ANDRUSS, ANTI-

MASHER

By WM. HAMILTON OSBORNE.

VER since its birth, and up to year or two ago, Bellport, as a city, had been noted for its proper tendencies. It was a large but old-fashioned place and it behaved itself. Latterly, however, its increase in importance had brought into it a multitude of strangers. Some of these strangers were desirable-others unmistakably the reverse.

One of the old citizens of the place known to everybody was Mr. Andrew Andruss. He was not particularly old in years, but he was old in virtue. He possessed all the requisite qualities of a have caused to be manufactured these genteel old maid. He was vigorous, however, and, naturally, he was a crank. tributed broadcast among the men and But Bellport tolerated him.

Mr. J. Warner Trevelyan, on the other few. Mr. Andruss and Mr. Trevelyan, There was no reason why never met. they should. Trevelvan was a good all round sort

him a sport; he certainly was free and easy. He was also handsome. Mr. Andrew Andruss, the native, had

lived in Bellport just forty years, and practices." Mr. Trevelyan, the outlander, just forty days, when Bellport held up for discussion a tremendous problem.

Mr. Andruss began the agitation, for he was a public-minded citizen, and a public-minded citizen is very apt to agitate the public upon all vices save his own. Mr. Andruss had been the cause of several uprisings in the interest of law and order. He did not smoke, therefore in years past he had begun crusades had owned an automobile or a fast horse, both. So from time to time he kept These men were heroes. the public mind agog.

His latest outburst, it may be, was well justified-it was a crusade against mashing. The term "mashing" is one well recognized and it has its place in port, so declared Mr. Andruss and his in the pernicious habit. This habit, so declared Mr. Andruss, had been imported into Bellport; it was a device of the Philistines. Andruss made a public the right-minded citizens of the town. both male and femaic.

He presided. "Ladies and gentlemen," pernicious habits of outsiders-I refer to the disreputable custom of mashing. It Promotion of Propriety."

These remarks were received with enwith Mr. Andruss as its president. Its to himself. members were of all classes, many of Well might he exclaim. For upon one

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into their own hands, and personally to turn offenders over to the law, or to adwomen present agreed to do their partjority of the fair sex present, it is doubttention.

But there was a difficulty in the way. "We must consider one thing," continued Mr. Andruss, "and that is, that there are some benighted young women who prefer the attentions of these mashers. As our offices necessarily must be confined to those who resent such attentions, there must be some means by which the lambs may be distinguished from the sheep. We, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, beautiful buttons, which shall be diswomen of the city. While it is generally easy to determine whether the attentions hand, was a newcomer, known to but of a masher are resented, or otherwise, yet in a doubtful case, this button will diametric opposites as they were, had decide. This button may, nay, will, be worn by any young woman who prefers to have it known that she desires the protection of the Society. The button of a man; some people might have called may be worn also by males, thus informing females that protection is at

> The button was a somewhat conspicuous white, celluloid affair, and upon it were inscribed these words:

mashers from pursuing their nefarious

"I BELONG TO BELLPORT SOCIETY OF PROMOTION OF PROPRIETY. DOWN WITH THE MASHERS."

In a day or two all Bellport was interested in the scheme. Case after case was reported in the newspapers of some against liquor and cigarettes. He never husky young clergyman or other upright citizen who, by the might of right and therefore he was careful to denounce strength, had smashed some masher.

The only difficulty seemed to be that frequently a young woman found several men looking at her intently-men who, prima facie, were nothing less than masher; but later she observed that each literature. But it had no place in Bell- of these men wore the anti-mashing button, and then she knew at once, that in followers-for they never had indulged looking at her so intently they were not mashers, but members trying to determine whether she were one who rightly came under their protection.

Andruss was muscular. In times past matter of it, and called a meeting of he had led crusades against saloons with an axe in hand. Crank as he was certainly was all there when it came to

doing things. But unfortunately, no ophe began, "fellow citizens of the city of portunity had yet arisen by which he Bellport, a grievous evil has arisen in might distinguish himself as a Promoter our midst, due, as I am assured, to the of Propriety, although he kept his eyes wide open.

But his opportunity came at last. One is our purpose to adopt measures to evening at the hour of midnight he wipe this evil from the face of the earth. boarded a trolley car on his way home. It is an evil that the police are unable The car was well filled but not crowded. and unwilling to eradicate. The remedy All the seats, however, were taken. He lies with us and with all true gentlemen. was the only passenger who stood, and It is our purpose, therefore, to form he had a good opportunity, therefore, to this night the Bellport Society for the keep his eye upon the other occupants who sat. Suddenly he started.

"By George," he exclaimed profanely, thusiasm. The society was duly formed "look at that!" All this he said merely

FOR 97c

leaguers. It was a salutary movement. Mr. Andruss would have called a fiend time had seen the prisoner, rushed for- Andruss in the van, The members agreed to take the law in human shape. This fiend was a hand- ward with a little scream. some young man, dressed in the height of fashion. He looked something like minister personal chastisement. The a sport. And this man was doing nothing more nor less than smiling into the though from the appearance of the ma- face of a pretty woman, young and very attractive, who sat across the way ful whether any of them had received Every time she met his glance she more than their quota of masculine at- slightly flushed, but the young man kept on smiling.

> This young man was Mr. J. Warner Trevelyan, but to Mr. Andruss he was unknown.

Andruss, in order to make no mistake watched his operations for a few moments; the fellow was persistent. He waited until the young woman looked once more in his direction, and then he boldly winked at her. The young woman, ware that Mr. Andruss and others in the car were watching her, flushed up again. Mr. Andruss moved a step nearer to the scene of operations. Then he breathed a sigh of relief. For in a conwoman resented the familiarity of the man across the way and that she was in need of help. And Mr. Andruss was ready to give it. He stepped up to the young man and regarded him sternly. The young man did not seem to see him. hand. This, we believe, will prevent Instead, he kept his eyes fastened upon the girl across the way.

> "Sir," exclaimed Mr. Andruss sternly, 'you're a scoundrel!"

Mr. J. Warner Trevelyan sniffed the Then he turned aside his head. Such a lot of drunks on the cars nowadays," he murmured to the man next to him. The man next to him, who did not care to be mixed up in anything, failed to make reply.

Mr. Trevelyan threw back his overcoat somewhat carelessly. As he did so Mr. Andruss gasped with astonishment. For there, displayed upon the lapel of the young masher was another button of the anti-mashers. Mr. Andruss' impatience then knew no bounds. For the young gentleman, boldly displaying this button to advantage and utterly ignoring Mr. Andruss, again winked upon the young lady and slightly motioned with his head.

"You-you-you hypocrite," yelled Mr. Andruss, advancing in a rage upon the young man and tearing from his coat the button; "you ungodly scoundrelfiend in human shape!" Then and there was a furore in the car of the most ex-Ithig king.

The young man, whose hat had been has taken great pains to develop his the family never lacks for meat during knocked off but who otherwise had been children's skill with firearms. Both boys the season. uninjured, immediately jumped to regain his headgear, and in that unguarded moment Andruss was again upon him. The young man was peaceably inclined, but Andruss was not.

"You-you loafer!" he shouted to the

"If you weren't drunk," replied the oung man calmly, "I'd knock you down." Andruss was not drunk, and the passengers who knew him knew that he was not. Andruss therefore called upon the citizens for aid. The citizens, many tion: "We should not attempt any flights of them members of the society, started of fancy, but write what is in us. In me in to render it. But the young man was able to a large extent to take care of himself. He parried blows and tripped up men wth wonderful impartiality. He seemed to enjoy the thing. But they were too much for him. Finally he had Drebbel in 1609. to yield. They pushed him up into the corner of the car, and a half dozen men eized him.

As they hustled him out of the car he shouted out to somebody in a loud voice But the crowd never heeded his cries They hauled him out and down the steps, and the car went on.

As it went on, the young lady, who had been in a great state of excitement. now burst into tears and uttered incoherent things.

As for Trevelyan, he was locked up vernight, and every anti-masher and promoter of propriety promised to be on Documents hand to prosecute him in the morning.

"You fellows will be sorry over this," he said, as he was led downstairs. The next morning Andruss and his followers were all on hand. As this was

a very flagrant case, Andruss on his family trouble you need advice. Our attorneys know the law of every State, and furnish reliable advice, at a nominal fee. Much of our business is keeping our clients out of trouble. When you way down had called upon the Rev. Jonathan Boggs, a new clergyman in the city, who was interested in the movement. Mr. Boggs' sermons were always consult us your neighbor doesn't know up to date, and Mr. Andruss knew he all about it. would be glad of the opportunity to be We draw CONTRACTS, BILLS OF SALE, DEEDS, BONDS, MORTGA-GES, MECHANICS' LIENS—every kind of Legal Document, also at a nomi-nal fee. We send you the document promptibly results to service. present.

They all assembled at the courtroom. Back in a remote corner, unnoticed by all save Andruss, sat a young lady. This was the young lady of the car the night before. Andruss, seeing that he was flustered and unstrung, did not approach her, but knew that in due time he could use her as a willing witness.

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"What's the charge here?" asked the police court judge.

Mr. Andruss stepped forward. At that

them clergymen and law-and-order side of the car there sat a man whom instant the young lady, who for the first the half dozen prisoners downstairs, with

"Warner!" she exclaimed, throwing her arms about his neck. At the same instant the clergyman

started forward. "Why-why," he de- Then they all came back and shook him manded, "what's the meaning of this, warmly by the hand. Mary, my child? And Trevelyan? Why, what do you do here?" He did not exactly understand what

was going on. But nevertheless, he turned around to Andruss. "Mr. Andruss," he exclaimed, "permit me to present to you my daughter Mary, now Mrs. J. Warner Trevelyan, and my sonin-law, Mr. J. Warner Trevelyan. Mr. Andruss-Mr. Trevelyan. Mr. Why, bless me, what's the matter?"

There was matter enough, it seemed Mr. Trevelyan, a very angry man, waited patiently until Mr. Andruss had abjectly withdraw his complaint against Treve lyan for attempting to flirt with his own wife. Then Trevelyan, with considerable vigor, advanced a complaint against spicuous place upon the woman's dress the whole crowd for assault and battery. was the beautiful button of Promoters The Court smiled and accepted the comof Propriety. This meant that the young plaint. He fixed bail at \$1,000 apiece. Society for the Promotion of Propriety. As there were none present whom the The Trevelyan affair was his first excourt would accept as bail-he was down perience at anti-mashing, and it has been on the propriety promoters-he ordered his last.

Trevelyan watched them until they reached the topmost step, and then he raised his voice. "Complaint withdrawn!" he yelled.

"The costs," announced the court, look

ing sternly at Mr. Andrew Andruss, "will be thirty-three dollars." Mr. Andrew Andruss wilted, for he

vas a bit of a miser. The clergyman stepped forward. "I will pay the costs," ne announced with a smile; and he did. Mr. Andruss and his followers are now members of his church, and left their own to join it.

That evening the Bellport Banner came out with flaring headlines:

BELLPORT BENEDICTS MAY WINK AT THEIR WIVES.

Justice Murphy So Decides, And Andrew Andruss Concurs.

The next day Mr. Andrew Andruss signed as the president of the Bellport

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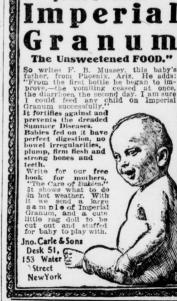
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