

Tahlequah, I. T. July 22 1901.

L. B. Elkins, Esq.,  
Attorney at Law,  
Mayfield, Ky.

My Dear Brother of the Law:

I have your letter of the 17th inclos-  
your card with you likeness imprinted thereon. If this picture  
is a true one you are much more handsome than any lawyer now practic-  
ing at this bar. I make no pretensions to good looks myself  
yet nearly all the lawyers here are as ugly as I myself and some  
of them are much worse off in that regard. Jno. H. Pitchford is  
a long, hungry, ill proportioned man with very large feet, narrow  
hips and small shoulders presenting the appearance of a churn the  
large end being down. His head is at the same time very small  
and so badly is he wanting in back head that the head behind pre-  
sents the appearance of an extended neck with a face attached to  
the front side of it. You are expecting me to say that the beauty  
of the face compensates for these other defects, but such is not  
the case. His face is sadly neglected by the beautifying hand  
as other parts. His eyes are of the indifferent color, badly bulged  
bulged out and unlike in appearance and in their focal range.  
So while one looks at the court, the other takes in the jury.  
Mr. Pitchford considers this faculty of his eyes a great advantage  
but it is on the whole so unusual that neither the jury nor the  
court take well to it, each one feeling that it should have his  
undivided look and attention. Will Hastings, another lawyer  
is a very small, illy built and ugly visaged young man. He has  
a mouth extending from ear to ear and a nose of aquiline shape large  
enough for a man weighing 500 pounds while he does not exceed 125  
pounds in weight. Old man Rasmus is a kroust eating uncultured  
Dutchman, with large feet whose hollow will make a hole in the gr

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ground, attached in a rude way to legs so bowed that he could by no means stop a calf or dog in a lane for fear that the animal would escape between them. His face is commonplace and his head small and entirely empty. Jas. A. King is the only man you need at all fear so far as looks are concerned. I cannot describe this gentleman to you but it is not necessary. You have seen many one like him. He is about your age and build and has a mustache rather prettier than yours, but he lacks in other respects where you seem well equipped.

But the trouble about the matter is that the people in this country are a very ugly sort themselves and pay no earthly attention to a lawyer's looks when they would employ him. For instance Pitchford as ugly as he is gets on about as well as any and my own practice is little if any affected by my appearance.

There are more lawyers here than cases. I would advise you to go any where in preference to this place.

If your own city is one half as good as represented you had better stay there. I hope you will not consider me lacking in hospitality in not urging you to come here. I assume that you want the truth and I give it to you as I would wish to be done by.

I am sorry I have no picture to exchange with you but it is best, I suppose that I have not. You will respect and trust me the more as it is.

Yours fraternally,

J. P. Buster.