perhaps an undue influence on my life. I conceived such terrifying apprehensions with respect to the moral influence of the study & practice of law and the danger of mingling with men remarkable for their scepticism, that I abandoned the law, or at least deferred it for a season—I have not since resumed it. I know that the heavenly epistle would laugh me to scorn for the weakness of my superstition, but if it is an error I believe it will meet with indulgence from you. These examples must ultimately prove happy, or be a never failing source of regret that they should have so destroyed my best exertions to promote the welfare & happiness of my Country. I once took up medicine, but fearing it should never attain proficiency in a profession with which I was not pleased, I dislikewise. In short, my dear Prof. I have been so halting between the two, tremblingly suspended between hope & fear, that I begin to think that I shall, like the ox between the hay stacks, perish in doubt which to choose. I can not believe that a young man is capable of making his own choice of a prof. and I am sorry that my purpose had not been fixed by some more experienced friend. But I must not dwell any longer on my private griefs and embarrassment. I am anxious for your knees & devoted friend. A. Pencher.