an extensive scale, and he removed to his present large and well-arranged grocery house on the southeast corner of Market and Spring streets. In April, 1889, he formed a partnership with D. M. Kier and D. A. Fenlo, under the firm-name of Kier & Co., and established a large boot and shoe house on Market street, which is rapidly growing in favor with the public. Mr. Harvey now owns the fine brick business block in which his stores are situated, besides other property at Blairsville. Aside from his own various business enterprises he cheerfully gives his time toward whatever advances the material interests of his town, and is now serving as a director of the Conemaugh Building and Loan association, of Blairsville.

On the basis of correct business principles Mr. Harvey has built up a large trade and his grocery house, which ranks as one of the largest grocery establishments in this part of the State, is admirably arranged and equipped with every facility and convenience for the transaction of business. He employs from twelve to fourteen salesmen and carries a complete assortment of choice imported and domestic staple and fancy groceries, crockery, lamps and special family supplies. He is a democrat in politics and a member of the Catholic church. James M. Harvey is the only democratic member of the present town council of Blairsville, and has been honored, in recognition of his business ability and integrity of character, by his party, with the nomination for treasurer of Indiana county. Mr. Harvey is a conspicuous example of what may be accomplished in Indiana county by energy, industry, economy and perseverance. Starting in life with no means,

he has raised himself, by continued success, from a poor boy to the position of a wealthy and popular business man and an honorable and influential citizen.