others, by no means!!
We are now doing a very promising business — In the course of a year or two I think, that with ordinary good fortune we shall come out at the right end of the heap —

One thing has come over me recently, which I did not like — I was obliged to change my boarding house & go to a Room. This is abominable — I want to live in peace with all men except Rum sellers, counterfeiters, Horse thieves & others of like character but at this rate I shall hardly be able to — boarding is a nuisance any how & I mean to get out of it as soon as practicable — Our weather is now quite warm — We have not had more than 4 or 5 inches of snow for the Winter — & shall not have our Sleighing — Let me hear from you soon

Truly Yours
S. M. Tuttle

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Galena Ills. Feb 12/54

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 19th ult. came to hand in due season. & I must excuse myself on the plea of business. that I have not replied to it sooner — I was sorry to learn of your misfortunes — You are curious of the Kentucky ones. & I fear that it is owing somewhat to a sort of daring recklessness in the composition of your genius — Pray, consider the accidents to which you expose yourself by an effort to get ahead of your family — I mean physical effort — One would without doubt make a brave soldier, but I must suggest that you are a dangerous sportsman & practitioner — dangerous to yourself as well as to others. Don't kill yourself before you graduate for then may be more

of just such men as you in actual service –

You ask me what you shall apply yourself to when you have finished at West Point. I am hardly in a condition to advise – Civil Engineering I am aware is a perfectly Employment & one to which genius & industry will rent their due reward – In the present condition of this portion of our country, it is also one which will furnish study occupation for many years to come. I have no doubt that you would find it a pleasant & profitable business as long as you might choose to pursue it – Rail Road projects are all about us here, & I am certain the practical engineer cannot fail of employment for a long time to come, at good prices.

You ask also my opinion of the Legal Profession – I cannot express myself fully enough to give a opinion within the brief space of an epistle & am satisfied that my perception is but this of course, is no guarantee that you will take it as rule – It may be pursued as a science as an accumulation of isolated facts & arbitrary decisions – Many lawyers know nothing beyond reported cases, but there are principles which govern cases on which precedents are founded which reduce the study of law to a scientific pursuit – There is a reason for every fact, if one will take the trouble to go behind the fact to discover it – I would hardly dare to advise any one as to the profession he shall adopt If your inclinations are for the study & practice of law, go into it

Leeds Feb 14th 1854

Dear Brother:

As Rowland is going to write I thought I would; as you have been waiting for some time. I am well, and hope you are. I go to school yet, I have got a considerable ways in my arithmetic; I began to cipher in fractions and I have got most to Rupotion which is more than one half way through. I have got through my Astronomy, and have began to review. In my Grammar I have got to Syntax. Reading, I have got most through my Fourth Reader. Spelling, I have left off at the head of times Charles, 10 Harriet Frost & Catharine &. you see that I have left off the most times, (except Charles he left off the most times last winter,) Rowland said he would give the one that left off at the head the most times a prize. One day Charles said he would resign his claim: so I have left off the most; and I am to the head to-day. I will leave school as it close next Saturday.....

14th is the day to-day to receive Pictures which are some times very good ones i.e. Valentines.

From your affectionate brother

Nellie

N.B. In your next to mother write me a little Philosophy

Leeds Feb. 14. 1854.

My dear Brother

I hadn't much time this morning but as none of us have written for weeks. I thought I would send you my Valentine. if it was that.

Sabbath evening. I carried Perry Lee up to Uncle Ensigns. He was here two or three days. Perry has changed in his general appearance some. but I think he is the same old boy after all. I believe you saw him in New York. He will not sail again. till April

Our family are all well. My School continues through this week and three days into the following one. then, I shall return to Brunswick as soon as possible. and my Term will commence before that time. I shall take Portland on my way to Brunswick and of course see Lizzie.

Perry was quite desirous of making her acquaintance. He is now just of the age and temperament and profession to be on the look out for every pretty girl. He will make his own choice before long he has not already. At Uncle Ensigns,

all are well. Hellen is "enciente" and the time of her delivery is near at hand. John, of course, grows prouder of himself and wife every day. It must be interesting thus to look upon the growing fruits of your own efforts and your wifes amiability.

I have lately shook the hands of some happy things. They have been down so long in Maine, it seems like a resurrection to come so suddenly into power. We have all the offices in the State Administration, with but one or two exceptions, from the Governor down to deputy Sheriff, and best of all we have elected Pitt Fessenden U.S. Senator for five years. Mother will not have time to write. As you conjectured, we heard of your mishap from Perry, and hope you have fully recovered, for a lame knee is an awkward affair.

I will write you a longer letter soon I have many things to say but it is now time to go to School.

Your affectionate Bro
Rowland B. Howard

likewise. But I thought I should like to know the tenets of a church before I united myself with it so that I might not be sorry for it when I found out. Still as you say I find so far, & always thought I know what I have seen & heard & mother has always told me when I have asked that they do not differ materially.

But I have begun I think at the wrong end to answer your letter. First I am & have been sure that it was best for me to unite with some church for my many reasons, which I will not mention. And as you suppose have been thinking of the subject considerable, but I will assure you I have not decided which one to join. And if I were to stop everything till I should decide it, would be bad. But as it is I think perhaps it is not essential that I should at present push the matter. I think I might serve God & do no

Leeds Feby. 19th 1854.

My dear brother,

I have delayed writing you, for the sake of a good opportunity, that I might write as good a letter as possible, in answer to the one you last wrote me dated Dec. 18th, 53.

It is two months yesterday since it was written & I received it in due season, yet I have not yet found that desired season, when I would sit down & write you a good long letter in return for yours, equally interesting & long; but am now obliged to write & make the best of it in order to get another from you.

I have plenty of time to-day & it is quiet here at home but I have a bad cold in my head (& on my lungs somewhat) so I am unfit to write a good letter on this account. It is Sunday you perceive, & Father, Rowland & Catherine have gone to the Center to Church.

Mother, Dellie & myself are sitting in the middle room at home by a good green wood fire, Dellie is writing & mother reading & conversing at intervals. Mother is unwell so she did not go up to meeting as usual. Silas is here. He & Roland have been talking in the back-room, about dancing school scenes I suppose, for their Dancing school furnishes & has furnished a theme for conversation & for thought for them this Winter. And two evenings of each week are occupied at the hall at Leeds Corner. Now, you know how we are situated here at home today. I wish I knew how you are occupying yourself just now. I suppose you are at church if well, listening to an excellent sermon from a good man. a privilege denied to many. — You judged rightly as to what subject would suit me best to have you write upon, and in fact by what I wrote, I meant to convey to you that I wished some advice & would like to know your religious tenets. I think your ideas as to creeds correspond with mine, although I don't think I could have defined mine nearly as well. My ideas have been formed from the observations that perhaps I have made unwittingly in the short time that I have been in the world of understanding. And from the books which I have chanced to read, often perhaps not thinking that I was forming opinions & my belief from them. For I never till lately tried in earnest to know of the belief of different Christian churches & if I had it would not have been of use for I could not have well understood them had I known them all. And much of my doctrine is what has been taught ~~them taught~~ me by my mother & brothers & nothing, more nor less. — And had I not wished to have a little deeper foundation than those you spoke of who believe or else do not know, but concur with the tenets of their fathers & unite themselves with the same church I should have done