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**Title:** Letter from Horatio Collins King to Luther Marsh

**Date:** December 19, 1897

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Brooklyn--

Dec. 19. 1894

My dear friend:

Your very interesting  
favor and excellent pho-  
to came to hand and  
are warmly appreciated.  
What I suppose you  
call your declining  
years seem to be sur-  
rounded with much  
happiness. That is  
manifest in the  
cheerfulness & quick  
spirit which charac-  
terize your letters. It  
is a delightful trait  
to be able to grow  
old gracefully & may  
you never lose it.

The bar is much changed  
& the bench has much  
to do with it. There  
are too many judges  
whose elevation is  
not due to merit or  
learning but to their  
ability to put up enough  
money to purchase the  
nomination. And it  
comes high, you know.  
Two at least of the  
N.Y. Co. judges paid \$25000  
for their preferment, &  
if rumor is correct, Patten-  
son, who sets himself up  
as a censor, is one of  
them. The great trouble  
is that lawyers are  
employed, not because



of their talents but for  
their supposed pull with <sup>this</sup>  
or that particular judge - &  
the referee system is a  
stencil in the nostrils of  
the profession. Cases too  
are jammed through with  
indecent haste, & the  
bench seems more anxious  
to clear up the calendar  
than to preserve the  
dignity & proprieties of  
the law. It is a good  
sign that admission  
to the bar is made  
more difficult, for  
just now we are over-  
run with pettifoggers,  
mostly Hebrews, who  
seek success thro.  
legal technicalities.

We need a bench which  
will brush away such  
cobwebs and tax cases  
on their merits. There  
is 'fist or much learning  
at that bar as at any  
time in its history, but  
there is too large a  
crowd of small &  
narrow minded practiti-  
ons.

With kindest re-  
gards & best wishes  
for a happy new year  
Sincerely  
Horatio C. King

—  
Hon. Luther R. Mansh  
Middleton  
N.Y.